

Valuing workers: how do cities need to change in a post-pandemic economy?

25 June 2020 11.00-12.00

Elena Magrini, Centre for Cities

Tony Dundon, University of Limerick, Visiting professor at University of Manchester

Chair: Andrew Carter, Centre for Cities

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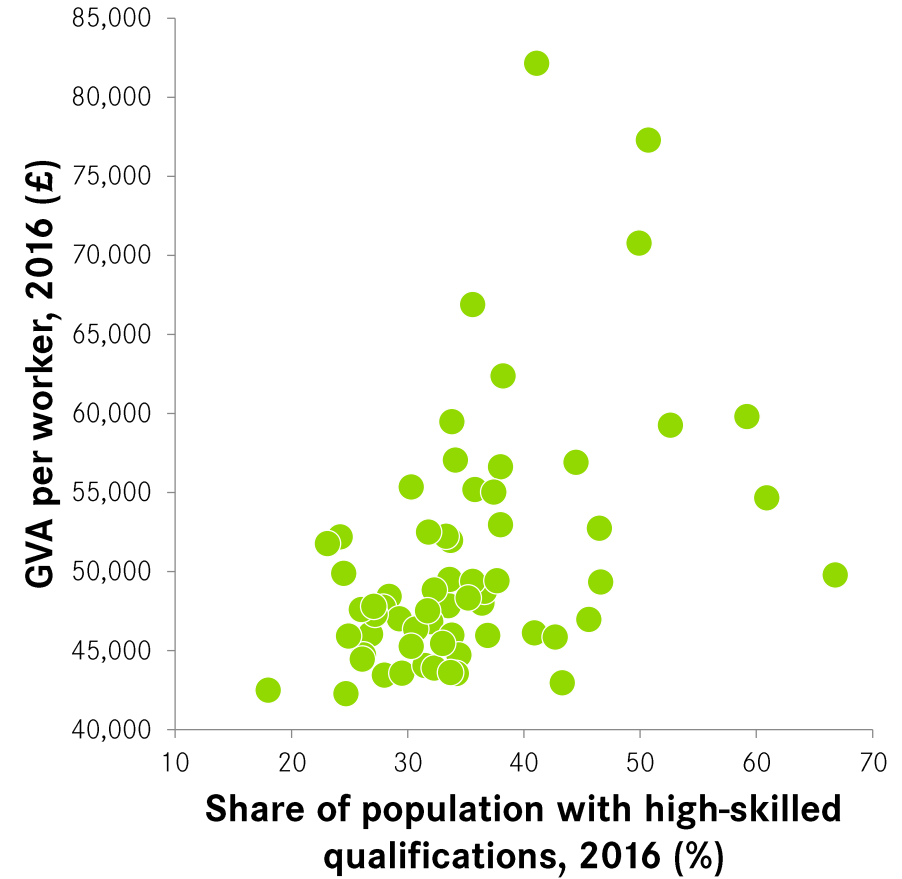
