

# Case Study

## Understanding Future Sector Skills Needs

Client: East Durham Local Strategic Partnership



### Outcomes and value



This study, delivered to the East Durham Local Strategic Partnership, provided key insights into the future skills needs within important employment markets for the residents of East Durham.

This was achieved through an assessment of the potential mismatch between the changing employment demands and changing skill requirements of each sector of the employment market and the numbers and skill levels of the resident population.

The research provides the intelligence necessary for the partnership to establish initiatives that meet current and future market requirements. Crucially, the evidence will enable the partnership to engage with initiatives that will benefit employers, skills providers and local residents.

#### The project provided our client with:

1. A knowledge driven assessment of the future local, sub-regional and regional employment markets as well as the skills requirements of those markets.
2. A detailed understanding of the potential mismatch between the requirements of each sector of the employment market and the numbers and skill levels of the resident population.
3. This work enabled EDLS to possess up to date and comprehensive research which can inform policy funding and skills strategy.

#### Joe Armstrong, Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator at East Durham Business Service said;

*"All staff at TBR were professional and committed to the project. They had an excellent understanding of the issues involved and the information we were trying to ascertain and use to inform our future actions and decisions. We would certainly recommend them in the future."*

### Our solution

East Durham Local Strategic Partnership (EDLSP) was at the time responsible for skills policy and product delivery in the District of Easington. EDLSP commissioned TBR to deliver this assessment of future skill needs within a local, sub-regional and regional framework.

The key challenges of this study were:

- To identify, verify and project sector employment trends to 2018
- To identify existing and future skills requirements within this pattern
- To test requirements based upon different employment projections

EDLSP required the development of future projections to inform partners who were shaping future interventions in this aspect of the economic agenda.

Using its unique business demographic dataset TCR (Trends Central Resource), TBR tracked the employment levels of firms across the North East, the sub-regions and Easington District to project the likely employment market to 2018 in the area.

The research examined the trajectory of change in local business sectors and its associated demand for skills amongst the workforce over the next 3, 5 and 10 years.

Understanding the future profile of employment in the area allowed for further investigation into the skills and qualifications required by these markets, isolating those which would be in most demand and those activity areas where there could be over supply.

The research identified the likely future workforce requirements in terms of the occupations in highest demand and their associated skills. In addition the study:

- Highlighted the key gaps in the skills base of labour supply,
- Considered planned changes to infrastructure likely to affect the labour market and
- Recommended infrastructure changes in the skills delivery model.

TBR brought learned, unique insight of the study focus and geographical area that helped to develop understanding of the current and future employment market and the demand that it will make on the local labour market. Additionally the potential impact of the recession on skills needs and an action plan and key priorities were incorporated as part of a comprehensive and detailed assessment of future skills needs.

tbr knows... **economics, creative, skills, environment**

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