

Towards a Citizens' Curriculum

Paving the Way for Essential Skills Houses Working Visit
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In this presentation

- Introduction to the background and **Citizens' Curriculum concept**
- Findings from our 2015/16 pilots
- 3 applications for the Citizens' Curriculum

- **Videos** and links to **resources** throughout...

- **More video case studies on our YouTube [playlist](#)**

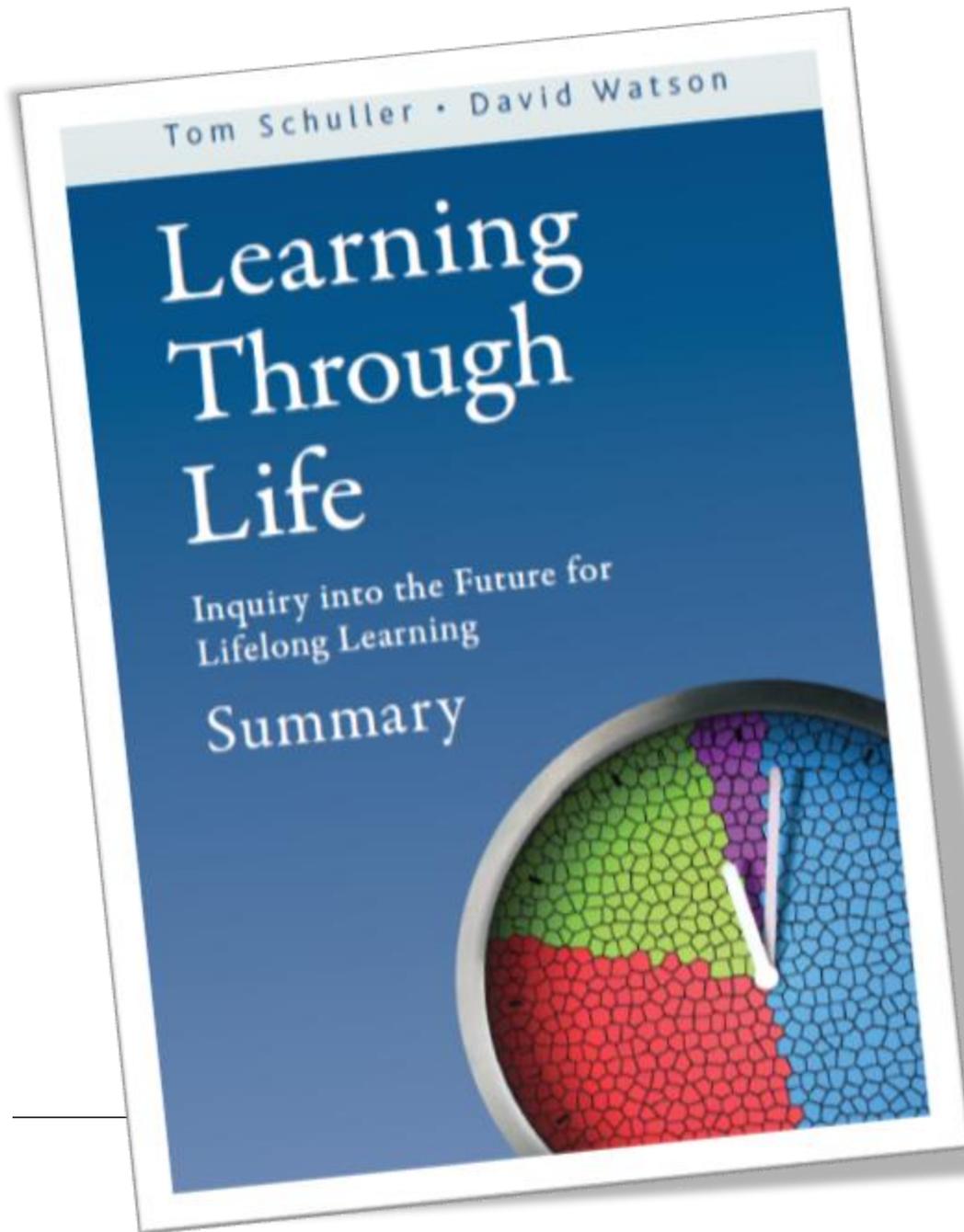
<http://www.learningandwork.org.uk/our-work/life-and-society/citizens-curriculum>