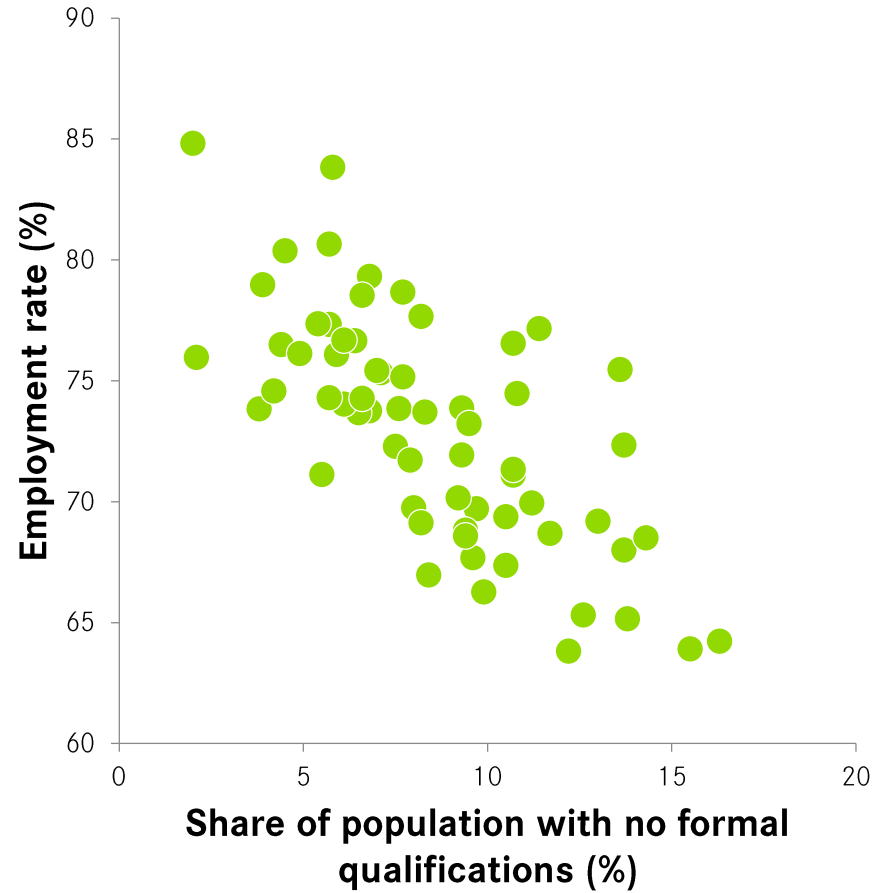
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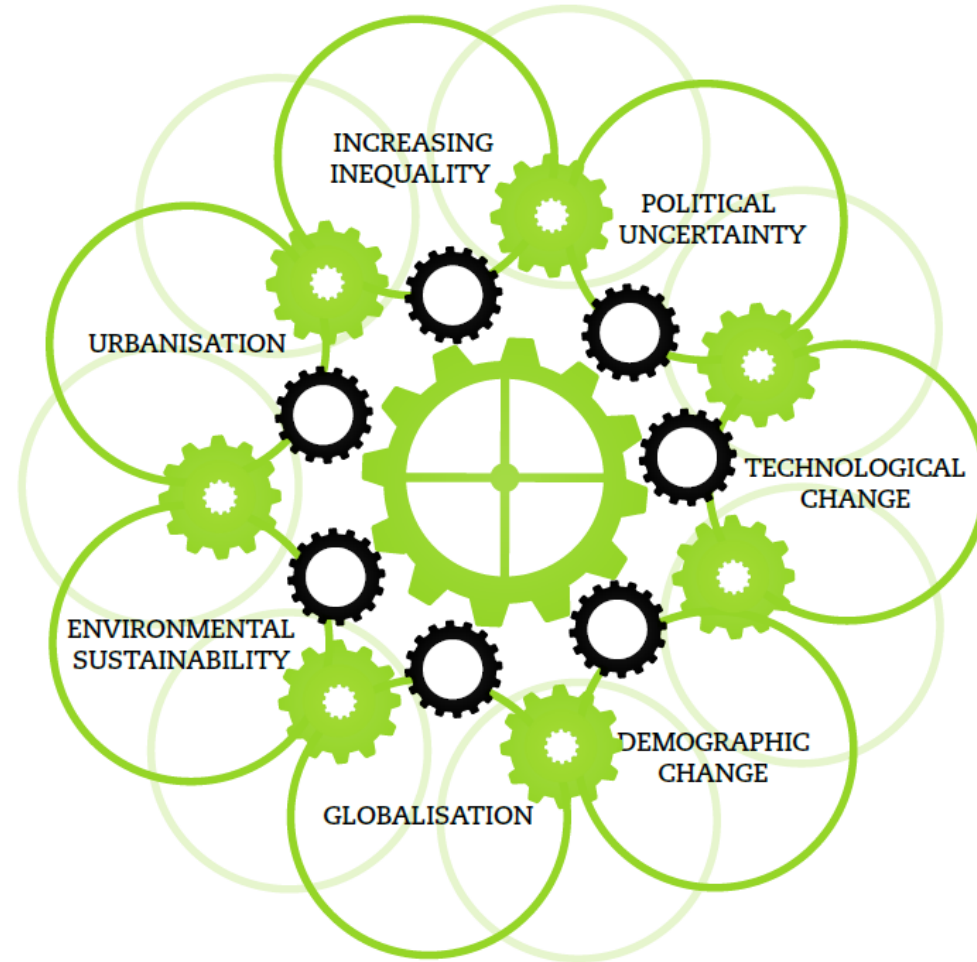
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Skills are one of the most important factors determining the success of people and places...



