



# LEEDS CITY REGION

---

## DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES DISTRICT PROFILES

# BARNLSLEY

BARNLSLEY IS A 21ST CENTURY TOWN BUILT ON TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION, IT IS CURRENTLY HOME TO THE LANDMARK DIGITAL MEDIA CENTRE (DMC), THE BARNLSLEY BUSINESS AND INNOVATION CENTRE (BBIC); ALONGSIDE LEADING THE URBACT FUNDED EU COLLABORATION PROJECT TECHTOWN.



## OFFER TO BUSINESSES

- A supportive creative business community
- High calibre talent to help support & challenge entrepreneurs
- A lively Tech network which includes regular events & meet-ups

## TECHTOWN INITIATIVE

The URBACT funded EU project TechTown is a transformative initiative exploring how small and medium sized cities can maximise the job creation potential of the digital economy. It is looking collaboratively at new ideas and actions to help support all businesses to:

- Access digital skills
- Embed the digital innovations they need in order to start, grow and compete

## NETWORKS

- Crafty Biz Network connecting people in craft and design
- Barnsley.io a community group of makers, hackers and doers
- There are also other hackathons, hackdays and networking opportunities aim at increasing digital innovation in the medical and manufacturing sectors

## SKILLS

- 11 purpose-built Advanced Learning Centres
- Over £100 million investment in Barnsley College's Further Education and Higher Education campuses, providing state of the art, industry standard facilities
- TechTown is used as a platform to engage digital employers and the college in regular dialogue on the digital curriculum

## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS



### SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT / SPECIALISED DIGITAL / DATA COMPANIES:

- Egress Software Technologies
- MAM Software Ltd
- HMA
- Target Information Systems
- Arcus Technology



### CREATIVE BUSINESSES:

- Bigfoot Digital
- Walnut Creative
- Deadline Digital
- Visualisedit
- Ledgard Jepson
- Hacksaw
- Transmit Creative
- Genius Division



### DIGITAL FIRMS ACROSS OTHER AREAS:

- Integrity FT
- DigitalLawUK
- Bob's Business
- Praxsoft
- MicksGarage.com
- 1st Horizon Surveying & Engineering Ltd
- Earlsmere ID Systems

## DIGITAL WORKSPACES

- Barnsley Digital Media Centre (DMC)
- Barnsley Business and Innovation Centre (BBIC)

# BRADFORD

BRADFORD IS AN ENTREPRENEURIAL CITY WITH A LONG TRADITION OF SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES BUT IT IS ALSO HOME TO SOME OF BRITAIN'S MOST CUTTING EDGE TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES AND THE HEADQUARTERS FOR SEVERAL NATIONAL BUSINESSES INCLUDING MORRISONS AND THE YORKSHIRE BUILDING SOCIETY.



## OFFER TO BUSINESSES

- A supportive business community and a local authority which embraces technology to meet the challenges of its communities
- High calibre talent as a result of the University of Bradford's School of Media, Design and Technology and the City Region's eight other universities
- A lively digital and creative network focused around assets such as the Digital Health Enterprise Zone, Advanced Digital Institute, National Media Museum and Digital Catapult Centre which includes the Yorkshire Games Festival

## A CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGY

Bradford is home to the Advanced Digital Institute (ADI), Digital Catapult Centre Yorkshire and the Digital Health Enterprise Zone. It is embracing technology to support its fast growing young population, technology being used to monitor water levels of the Bradford Beck and also to support elderly people to live more independently at home.

## A CLUSTER OF CREATIVITY

Bradford was the world's first UNESCO City of Film and its strength within the creative and media field is growing, with the city working closely with national and international partners including the city of Qingdao in China.

## SKILLS

- School of Media, Design and Technology at the University of Bradford has a long history of being at the forefront of new developments in the fields of interactive media, film and television production, computer animation, games, visual effects and computer applications
- Bradford is a pioneer in the area of Computer Science within higher education in the UK, offering research opportunities and postgraduate courses in Big Data Science and Technology and Cyber Security

## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS



### FINTECH:

- Provident Financial
- UK Asset Resolution
- Yorkshire Building Society



### CYBER SECURITY:

- ECSC



### CREATIVE AND MEDIA:

- Hallmark Cards
- Knightsbridge Furniture
- Kahn Automotive Designs



### ONLINE RETAIL:

- Morrisons
- Freemans Grattan



### HARDWARE & SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT / ELECTRONICS:

- Arris
- Radio Design
- Teledyne Defence and Space
- Bradford Technology Limited
- Red Embedded