The basic skills challenge in the UK

- **OECD Survey of Adult Skills (PIAAC)** (2013): 16.4% scored at the lowest level for literacy; 24% for numeracy (ENG / NI).
- Census data (2011) records around **850,000 adults in the UK 'non-proficient' in the English language**
- **11.3m people in the UK do not have the basic digital skills** they need (Lloyds Bank UK Consumer Digital Index 2018)
- In England, Government data shows that adult (19+) **participation in English, maths and ESOL provision is falling.**

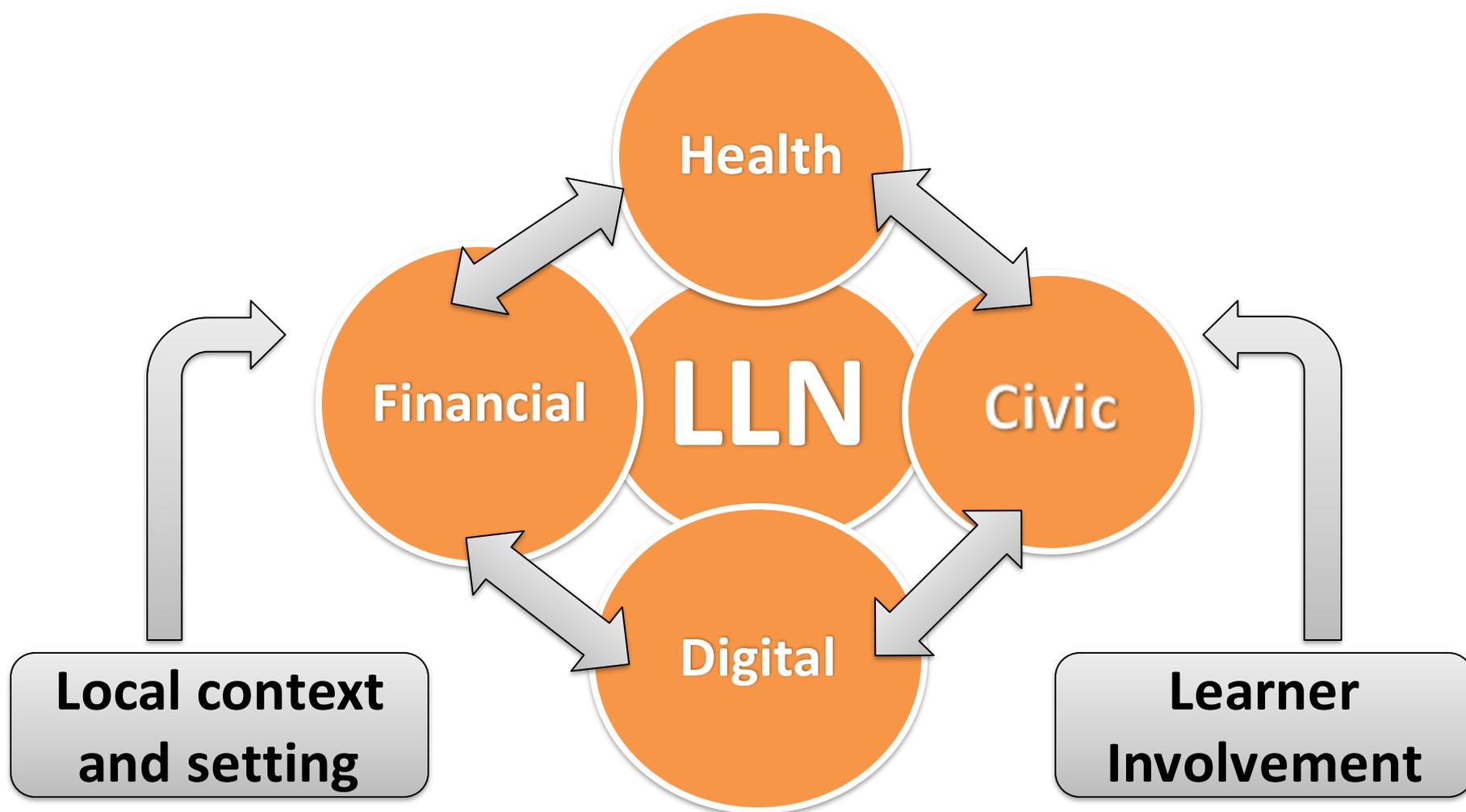
So, Learning and Work Institute's response

