

## Digital Skills

This bulletin is part of a series which makes up the 2018/19 local economic assessment of Dorset.

Digital skills are considered to be a top priority for investment and are seen as offering people greater employability and job resilience. However, analysis carried out by Nesta<sup>1</sup> shows that not all digital skills will be equally important in the future due to the complex relationship between the potential for growth of an occupation and its digital intensity. The type of digital skills used in an occupation is also significant – those most likely to be in demand for growing occupations are the digital skills used in non-routine tasks, problem solving and the creation of digital outputs.

Big Numbers

**2%** Of people work in IT occupations

**23,400**

Additional jobs requiring digital skills over the next 10 years\*

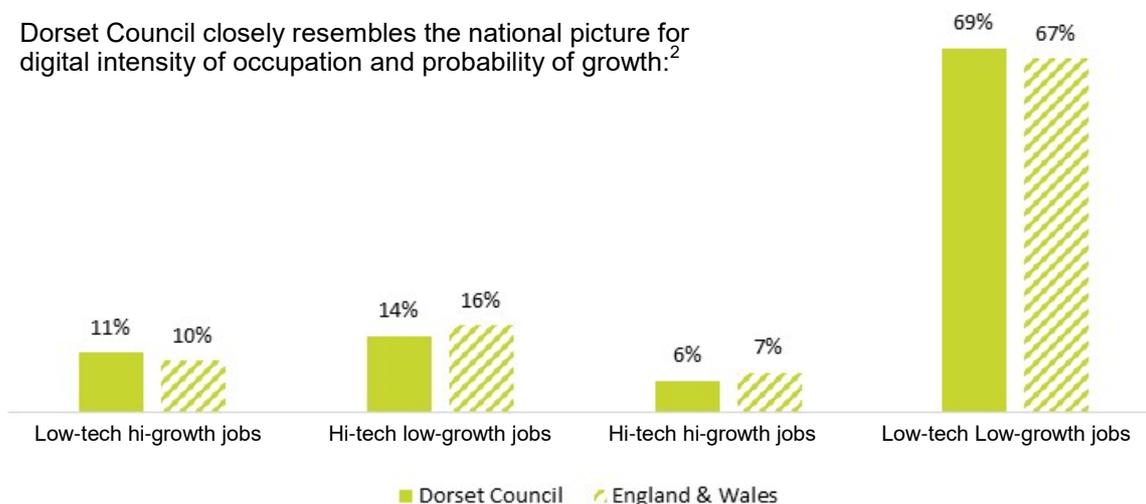
**14%** Of people work in occupations that require IT skills but are expected to decline

**44%**

of jobs to be filled over the next 10 years\* will require skills at level 4+

### Box 1: Digital Skills Needs

Dorset Council closely resembles the national picture for digital intensity of occupation and probability of growth:<sup>2</sup>



- 2% of people working in the Dorset Council area work in IT occupations like web design, IT engineers etc, below the rate for England and Wales at 2.7%.<sup>4</sup>
- Some jobs use IT intensively like HR management, procurement and supply chain management but these are expected to decline. These jobs at most risk also tend to be well paid.
- In the DLEP area, 16% of businesses indicated they had a skills gap in their workforce compared with 13% nationally.<sup>3</sup> About a fifth of these said one of the main causes was the introduction of new technology.

\*In the Dorset LEP area i.e. Dorset Council plus Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council areas

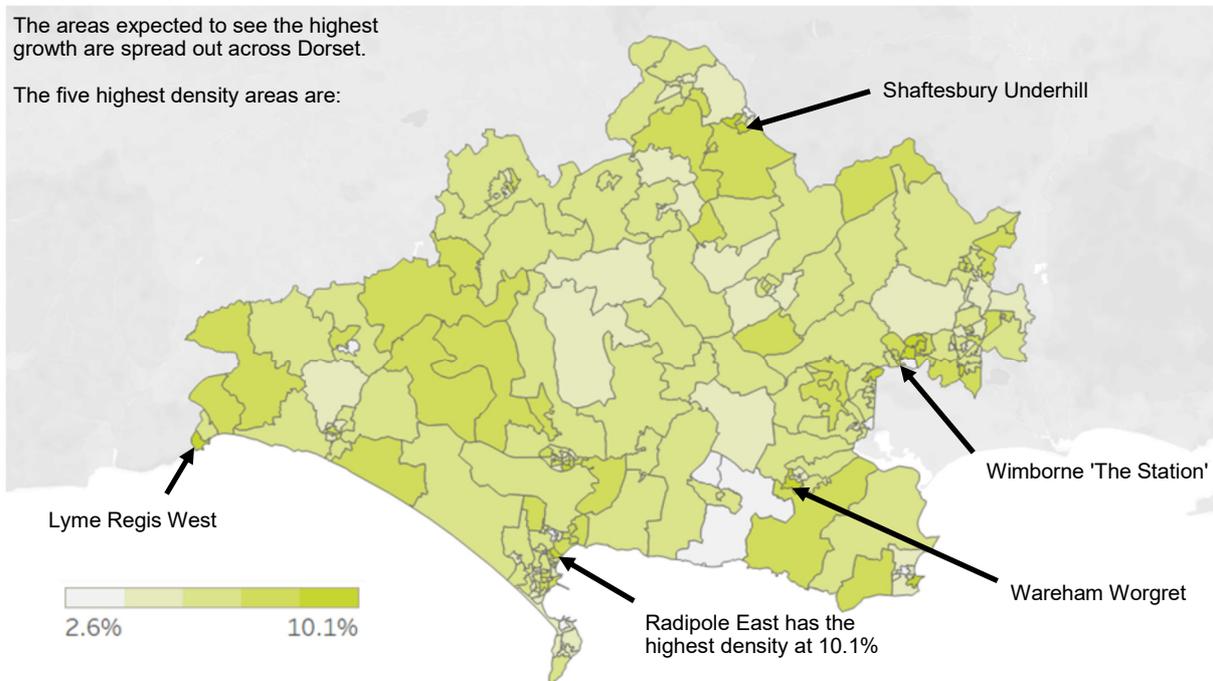
**Sources:**

- 1 Which digital skills do you really need?, Nesta, 31/07/18
- 2 2011 Census, CT0355 - Occupation (4 digits), workplace population, ONS
- 3 The UK Employer Skills Survey (ESS) 2017, Dept for Education

## Box 2: Residents in digitally intensive occupations that are expected to grow<sup>4</sup>

The areas expected to see the highest growth are spread out across Dorset.

The five highest density areas are:



### Our plans include

The Dorset Digital Place strategy will encourage development of digital skills within the workforce. The council's priorities include:

- Providing essential digital skills training for those offline and with low digital skills
- Raising young people's aspirations and improving their outcomes
- Increasing higher level and specialist digital skills
- Supporting businesses to meet their skills needs

Through this strategy the council also plans to improve infrastructure through:

- The Rural Gigabit Broadband Programme
- The Rural Connected Communities programme
- Stimulating investment from the private sector
- Encouraging take-up of superfast and gigabit-capable broadband among businesses to increase productivity

#### Sources/Notes:

4 2011 Census, CT0144 - Occupation (4 digits), ONS