...And are fundamental to people's ability to adapt in the changing world of work



Source: Bakhshi et al. 2017, *Future of Skills: Employment in 2030*, London: Nesta and Pearson



The labour market was experiencing rapid changes pre-Covid 19 and the pandemic is likely accelerating these trends...

(1) Some occupations were very likely to disappear by 2030

35 occupations are at high risk – most are routine or low skilled



sales assistants
and retail cashiers



storage



administration



customer
service



construction
and building

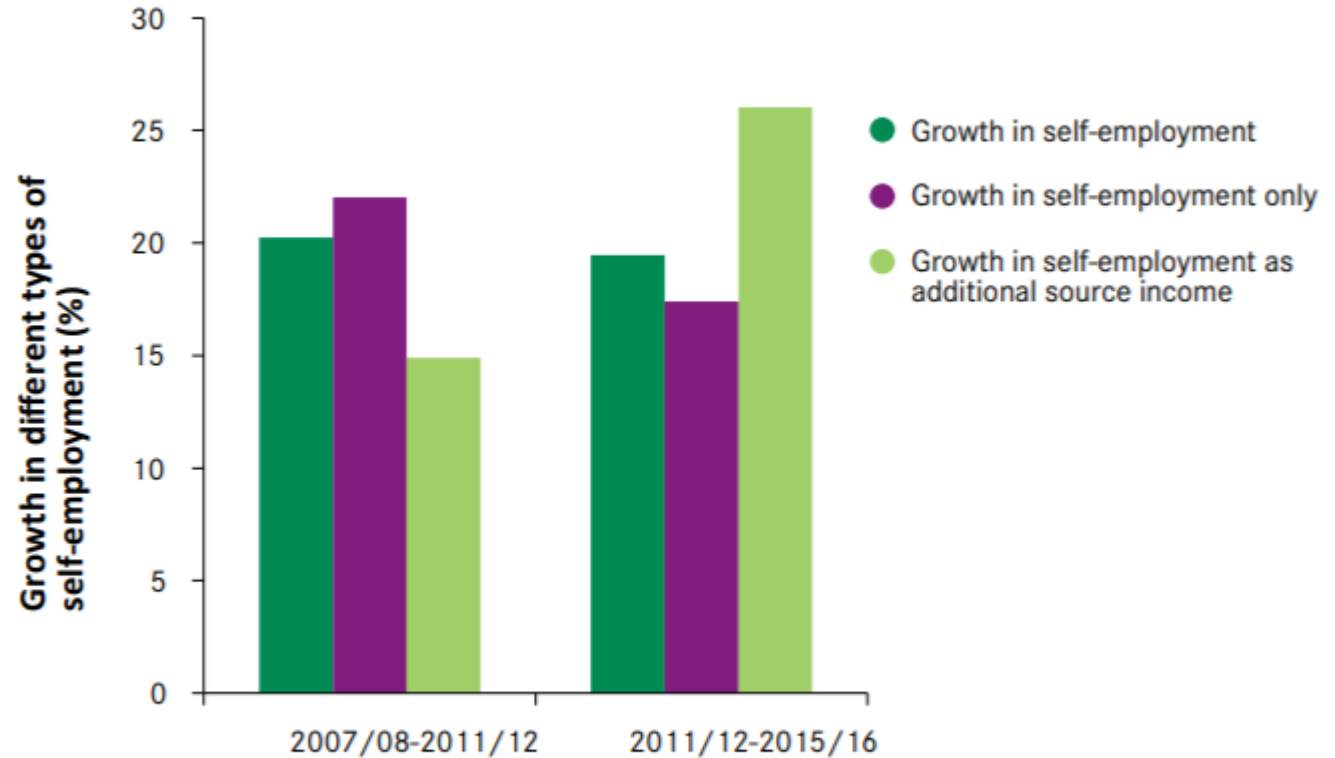
(2) Demand for skills was changing – with interpersonal and analytical skills becoming more important