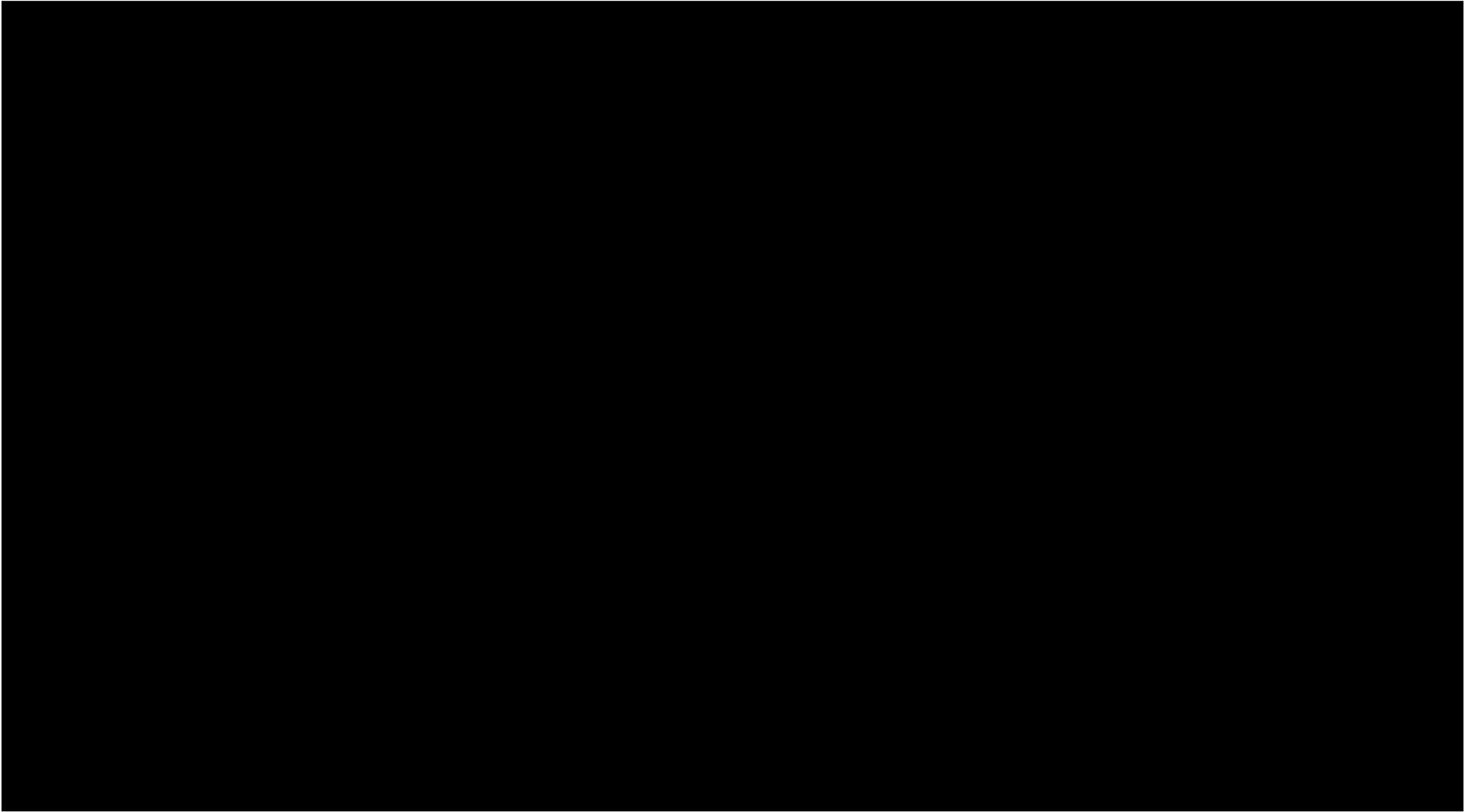
More flexible, creative and innovative models are needed to engage and motivate learners and meet the challenge of poor basic language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills in the context of rapid social change.



