Major digital tech multinationals including Vodafone, Microsoft, Oracle and Cisco Systems have long understood the locational benefits of the Thames Valley. Many multinationals are based at Green Park, whilst the Thames Valley Science Park is home to 70 companies, ranging from early stage start-ups to global R&D centres.

47% of start-ups surveyed by Tech City UK said that a lack of highly skilled workers was their main challenge.

Workforce Challenge: Competing with London and high paying corporates

60% of respondents to the 2017 Berkshire Skills Survey said they found it difficult to recruit tech professionals as they couldn’t meet the salary demands of applicants.

Workforce Challenge: Diversity

Fewer women are studying technology based subjects at school and university meaning employers have fewer women to choose from when recruiting.

Workforce Challenge: Overseas talent

Entrepreneurs are concerned about the extent to which tech communities depend on a flow of overseas talent from EU and non-EU countries to run their businesses. Of the 13% foreign nationals working in the UK tech industry who are not from the UK, just over half are from outside the EU.
Digital Technologies Job Family

Microsoft, MapR, Advanced, CA Technologies, Black Swan, Visa, Black Duck, O₂, NHS

National skills shortages (Tier 2 Shortage Occupation List)

- IT product manager
- Systems engineer, software developer, shader writer and games designer in visual effects and 2D/3D computer animation
- Data scientist
- Senior developer
- Cyber security specialist

Thames Valley Berkshire LEP investment

Digital Gum - a six-week course which aims to help apprentices and return-to-work parents fast track their digital careers. The project is funded by the LEP using Growing Places Funds

Local institutions | Location | Type of provision
--- | --- | ---
QA | Slough | Th UK’s leading IT training provider, with over 1,500 IT and project management courses including Microsoft, Cisco, VMware, PRINCE2
University of Reading | Reading | BSc, MSc and PhD in Computer Science
Newbury College | Newbury | Computing & Systems Development L4 HNC Diploma, IT Professional Apprenticeship, IT Computing L3 Extended Diploma
Bracknell and Wokingham College | Bracknell and Wokingham | IT BTEC Extended Certificate L2, IT BTEC Extended Diploma L3
Reading College | Reading | Computing (Security) HND, Computing HNC, ICT L1 Foundation Pathway, ICT Practitioners BTEC L2 Award, ICT Practitioners BTEC L3 Extended Diploma, IT and Telecoms L3 Advanced Apprenticeship

There were only 144 A-level examination entries for Computing A-levels in state-funded schools in Berkshire in 2015/16, out of a total of 12,266 entries for all subjects

Future workforce strategies

- Train and retain: Retaining overseas workers, utilising the Apprenticeship Levy to develop staff
- Diversify workforce: Working with schools to promote tech careers to non-traditional recruits, providing flexible working, reviewing working hours expectations
- Creating sense of place: Creating the physical environment that attracts cutting edge start-ups and thus the next generation of tech talent