(3) Rise in new ways of working: self-employment and the gig economy

21%
growth
2004-19

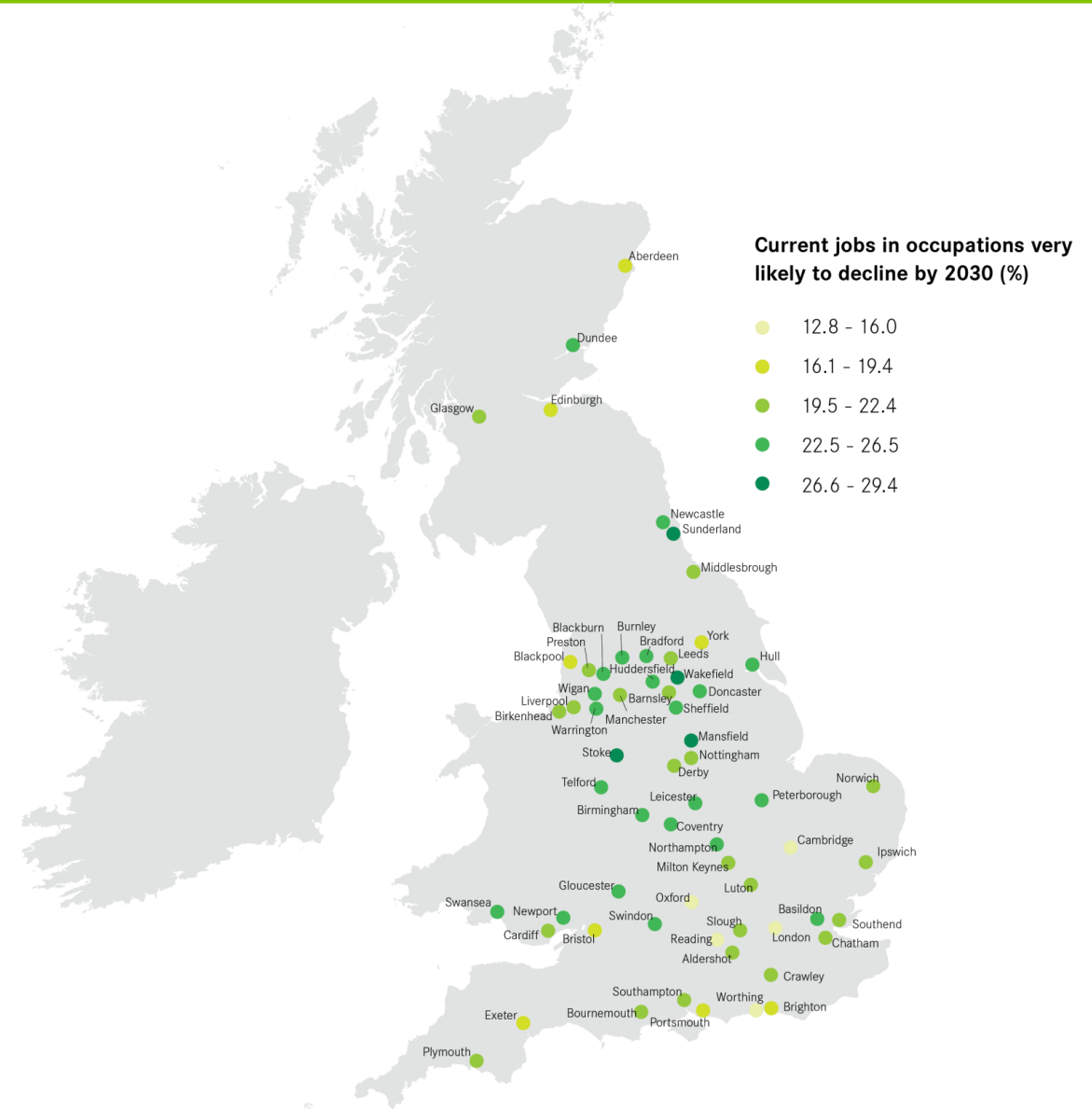
Figure 7: Growth in self-employment by type of self-employment