- Schuller and Watson (NIACE, 2009)
- NIACE / NRDC Evidence on impact of embedded basic skills – Eldred (2005); Casey (2006)
- Adult learning perspectives on participatory approaches

“A citizens’ curriculum is learning which is locally-led, developed with the active participation of learners, and interlinks the life skills of language, literacy and numeracy with health, financial, digital and civic capabilities.”





Piloting the Citizens' Curriculum

- Our **pilots** helped us to learn more about how a Citizens' Curriculum approach can work in **different contexts**.
- In 14/15 - **13 providers (ACL, FE, VCSE)** targeting disadvantaged groups – over **160 learners**.
- In 15/16 – **13 providers (incl. 5 returners)** with a focus on language, literacy and numeracy provision – **152 learners**.
- Supported with a '**health check**', **resources** and **community of practice**.

Key Overall Findings – Practitioners (15/16)

- Increased confidence in **adopting a learner-led approach**
- Enhanced capability to adopt interlinked and **contextualised approaches** to teaching Citizens' Curriculum capabilities
- Improved **practitioner morale** through greater autonomy and involvement in curriculum design and development

Key Overall Findings – Providers (15/16)

- Improved **understanding of their impact** on learners
- **Improved organisational ways of working**, including the sharing and adoption of good practice and expertise across curriculum teams;
- **More effective planning** and interlinking of provision through adoption of a recognised and evidence-based framework; and
- Increased number of **learners returning as volunteers**.

Key Overall Findings – Learners (15/16)

- Increased **social and civic engagement**, with
 - 73% making new friends
 - 59% reporting an improved social life
 - 28% improving their relationships with their family
 - 16% joining a community group
- Improved **self-efficacy**, with
 - 67% improving their self-confidence
 - 65% reporting a greater satisfaction with their life
 - 31% reporting improved physical health.

