



According to research conducted by British Chambers of Commerce, schools, colleges and universities are not adequately preparing young people for the world of work.

Why is investment in education important for the North-east?

An adequate provision of skills is vital to ensure a strong economy, and North-east businesses want to see investment in all areas of the education system to ensure they have a good pipeline of skilled workers in the future.



The Conservatives want to reverse cuts to Scotland's further education sector and set a graduate contribution of £1,500/year once they earn £20,000.

They want to create a new network of Skills Academies and 35,000 apprenticeships per year.

Labour has pledged to use the sugar tax funds to invest about £100,000 per secondary school in after-school sports clubs.

They want coding and IT skills added to school curricula, a 'breakfast club' at each primary, free meals p1-p3 and 30,000 apprenticeships per year.

The Lib Dems pledged to invest £475m a year extra in colleges by raising the income tax rate by 1p.

They also wish to reverse the cuts for colleges and increase take-up of VQs and apprenticeships.

The SNP promised to increase the yearly number of apprenticeships from 25,000 to 30,000 by 2020 and reform the funding formula for schools.

They will keep free university tuition and allow graduates to start repaying student loans once they earn £22k/year.

The **Green party** wants to hire 4,000 new full-time teachers during this parliament and raise the proportion of funding given to arts education.

UKIP has pledged to reduce bureaucracy for teachers and cap class numbers in primary years 1-3 at 25 pupils.

Further information

All of Holyrood's parties except UKIP support reinstating a post-study work visa. This ask from the Chamber's 2015 and 2016 Manifestos is particularly relevant now that Aberdeen universities' competitiveness has been impacted by lower recruitment of international students amid the oil and gas downturn.

The SNP has pledged to re-introduce national standardised tests in primaries 1, 4 and 7 and secondary 3. The Conservatives support this plan and propose that the test should comply with international testing standards. However, the Lib Dems and Greens oppose the idea.

Important Updates

What does North-east business want from the next Scottish government?

Read it here bit.ly/1Ddlo5l

These papers have been drafted by the AGCC policy team using the information publicly available on date. More information will be added as and when it becomes available.