## DIGITAL WORKSPACES

- Digital Catapult
- Digital Health Enterprise Zone

# CALDERDALE



HALIFAX IS THE MAIN COMMERCIAL CENTRE OF CALDERDALE, AND IS HOME TO MAJOR MULTINATIONAL FIRMS SUCH AS LLOYDS, NESTLÉ, MCVITIES AND COVÉA INSURANCE. THE DISTRICT IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS MANUFACTURING STRENGTHS, HOWEVER IT IS ALSO A CENTRE FOR TECHNOLOGIES WITH LOCATIONS SUCH AS HEBDEN BRIDGE, MYTHOLMROYD, TODMORDEN AND SOWERBY BRIDGE ACTING AS MAGNETS FOR CREATIVE AND DIGITAL BUSINESSES, AS EVIDENCED BY THE LOCATION BEING HOME TO LLOYDS DATA CENTRE.

## OFFER TO BUSINESSES

- A diverse business community, with an above average proportion of self-employed people emphasising the area's entrepreneurial ambitions
- New investment in high speed broadband and business centres connect Calderdale to the global market place
- Positioned strategically between the technology centres of Leeds and Manchester
- University Business Centre - Halifax is a partnership of Leeds Beckett University and Calderdale Council to stimulate growth amongst early-stage and growing businesses

## SKILLS

- The £8million Inspire Centre opened in September 2011 and in 2013 the £6m Technology Centre opened at Calderdale College
- There are 12 universities within an hour's drive of Calderdale, with a total student population of 300,000

## NETWORKS

- Creative Calderdale
- Business for Calderdale
- Last Friday Club
- Ladies 4 Networking

## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS



### FINTECH:

- Accept Cards
- Direct Card Solutions
- Lloyds



### TELECOMMUNICATIONS / HARDWARE OPERATIONS:

- Abzorb
- Commsprovider Ltd
- Vapour Media



### CREATIVE AND MEDIA:

- Fired Up Technologies
- The Print Bureau
- Limehouse Films
- Digital Consortium
- Ink Digital
- The Mill Group



### SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT AND SERVICES:

- Lawson Software
- Pathway Software
- Frog Education

## DIGITAL WORKSPACES

- Elsie Whiteley Innovation Centre
- Dean Clough Mill
- Hebden Bridge Town Hall Business Centre

# CRAVEN

SKIPTON IS ONE OF THE THREE KEY AREAS OF CRAVEN, AN AREA WHICH IS FLANKED BY LANCASHIRE, BRADFORD AND THE YORKSHIRE DALES; MAKING IT AN AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY WITH A DYNAMIC AND VIBRANT BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT WHICH IS BENEFITTING FROM INVESTMENT IN DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY.



## OFFER TO BUSINESSES

- A very entrepreneurial and dynamic enterprise base. The district has performed well in enterprise start up and growth
- Excellent standards of educational attainment across all schools in the area and low levels of unemployment
- Rental levels are very competitive from £6 per sq ft in rural areas to £15 per sq ft in Skipton
- New investment in high speed broadband

## SKILLS

- Many workers commute to and from West Yorkshire and East Lancashire
- Craven College offers advanced level 3 apprenticeships in social media and digital marketing. There are also links to other universities in the city region especially those within easy reach for training purposes
- Self-employment in Craven is well above the regional and national average
- Craven has an exceptionally highly qualified workforce with some 14,000 people qualified to NVQ L4 or above. This accounts for 44% of the workforce compared to 31% in Yorkshire and the Humber and 37% in GB

## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS



### FINTECH:

- Skipton Building Society
- Computershare



### HEALTH TECH:

- Principle Healthcare International
- Broughton Laboratories
- Systagenix



### MANUFACTURING TECH:

- Northern Paper Board
- Angus Fire

## DIGITAL WORKSPACES

- Broughton Hall Business Park
- An innovation centre development by Principle Healthcare International

# HARROGATE

HARROGATE HAS A SIGNIFICANT CLUSTER OF LEADING GLOBAL FINANCIAL PAYMENTS AND SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES. IN FACT OVER 95% OF CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ARE PROCESSED THROUGH A DATA CENTRE IN HARROGATE DISTRICT, WITH PAYMENT ACTIVITY FROM 53M CARDS AND £750M VALUE OF TRANSACTIONS IN AN AVERAGE DAY.



## OFFER TO BUSINESSES

- A very entrepreneurial and dynamic enterprise base. The district has performed well in enterprise start up and growth
- A dynamic business environment with world leading businesses supported by a strong professional and business services sector; including some of the country's leading IT, intellectual property and digital lawyers
- It has a number of global digital businesses developing innovative financial technologies in automated payments
- A great place to raise a family with high quality schools and an exceptional quality of life with an outstanding natural and built environment at the Gateway to the Yorkshire Dales.