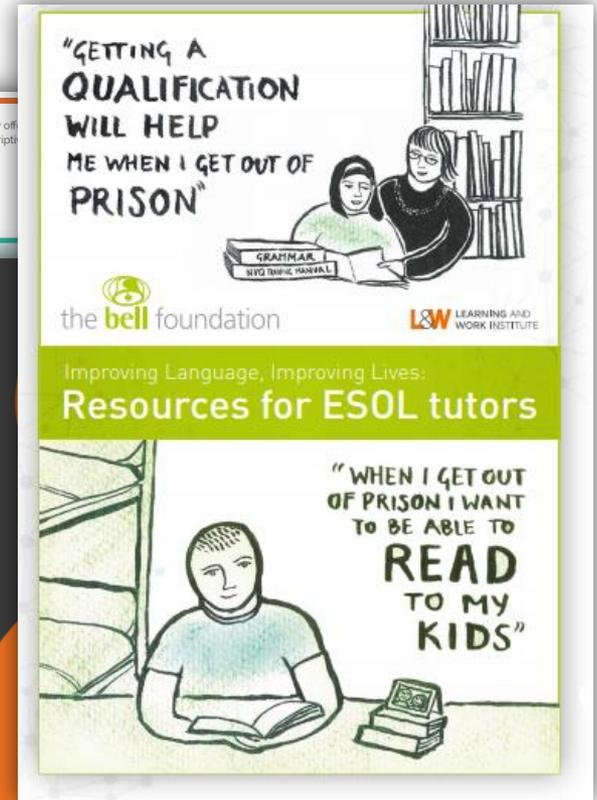
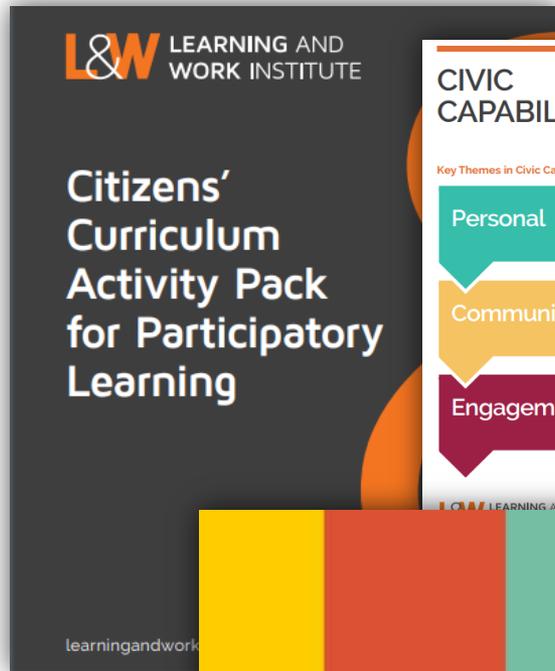
Key Overall Findings – Learners (15/16)

- Changes in their **employability**, with
 - 8% finding a new job
 - 20% starting to apply for jobs
 - 33% starting to look for work
 - 49% improving their work-related skills
 - 14% starting to volunteer on a regular basis.
- Improvements in their **attitudes towards learning**, with
 - 94% feeling more motivated to learn
 - 42% signing up for another course.

Social Value

- Phase 2 Citizens' Curriculum pilots created **a public value of at least £1,443,390**
- Actual value of the pilots will be far greater – not all outcomes achieved by the pilots have been allocated a monetary value
- Data on the costs of the pilots were not collected, but ...
- Rochdale Borough Council's cost-benefit analysis suggests that **for every £1 the council spent, they achieved a £3.68 financial return** and generated a public value of £19.65

Application 1: Practice



Application 2: Providers

- Inspiring and supporting the development of a basic and life skills offer in organisations new to delivering basic education
- Finding new ways of engaging learners
- Refreshing the existing literacy and numeracy offer to learners, building on existing practice



Application 3: Strategic Skills Planning

- In England, the **Adult Education Budget** – which funds adult literacy, numeracy, digital and other basic skills provision – is being devolved to 8 cities / regions which have elected Mayors (Mayoral Combined Authorities – e.g. Greater London, Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, the West Midlands ...)
- Approximately 50% of the national Adult Education Budget is spent in these areas.
- Local areas will have increased flexibility to commission, fund and shape the provision of adult learning from 2019.

HS2 – A once in a lifetime opportunity for the West Midlands?

