

AUTOMATIC FOR THE PEOPLE? LOCALIS response to Jeremy Corbyn's speech to Labour Party Conference

Wednesday 27 September, 2017

In response to today's conference speech by leader of the Labour Party Jeremy Corbyn, in which he will call for the establishment of a National Education Service, **Localis chief executive Liam Booth-Smith** said: "Jeremy Corbyn has hit upon the right diagnosis in automation, but has fluffed his policy response to the problem.

"The creation of a National Education Service is the wrong answer to the question posed by industrial and technology-driven change. Top-down solutions should not be automatic for the people.

"Localis research has helped further identify those areas of the country most at risk from automation, and the difference between those prosperous local economies well-poised to make the leap and more disadvantaged regions, likely to experience industrial failure, is huge.

"In around half the areas of the country we don't need a top-down, centrally-imposed skills service but require more local solutions attuned to business needs. There is no time to lose, so why waste time and squander resources for reskilling local labour markets appropriately?

"In our view, there is a crucial role for places, empowered by Westminster, to play in easing this transition and helping the current occupants of these jobs stay active and equipped in the labour market.

"Our forthcoming report will argue for a smoothing in the transition, not just in the automation of manual jobs but also in the labour shortfall some areas will face with the introduction of national-level immigration controls in the wake of the UK's exit from the European Union."

ENDS

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Notes to editors

Localis supported by the County Council's Network, is currently undertaking a major new research project into local labour market influencing and will issue its full report on Monday 6 November.

<http://www.localis.org.uk/research/labour-market-influencing/>

Localis has produced a scorecard ranking 47 strategic authority areas of the country most at risk from the automation of jobs (**see below**) in which Brighton and Hove is best-placed to cope with change and Northamptonshire most at risk.

The 'automation score' is the amount of the area's total employment taken up by the sectors **identified by PwC** as being most likely to see a large increase in automation by 2030. We take the number of local jobs in these sectors and - using the percentage of jobs within the sector identified as 'high risk' - produce an overall percentage of the area's jobs which are at high risk of being automated. We index these statistics with the average being 100 to create a simple score for an area's risk exposure."

For more background and context, please read our recent blogpost on the subject:

<http://www.localis.org.uk/news/scarce-not-absent-local-level-look-future-automation-uk/>

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	Area	Automation Risk (100 = England Average)
1	Brighton and Hove	34

2	London	54
3	Berkshire	58
3	Surrey	58
5	Oxfordshire	59
6	East Sussex	60
7	West of England	77
8	Dorset	79
8	Tees Valley	79
10	Northumberland	81
11	Hampshire & Isle of Wight	83
12	Tyne and Wear	85
13	Cornwall	88
14	Shropshire	89
15	Liverpool City Region	90
16	Devon	91
17	Essex	92
18	County Durham	94
19	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	95
19	Gloucestershire	95
21	Kent	97
22	Greater Manchester	98
22	Hertfordshire	98

22	Norfolk	98
25	North Yorkshire	101
25	Swindon and Wiltshire	101
27	Bedfordshire	102
27	Cheshire & Warrington	102
27	Lancashire	102
30	Sheffield City Region	103
31	Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes	104
31	Leeds City Region	104
33	Somerset	108
34	West Sussex	111
35	West Midlands	112
36	Cumbria	114
36	Nottinghamshire	114
38	Worcestershire	115
39	Herefordshire, County of	120
39	Suffolk	120
41	Warwickshire	127
42	Lincolnshire	129
43	Staffordshire	131
44	Hull City Region	132
45	Derbyshire	138

45	Leicestershire	138
47	Northamptonshire	147

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Automation risk scorecard

<http://www.localis.org.uk/news/automatic-for-the-people/>

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