DigiTay News
Tay Cities Region Deal

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www.digitay.scot

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Hello from DigiTay!

Welcome to the second edition of the quarterly DigiTay Newsletter! We hope you find this edition enjoyable. It will not be long until people are on their festive break, so on behalf of Digitay we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year or a happy holiday.

How is The Tay Cities Digital Skills Project (Digitay) funded?

The Tay Cities Digital Skills Project is part of the £20 million, Regional Skills and Employability Development Programme, funded by the Scottish Government. Approved in December 2022 this ambitious initiative was awarded over £1.5m of government funding for Phase 1, over a 3-year period to bolster regional economic growth and the digital labour market throughout the Tay Cities Region which includes Angus, Dundee, North-East Fife and Perth & Kinross.

Digitay, the Digital Skills Project is on a mission to achieve the strength in skills that a future digital economy will need. We are doing this through the delivery of a range of activities, initiatives and training programmes related to skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling in digital and data skills, ensuring that the Tay Cities Region has the necessary workforce skills on our doorstep.

Phase 1 runs until 30th September 2025 and Phase to will run from 1st October 2025 to 31st March 2030. For Phase 2 we have been working in partnership with key stakeholders to complete and submit the Outline Business Case (OBC) to the Scottish Government for approval.

Once this is approved, we will then work on a Final Business Case (FBC) which builds on the OBC and finalises the details required for implementation, including procurement and contractual arrangements. The FBC will then be submitted to the Scottish Government for approval. We will keep you up to date with developments and progress.

Digifacts

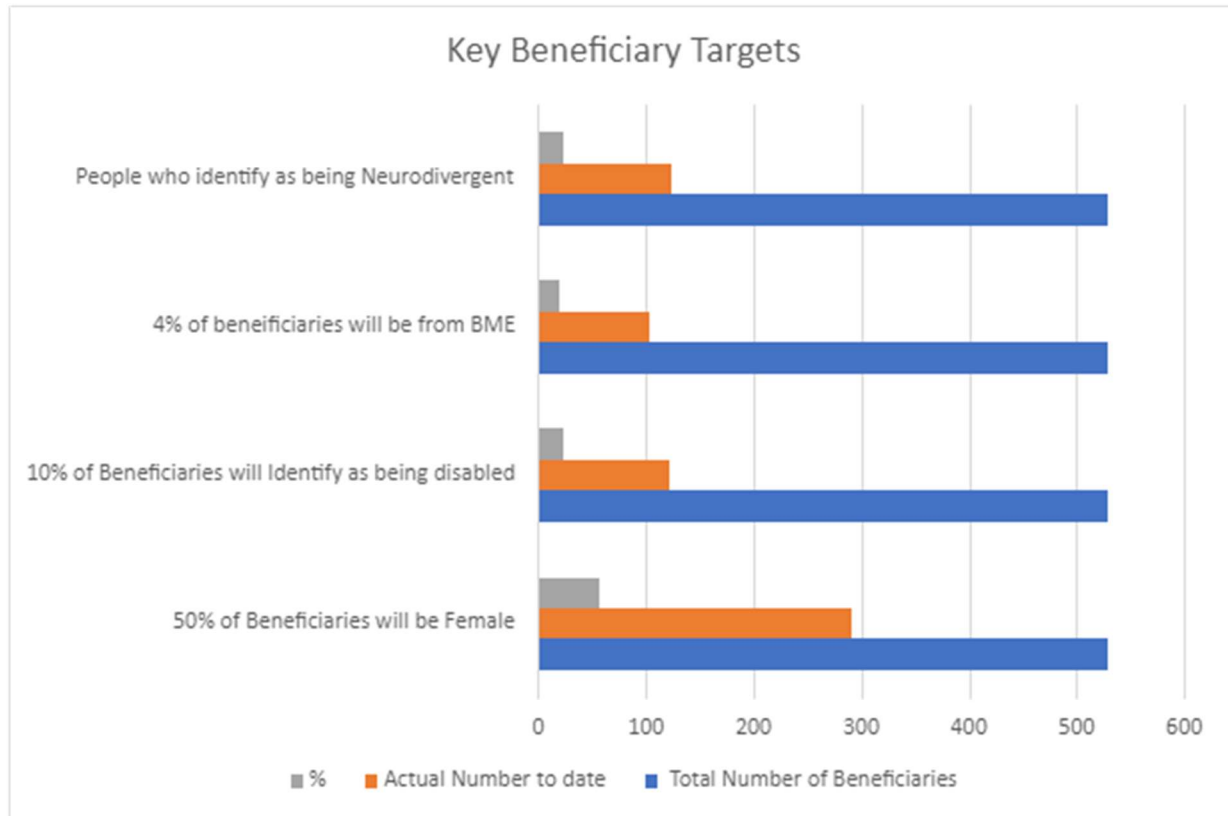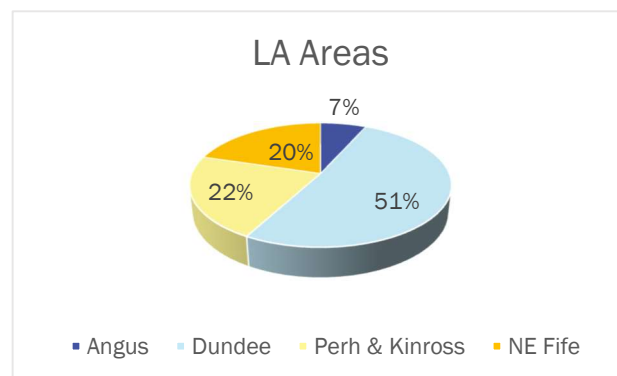| 529	£708,999	18
people supported through fully funded activity	funding awarded to skills training and business activities	education and training partners engaged