## SKILLS

- 45% of the district's population are educated to degree level
- Outstanding secondary schools and nine universities within an hour's drive
- The main student areas of Leeds (Headingley and Burley Park) are well connected to Leeds and Harrogate, providing ample access to the student population
- A good indigenous concentration of computer science trained graduates including coders and software developers
- A £6 million redevelopment of Harrogate College was completed in September 2016

## NETWORKS

- Yorkshire Mafia
- Harrogate Digital
- Cardale Business Park

## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS



### FINTECH:

- Financial Force
- Vocalink
- Intechology PLC
- Worldpay UK
- Tsys
- Arrow ECS
- Nostrum Group Acquired by Equiniti and all Harrogate staff have been relocated to the Leeds site
- Welcome Digital
- Redcentric



### OTHER DIGITAL BUSINESSES:

- JudgeService Research Ltd
- High Street TV
- Orsis

# KIRKLEES



HUDDERSFIELD HAS A SIGNIFICANT CLUSTER OF GAMES, ENTERTAINMENT AND ADVANCED MANUFACTURING COMPANIES USING THE LATEST DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES. HUDDERSFIELD CONTRIBUTES GREATLY TO BOTH THE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL TECH SCENE.

## OFFER TO BUSINESSES

- Home to world class innovators, creative free thinkers and interactive media specialists like Andrew Wilson, who invented 'Free All Monsters' - seven years before Pokemon Go came on the scene
- Huddersfield has a collaborative and open approach, working with towns across the region, like Barnsley, on new digital manufacturing initiatives, including the University-led shared vision, supported by the Digital Catapult
- A large, fast growing local economy at its trans Pennine heart, and strategically situated equidistant from Leeds and Manchester, providing excellent access into these larger cities and to further afield such as Sheffield
- Large proportion of the town's population is students contributing to local knowledge base, and practically focused qualifications, helping drive a multi-skilled and modern workforce
- High quality of life to boot - 72% of Kirklees council land is green belt - an attractive and unspoilt location - with good access to the Yorkshire Dales and the famous 'Three Peaks'

## SKILLS

- Home to four major education establishments, the University of Huddersfield, Kirklees College, Greenhead College and Huddersfield New College
- Strong pipeline of vocational skills with a focus on highly practical applications in digital, creative and engineering/manufacturing disciplines - leading to a multi-skilled, flexible and agile workforce
- High proportion of STEM subjects being studied, supported by Math's specialist Greenhead College
- Huddersfield is in demand with both UK and international students - 48,000 students from over 120 countries - benefiting from lower cost

## NETWORKS

- CodeUP Huddersfield
- Hudds Girl Geeks
- Creative Kirklees

## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS



### CREATIVE AND MEDIA:

- Adare Group
- Live Cinema UK
- Red Kite Games
- Splitpixel
- The Rogue and the Wolf



### ADVANCED MANUFACTURING:

- Reliance Engineering
- David Brown Santasio
- Kromek Group



### HEALTH TECH:

- Bioeden



### AGRITECH:

- Syngenta
- ControlF1
- Iam Technology Group
- ProVu

## DIGITAL WORKSPACES

- 3M Buckley innovation Centre
- The Media Centre

# LEEDS CITY REGION DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES FACT SHEET

# LEEDS

LEEDS IS A MAJOR NORTHERN TECHNOLOGY HUB WHICH ATTRACTS THE ATTENTION OF THE GLOBAL TECH COMMUNITY AS A RESULT OF ITS ASSETS; WHICH INCLUDE LEEDS INSTITUTE FOR DATA ANALYTICS (LIDA) AND CONSUMER DATA RESEARCH CENTRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS. LEEDS ALSO HAS A PIONEER NODE OF THE OPEN DATA INSTITUTE AND THE NATIONAL INNOVATION FACILITY FOR ROBOTICS.



