2026 Digital
Levy Health Check

A practical 10-minute checklist to identify unused levy, funding gaps and digital skills priorities.

The Health Check

Are you maximising your apprenticeship funding?

Each year, significant amounts of Apprenticeship Levy funding go unused, even as employers face growing skills gaps across AI, data and cyber security.

This quick Levy Health Check helps you identify what funding you may already have available, where gaps exist, and what actions to take in 2026.

1	**Know your levy position** • Are you levy-paying or SME? • Who owns levy oversight internally (HR, Finance, L&D)? • Do you understand your available funding routes?	**Action:** Assign clear ownership
2	**Check your funding status** • Current DAS balance? • Funds expiring in next 3–6 months? • Money sitting unallocated?	**Action:** Schedule a monthly levy review
3	**Align funding to 2026 digital priorities** Are you investing levy in: • Data & analytics capability • AI readiness & automation • Cyber security & IT infrastructure • Software & digital marketing • Digital leadership pathways	**Action:** Ringfence levy for high-impact digital capability
4	**Build vs buy digital talent** • Are you over-reliant on expensive external hires? • Could you upskill existing employees into digital roles? • Do you have a future pipeline for scarce skills?	**Action:** Identify one role you could build internally
5	**Build a quarterly digital plan** Ask each quarter: • What digital capability gaps are increasing? • What programmes should begin in 3–6 months? • Are funds at risk of expiry?	**Action:** Create a rolling 12-month training pipeline

Why this matters in 2026

Digital transformation is no longer optional. From AI adoption to cyber resilience and data capability, organisations that plan levy strategically will strengthen productivity, retention and long-term competitiveness.

If you do't pay levy, you may still access funding through Government co-inestment, levy transfer or blended training routes.

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