Digiknow it's all about the numbers?

Every project must have statistics so that you can see how it is performing in terms of its targets. Digitay is no different from any other project in this respect. Did you know that in Phase 1 the target for the number of beneficiaries for the project was 180 people? To date, we now have 529 people, which is 294%, and this will only keep increasing with the courses and projects that are currently on offer in Phase 1.

Presently from the data we have, 124 people identify as being neurodivergent which is 24%. Did you know that the original target for people who identify as being ethnic minority was 4% which would have been 21 people. We now have 104 people who identify as being ethnic minority which is 20%. With regards to disability, the original target was 10% which was 18 people, and we now have 118 people who identify as having a disability which is 23%. 50% of the beneficiaries are to be female and the original target was 90 and we have we have 287 females which equates to 55%.

The Tay Cities Region is made up of 4 areas. Did you know that 35 people (7%) live or work in Angus, 106 people (20%) live or work in North-East Fife, 113 people (22%) live or work in Perth & Kinross and 267 people (51%) live or work in Dundee.

DigiSee what's been going on?

Third Sector Challenge Fund: Boosting Digital Skills in the Tay Cities Region

All seven organisations have been delivering projects that will enhance digital skills amongst young people and adults in the Tay Cities Region. Mike (The Assistant Project Manager for Digitay) has met with each organisation to interview or rather ask six questions to those in charge. The interviews are available to read on our website.

We say farewell to Archaeology Scotland as they have concluded their delivery of their project. Mike met up with Keiran to have one last chat about their work, lessons learnt and memorable moments!

DigiBye Farewell for Archaeology Scotland

Mike recently had the pleasure of speaking with Kieran Manchip from Archaeology Scotland to discuss their recently completed project 'Recording Balgay Park: Digital Skills and Archaeology'. A big thank you to Kieran for his openness and honesty during the chat!

How did you find out about the funding?
Archaeology Scotland stumbled upon this fantastic funding opportunity thanks to their project partner, 'Finding You With Amy'. They eagerly applied and secured the funding to bring this project to life.

How did you advertise your course?
To ensure the course reached those who would benefit most, it was promoted among various groups in Dundee. The Dundee International Women's Centre and 'Finding You With Amy' played key roles in spreading the word.

Who did you work in partnership with on the course?
Amina Okhai from 'Finding You With Amy' was instrumental in delivering the project. Her established relationships with the participants were invaluable, making the project a true collaborative effort.

What have been the successes of the project?
The project was a triumph in three main areas: Digital Skills, Language, and Archaeology. Integrating these components was a major achievement. The social interaction and engagement of the participants were also significant successes. Watching their confidence grow as they completed tasks, analysed data, and engaged in place-making was incredibly rewarding. The project also touched on employability skills, with participants consistently requesting more digital skills and archaeology content.