## OFFER TO BUSINESSES

- Competitive location costs within a thriving, well networked economy. It brings together financial and legal know-how, digital infrastructure and technological innovation to add value to businesses and their clients
- High calibre talent as a result of the City Region's nine universities including Times University of the Year 2017 – the University of Leeds
- An active networking scene including Leeds Code Dojo, Game Republic, DigitaLeeds, Leeds Digital Board, Leeds Dock: creative digital community, Leeds Digital Festival and DataCity
- IXLeeds is one of three internet exchange operators in the UK and the only operator based outside of London with high-speed fibre routes east and west out of the UK which are independent of London giving the city a competitive advantage, increasing network resilience and reducing overall traffic backhaul costs toward London

## SKILLS

- Leeds has a large graduate and student base
- Sky Betting & Gaming opened a new software academy in 2016 providing students with training in software engineering, project management methodology, business skills, databases and coding
- Leeds Digital Job Fair runs every year at Leeds Direct Arena, attracting thousands of attendees and top digital employers.
- Google chose Leeds as the location for its first ever Digital Garage
- University of Leeds' Faculty of Engineering – has expertise in artificial intelligence, applied computing in biology, medicine and health, algorithms and complexity, distributed systems and services, computational science and engineering. It also launched a new MSc in High Performance Graphics and Games in consultation with local businesses like Barog, Weaseltron and Team17 to address skills needs
- Leeds Beckett University will be launching a new digital bootcamp

## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS



### FINTECH:

- BJSS
- Call Credit
- Equifax
- ACI Worldwide
- Equiniti Pancredit
- PanIntelligence
- The Technology Forge



### CREATIVE, MEDIA AND GAMING:

- Rockstar
- Sky Betting & Gaming
- William Hill
- True North
- Duck Soup
- Daisybeck Studios



### HARDWARE & SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT:

- Infinity Works
- Proactis
- CSC
- Smoothwall
- Tracsis



### CORPORATE TECHNOLOGY:

- Asda-Walmart
- TomTom
- Marks & Spencer
- Yorkshire Water
- Axiom
- KPMG

## DIGITAL WORKSPACES

- Round Foundry Media Centre
- The Leeds Digital Hub (established 2014)
- Futurelabs
- Duke Studios
- Leeds Hackspace
- Prime Studios
- Data Mill North
- Leeds Observatory
- Nexus
- Leeds Tech Hub at Platform



# SELBY

SELBY HAS SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC LINKS WITH LEEDS AND YORK, WITH THE MAJORITY OF ITS RESIDENTS COMMUTING TO THE CITIES FOR WORK. SELBY'S PRIORITY AND IDENTIFIED GROWTH SECTORS INCLUDE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND THERE IS SCOPE TO ESTABLISH A SPECIALIST CLUSTER OF DIGITAL AND CREATIVE INDUSTRIES.



## OFFER TO BUSINESSES

- The area has very high performing primary and secondary schools as well as the excellent independent Read School in the village of Drax, near Selby
- Cost of workspace for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises is cheaper than similar options in Leeds or York
- The borough has excellent road and rail connections to Leeds in particular. Planned electrification of the Selby-Leeds line will reduce journey times to 15 minutes by 2020
- Significant opportunity to develop a digital and creative industry cluster and local supply chains with Yorkshire Studios as the anchor

## SKILLS

- Selby is a net exporter of labour to other parts of the City Region, predominantly Leeds and York. This is especially prevalent for skilled workers in the finance and creative sectors
- Selby College has an 'outstanding' rating from Ofsted and offers a range of A-level, vocational courses and apprenticeships in support of the District's key sectors including advanced manufacturing, energy and agritech. The college does not currently offer creative/media related courses at scale, but has the capacity to develop this offer in conjunction with plans to grow this sector over the next 3-5 years
- Leeds Beckett University is home to the Northern Film School and also offers a wide range of film, media and production degree courses. The University provides excellent outreach services across the City Region and are a key strategic partner in providing the skills required for the future development of The Yorkshire Studios
- Selby District is ideally located for access to four universities –University of Leeds, Leeds Trinity University, Leeds Beckett University and University of York. All four institutions provide a range of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees relevant to the area's priority and growth sectors

## KEY NETWORKS

- Selby Enterprise Cafe

## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS



### CREATIVE AND MEDIA:

- Yorkshire Studios (Church Fenton Studios)



### ENERGY:

- Drax Power Station



### HEALTH TECH:

- Tunstall Healthcare



### EDUCATIONS:

- The Skills Network



### ENGINEERING:

- Lambert Engineering

## DIGITAL WORKSPACES

- Church Fenton Airfield

# WAKEFIELD

SET ASTRIDE THE M1, M62 AND A1, AS WELL AS THE MAIN LINE TO LONDON, THE CITY OF WAKEFIELD IS LOCATED AT THE HUB OF THE UK'S TRANSPORT NETWORK.

IT IS HOME TO THREE OF THE TOP 100 NORTHERN TECH BUSINESSES INCLUDING TEAM17 AND THE CAR BUYING GROUP, AS WELL AS LANGTHWAITE BUSINESS PARK - THE PINWOOD OF THE NORTH - AND THE CITY'S RUTLAND MILLS, ADJACENT TO THE HEPWORTH GALLERY, WHICH IS PLANNED TO BE REDEVELOPE INTO A CREATIVE HUB BECOMING A SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL DESTINATION IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.



