

Overview of Government actions and initiatives on the future of work

In its [Industrial Strategy](#) published in 2017 the Government set out its vision of creating an economy fit for the future which boosts productivity and earning power throughout the UK.

With 'People' as one of its five foundations, the strategy aims to help businesses create better, higher-paying jobs by investing in the skills, industries and infrastructure of the future which will enable businesses and workers to prosper from the opportunity of technological change.

General principles include: establishing a world-class technical education system; greater investment in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) skills; and creating a new National Retraining Scheme (beginning with a £64 million investment in digital and construction). It is to be hoped that this emphasis on skills and training will help to solve the UK's productivity puzzle and go some way to address the skills gap in the workplace and facilities management profession.

Several specific initiatives have since been announced, mainly in the Chancellor's [2017 Budget](#) and [2018 Budget](#), and in the [2019 Queen's Speech](#). These have included a £2.1 billion investment in a range of high-tech initiatives such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence, digital manufacturing, nuclear fusion and better connectivity; a packages of measures aimed at delivering 300,000 net additional homes a year on by 2025; and financial incentives to raise business investment levels which are currently the lowest of the G7 economies.

Whilst we welcome many of these initiatives, IWFM believes that Government needs to go further in certain areas, notably in tackling the workplace skills crisis and we will encourage Government to bring forward investment in lifelong learning and upskilling. We will also seek to engage with initiatives such as the National Retraining Scheme to ensure that the voice of our profession is heard at the highest levels and will continue to call upon members for input as appropriate.