

LEARNING

Most residents said they are satisfied with the standard of education in Wealden and that this is an important factor in making the area a good place to live.²⁶ A few thought that there should be more opportunities for lifelong learning. A vibrant economy depends on a skilled workforce which aspires to success, so we must ensure that learning opportunities are available so that local people develop the skills required by local employers.

Priorities

- Focus on the need to provide skills for employment as a means of supporting business to encourage a thriving sector with small, clean, highly skilled businesses with minimal transport needs
- Concentrate skills training around the five main Wealden towns
- Link with existing colleges and universities through the provision of outreach centres and business centres attached to Colleges.
- Support appropriate training in order to grow the local economy and provide businesses with the skills they need, for example, the Wealden Skills Centre (Uckfield) is an ideal opportunity to develop this and similar initiatives should be actively encouraged
- Identify the skills relevant to the small, clean, high-skill, low transport-requirement, knowledge-based businesses to be attracted to Wealden and support training and apprenticeships which will allow local people to develop as appropriately skilled employees

²⁶ Wealden LSP (2002) Wealden Community Planning Consultation Report of Findings