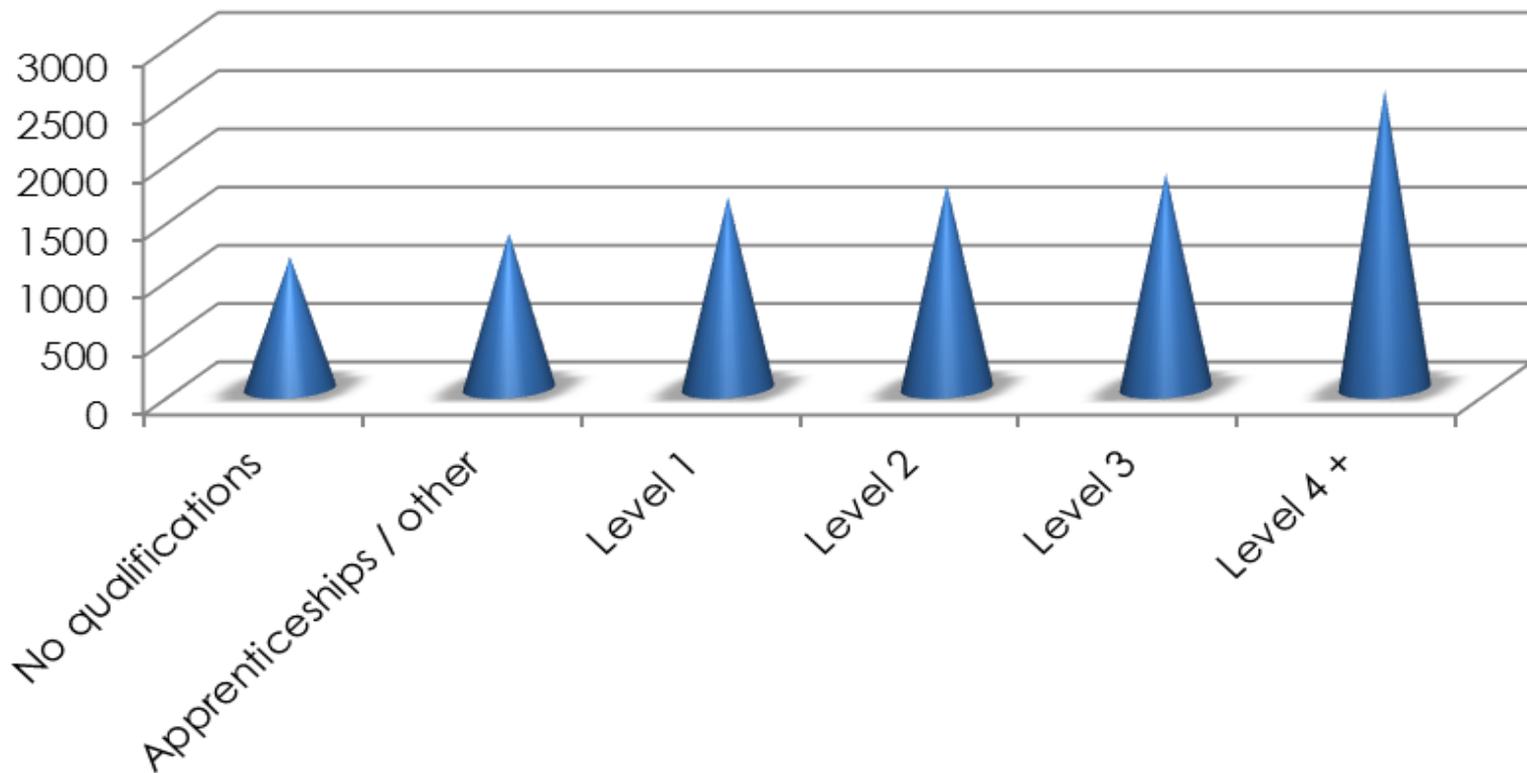
- 65,000 new jobs to be created in the West Midlands by 2024
- An average of 10,300 created per year between 2017 and 2022
- Alongside growing demand for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM), other sectors, e.g. financial services, advanced manufacturing, IT and construction

hs *engine for growth*



What kinds of jobs?