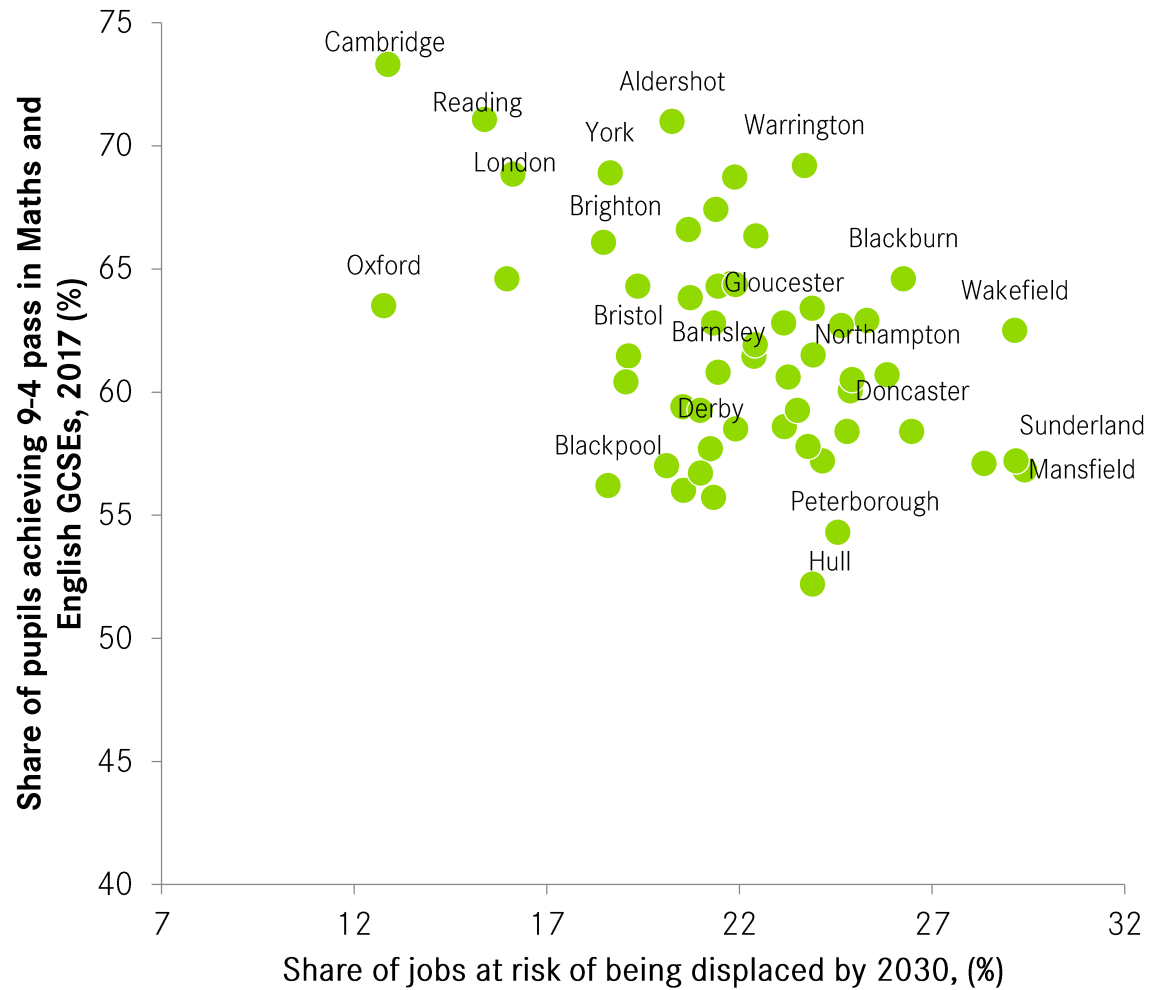
Source: HMRC self-assessment data, 2007/08, 2011/12 and 2015/16