What have you learned from the project?
The project demonstrated that innovative approaches can be successful. We now have a solid template for using archaeology to explore local history and improve language skills. Given more time, we could achieve even better results by investing more in the group, having longer days, and varying site types to gather more data. Participants particularly enjoyed the digital skills training, such as Power BI.

If you were to do the project again, what would you change?
If we were to run the project again, we would allocate more time and be more flexible with the schedule to better meet the needs of the group. Integrating Power BI training at the beginning of the project would enhance learning. Additionally, using a variety of site types in Dundee would provide participants with a mix of urban and rural experiences for data collection.

What did you learn from the group that stands out?
On the final day, during a field survey at Balgay Park, participants were divided into two groups. One group explored the graveyard, while the other surveyed the Old Gate and North Gate. During this survey, two participants discovered an Ordnance Survey Marker and noted its resemblance to a Chinese symbol for 'NO'. This unexpected find added an extra layer of excitement to the project.

DigiSuccess Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge

In a thrilling virtual event held on the 13th and 14th of November, Abertay University's CyberQuarter in Dundee hosted the prestigious Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge. Organised by the Atlantic Council, this high-stakes competition saw teams from universities and colleges across Scotland step into the shoes of senior government policy advisors, responding to a simulated cyberattack.

Team NULLSEC from Dundee & Angus College emerged victorious, showcasing the exceptional skills of HND Cyber Security students Ollie Killean, Bobby Bartie, James Chettle, and Peter Ryan. Their strategic prowess earned them the top prize, while teams from the University of Glasgow secured second and third places.

The Atlantic Council, a renowned foreign policy think tank based in Washington, DC, designed this competition to immerse students in the intricate world of cyber crisis management. Participants navigated complex policy and strategic challenges, balancing trade-offs to mitigate the crisis effectively.

Combining interactive learning with competitive scenario exercises, the Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge pushed students to react to dynamic, realistic scenarios. They analysed threats to national, international, and private-sector interests, offering recommendations for the most effective actions.

This year's challenge, held online for the first time, featured teams from Abertay University, Dundee and Angus College, the University of Glasgow, the University of Stirling, Strathclyde University, the University of Edinburgh, and Fife College. Senior cybersecurity professionals from Microsoft, Evalian Limited, Europol, and Adobe formed the judging panels, assessing the students' performance with a keen eye.

Sponsored by DigiTay, the Tay Cities Digital Skills Project, the event is part of the £20 million Regional Skills and Employability Development Programme, funded by the Scottish and UK governments through the Tay Cities Region Deal. Robyn Steven, Project Manager for DigiTay, emphasized the event's significance: "Events like the Cyber 9/12 highlight the importance of developing a skilled and agile workforce capable of addressing real-world cyber threats. At DigiTay, we are proud to support initiatives that bridge the gap between academic learning and industry needs, helping the Tay Cities region strengthen its position as a hub for digital innovation and resilience."

Coming up...

The University of St Andrews are running the following courses in January 2025:

- **Introduction: Programming in Python**
- **Python for data analysis and visualisation**

The Service Design Academy have a 1-day course on Discover service design on Wednesday 25th January 2025.

For further details on available courses please visit our **website**.

Round up from **DigiTay**!

The next edition of the Digitay newsletter will be coming out in March 2025. If you have any ideas, suggestions, topics or articles that you would like to add or see included in for our next edition, then please let us know via our email address which is **digitay@fife.gov.uk**   Our goal is to keep you updated about the work of the DigiTay Project, share exciting new opportunities, and highlight how this and other projects may be of benefit to you.

Digi**facts**

8,000	25%	15,600	1,000
The Tay Cities Region hosts around 8,000 digital and data related jobs and 43% of those jobs are based in Dundee	A quarter of people working in digital jobs in the Tay Cities Region are Software Developers	Every year in Scotland there are around 15,600 digital technology vacancies needing to be filled.	By 2025 there will be an additional 1000 digital technology vacancies across digital in the Tay Cities Region

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Our website is www.digitay.scot

We have a Linkedin page and a Facebook page