

WHO'S SAYING WHAT ABOUT SKILLS IN THE GENERAL ELECTION?



Polling day for the 2017 General Election is fast approaching and here at The Skills Company, we've been paying particular attention to what the major parties have to say about the skills agenda.

Skills policies have far-reaching implications for both young people and employers, but whatever your views – we'd encourage you to make sure your voice is heard by casting your vote this Thursday.

A like-for-like comparison is difficult, since each party sets out their manifestos differently, but we've trawled every page so you don't have to – picking out highlights of the pledges made on skills policy:

Skills Policy



LABOUR



LIB DEM



CONSERVATIVE



Devolve responsibility for skills to city regions



Facilitate system for credit transfer and recognition of prior learning



Replace 13,000 tech qualifications with new T-Level qualifications

Restore **EMA** allowance

Devolve decision-making over key levers of economic development, including transport, housing and skills



A right to request leave for training



Replace Advanced Learner Loans and up-front course fees with direct funding



Develop national skills strategy for key sectors, including low-carbon, to match skills and people



Introduce national retraining scheme

Further Education



LABOUR



LIB DEM



CONSERVATIVE



Free lifelong learning in further education



Develop National Colleges as centres of expertise



Invest in FE colleges to provide world class facilities

Invest in FE teaching and facilities



Improve careers advice in schools and colleges



Establish new employer-backed institutes of technology



All FE teaching staff to have teaching qualification



Create individual accounts for funding mature adult and part-time learning



A right to lifelong learning in digital skills

Apprenticeships



LABOUR



LIB DEM



CONSERVATIVE



Maintain Apprenticeship Levy and raise quality



Increase the number of apprentices from under-represented groups

Deliver on commitment to create **3 MILLION APPRENTICESHIPS** by 2020

Enable use of Apprenticeship Levy for pre-apprenticeships



DOUBLE the number of businesses hiring apprentices

Discounted travel for apprentices



Protect **£440 MILLION** funding for non-levy-paying employers

Major expansion of high-quality apprenticeships, including Advanced Apprenticeships backed up with new sector-led National Colleges



Apprenticeship Levy to support wage costs during training period



Increase opportunities for apprentices in under-represented groups



Improve links between employers and schools

Firms in supply chain to benefit from Apprenticeship Levy Payments



If you want to examine the manifestos in more detail, click the links below:

[Labour manifesto](#)

[Lib Dem manifesto](#)

[Conservative manifesto](#)

Interested in how policy changes might affect you and your business? Talk to the experts:

w. www.theskillsco.ac.uk
e. info@theskillsco.ac.uk
t. 0161 359 3405