...And the impact of these changes won't be felt equally across the country

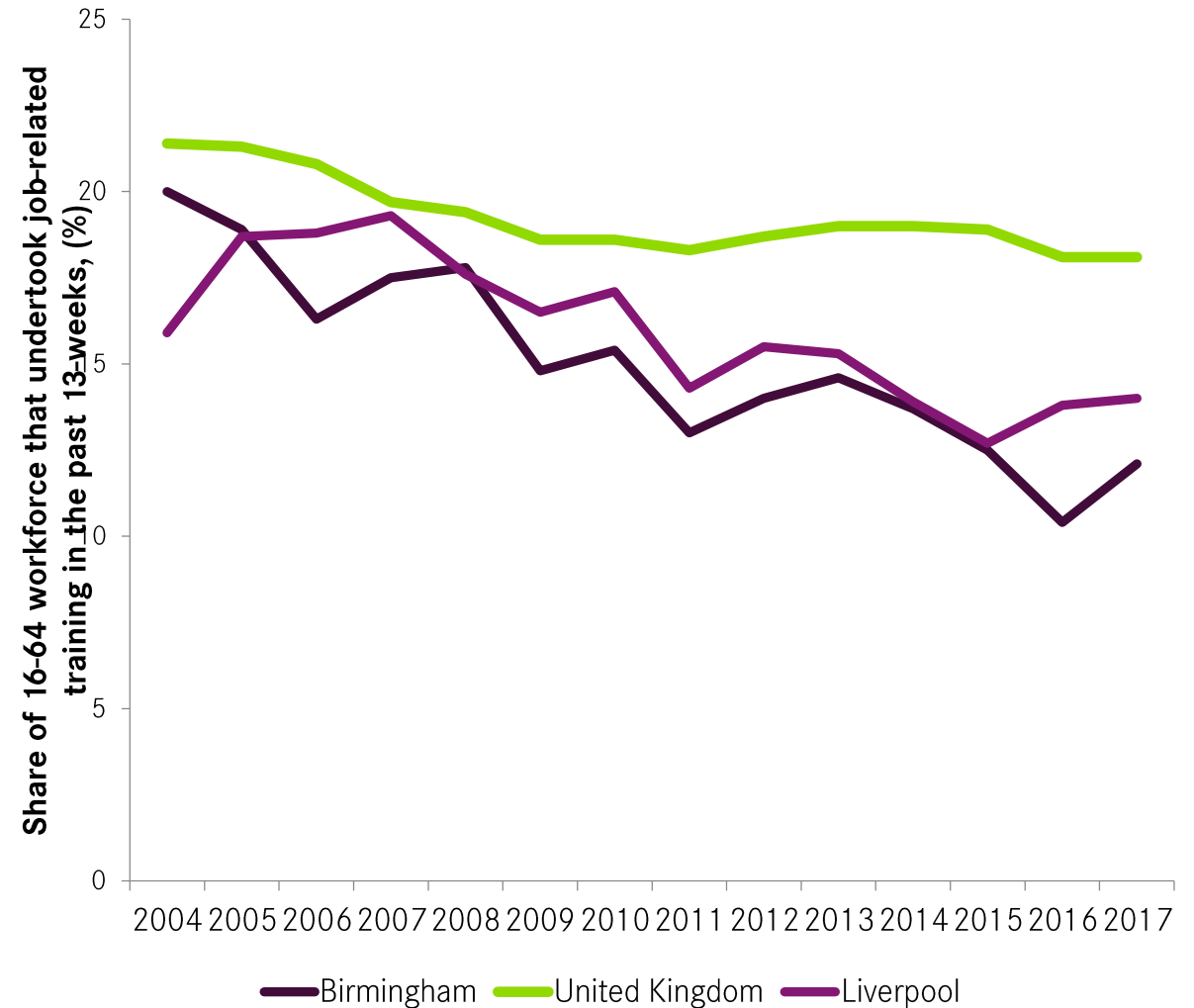
21% of jobs at risk in urban Britain (3.6m)



Not just in terms of demand but in terms of supply of skills too...



Not just in terms of demand but in terms of supply of skills too...





What does this mean for policy?

- Covid-19 is accelerating labour market trends
- Some places are in a better position to adapt to these changes than others
- Urgent investment in skills are needed



What can the Government do?

1. Increased investment in skills by national government:

- Improve schools quality in left-behind areas
- Level up investment in further education
- Creation of Singapore's style lifelong learning accounts for adults

2. Local coordination to improve take-up and quality of education through a Skills Compact:

- Prepare young generations for the labour market of the future and supporting adults to adapt
- Focusing on mapping existing provision, promote efficiency, reduce duplications and promoting experimentation

Thank you

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