## OFFER TO BUSINESSES

- Home to some of the UK's most unique and popular cultural attractions such as The Hepworth Wakefield and Yorkshire Sculpture park, all helping to make the district a unique and thriving destination
- A dynamic creative centre with world famous video game producers Team 17 and live events producers Production Park
- Home to several global powerhouses such as Burberry, Coca-Cola Enterprises, DHL, Haribo, Warburtons and the UK's largest building society Nationwide, which are using digital technologies to revolutionise their businesses
- Less than two hours from London
- Networking events activity in Wakefield includes Cognitiv which aims to benefit Wakefield's Creative, Digital and IT sectors

## SKILLS

- A new £6.8M Advanced Skills and Innovation Centre (ASIC), is the new hub of the University Centre at Wakefield College which opened in October 2016. It delivers high level provision in areas including engineering, web design, and games development
- Leeds Beckett University is opening an incubator offering co-working and small scale managed business space for technology based businesses
- Training and degree courses in subjects relating to live events are available at Production Park via the Backstage Academy

## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS



### GAMES DEVELOPMENT:

- Team17
- New Star Games
- Alternative Software Limited
- Retrobum
- TickTock Games



### CREATIVE AND MEDIA:

- Production Park which includes:
- LS-Live
- Brilliant Stages
- Litestructures
- Brilliant Automation
- Advanced Profiling Services
- Perry Scenic Creative
- Various studios including a large rehearsal studio designed for big arena tour rehearsals, a dance studio and a band practice studio



### CLOUD COMPUTING:

- C365Cloud
- Sarcophagus



### E-COMMERCE:

- The Car Buying Group (The North's Fastest Growing Tech Businesses according to Tech North)

## DIGITAL WORKSPACES

- Langthwaite Business Park
- Unity Works
- Rutland Mills – redevelopment in planning

# YORK

THE CITY OF YORK'S DIGITAL ASSETS AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE FIRST CLASS. IT HAS A HIGHLY SKILLED POPULATION, WORLD-CLASS UNIVERSITIES, EXCELLENT TRANSPORT LINKS TO BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS AND A PIONEERING DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE. IT IS ALREADY DESIGNATED A 'SUPER-CONNECTED CITY' AND THE UK'S FIRST 'GIGABIT CITY' INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SPEEDS OF UP TO 1GB/S.

YORK HAS BEEN AWARDED UNESCO CITY OF MEDIA ARTS STATUS, ONE OF ONLY SEVEN CITIES GLOBALLY, AND UNIQUE IN THE UK.



## OFFER TO BUSINESSES

- A 'super-connected city' that's home to fast growing, diverse and thriving creative, IT and digital technology sectors with hundreds of companies operating across media arts, ICT, electronics, software and digital industries
- Strong ecosystem and networks to support tech entrepreneurs
- Renowned as a world-class city, York is famous for its vibrant culture, historic architecture, excellent quality of life and has been recognised as one of the fastest growing economies in the UK
- Great accessibility and transport connections. Less than two hours from London
- Networking events activity in York includes York-Code-Dojo and Venturefest York

## SKILLS

- DC Labs operates a £12 million EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Intelligent Games and Game Intelligence (IGGI). The research themes include embodied interaction, intelligent games/ believable characters, gamification and AI for game design
- The University of York's Department of Computer Science is a leading UK department in its field
- The £120m Quantum Communications Hub is a national network of four hubs led by four Universities (Birmingham, Glasgow, Oxford and York). Part of the wider £270m UK National Quantum Technologies Programme delivered by the EPSRC and Innovate UK, it aims to provide a test bed for the successful translation of quantum science into mainstream technological applications

## KEY BUSINESS SECTORS



### FINTECH:

- Hiscox
- CPP
- TSYS
- Trailight



### CREATIVE AND MEDIA:

- Bright White Limited.
- New Moon Games
- Revolution Software
- Digifish
- Piksel
- Gear4music.com
- Mad as Birds
- KMA
- Stage One
- Paragon Creative



### B2B SOFTWARE:

- ap16
- Anaplan
- York Data Services
- Mood International
- Trustmarque
- Mitrefinch Ltd
- ETAS
- Rapita Systems
- Access intelligence

## DIGITAL WORKSPACES

- Digital Creativity Labs (DC Labs)
- York Science Park
- The Catalyst
- Heslington Studios
- GSP Studios
- Yorkshire Studios