HS2 jobs per year

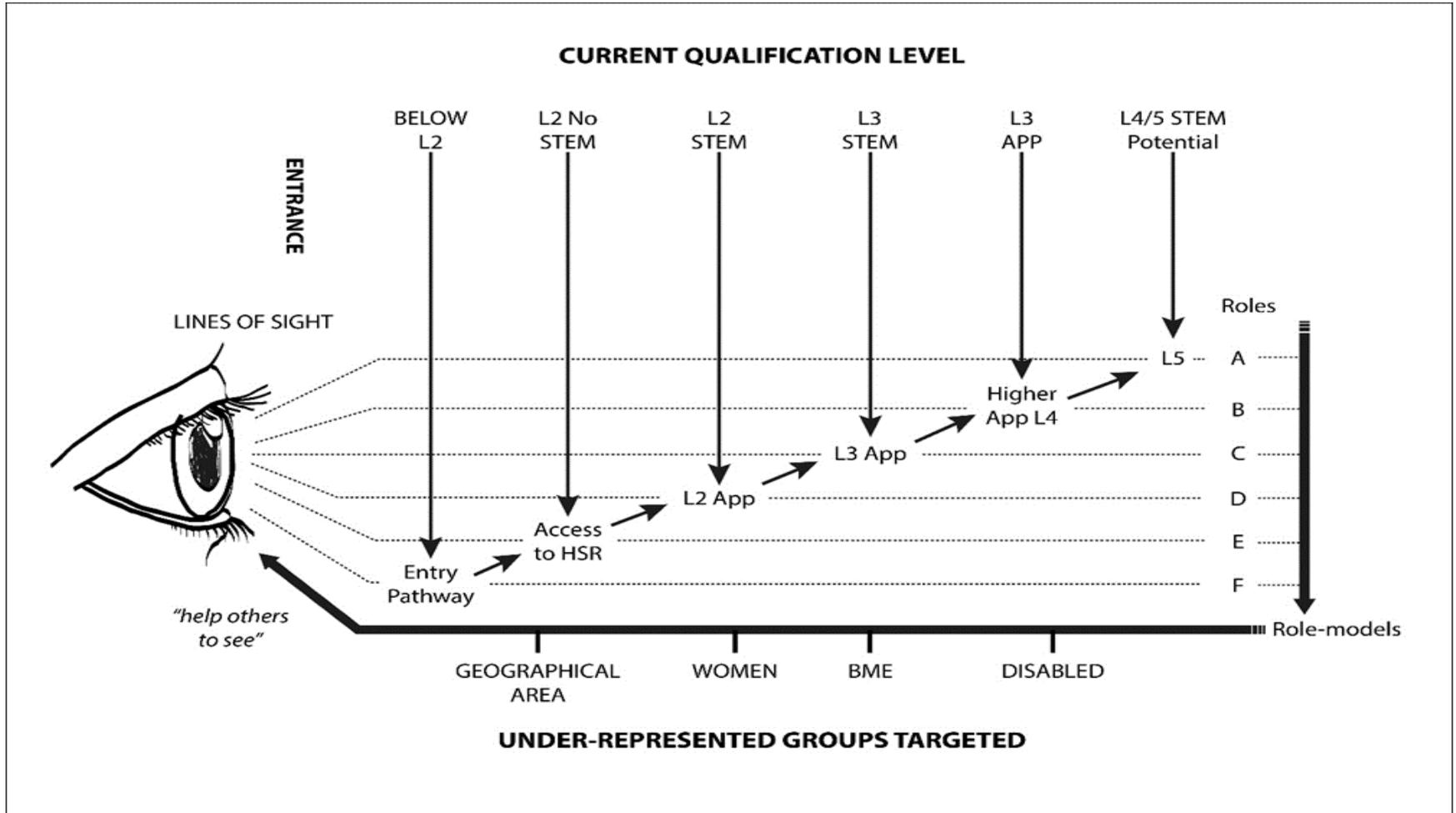


A STEM Progression Pathway

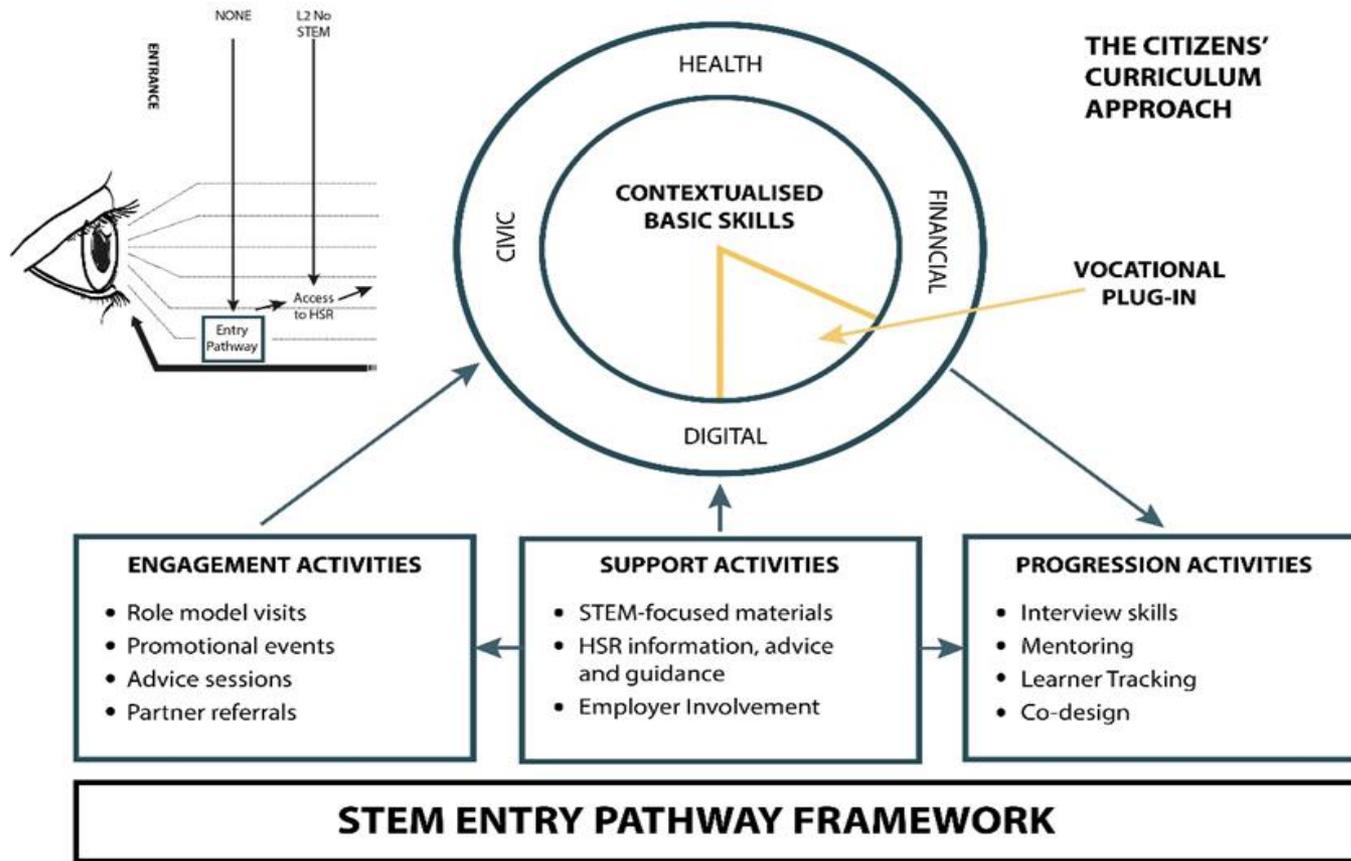
A strategy to enable the lowest-skilled and least-advantaged citizens in the region to progress towards high-skill, high-value jobs in STEM industries, which:

- illustrates the various routes into jobs in HSR and STEM-related industries at all levels;
- provides a “line of sight” to those jobs for those people farthest from achieving them;
- includes an entry point to the pathway for those with the lowest skills and furthest to travel in terms of learning and qualifications.

The proposed model



Citizens' Curriculum STEM Entry Pathway Framework



**THANK YOU
QUESTIONS**