Textile Centre of Excellence UK
COSME Conference
KOSGEB

Huddersfield & District Textile Training Co Ltd

The Textile Cluster is made up of local business leaders from textile manufacturers that, both locally and globally, supply the world's premier fashion houses and technical fabric markets, producing for world famous brands, such as Burberry, John Lewis Group, Boeing, Jaguar LandRover and Saville Row Tailors.
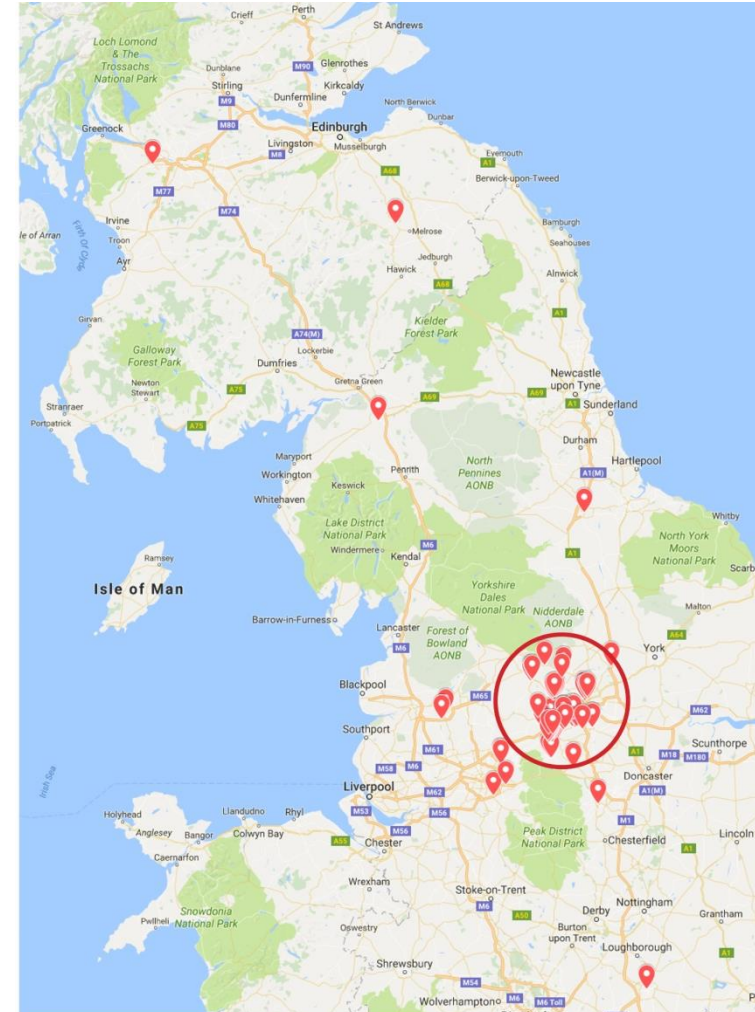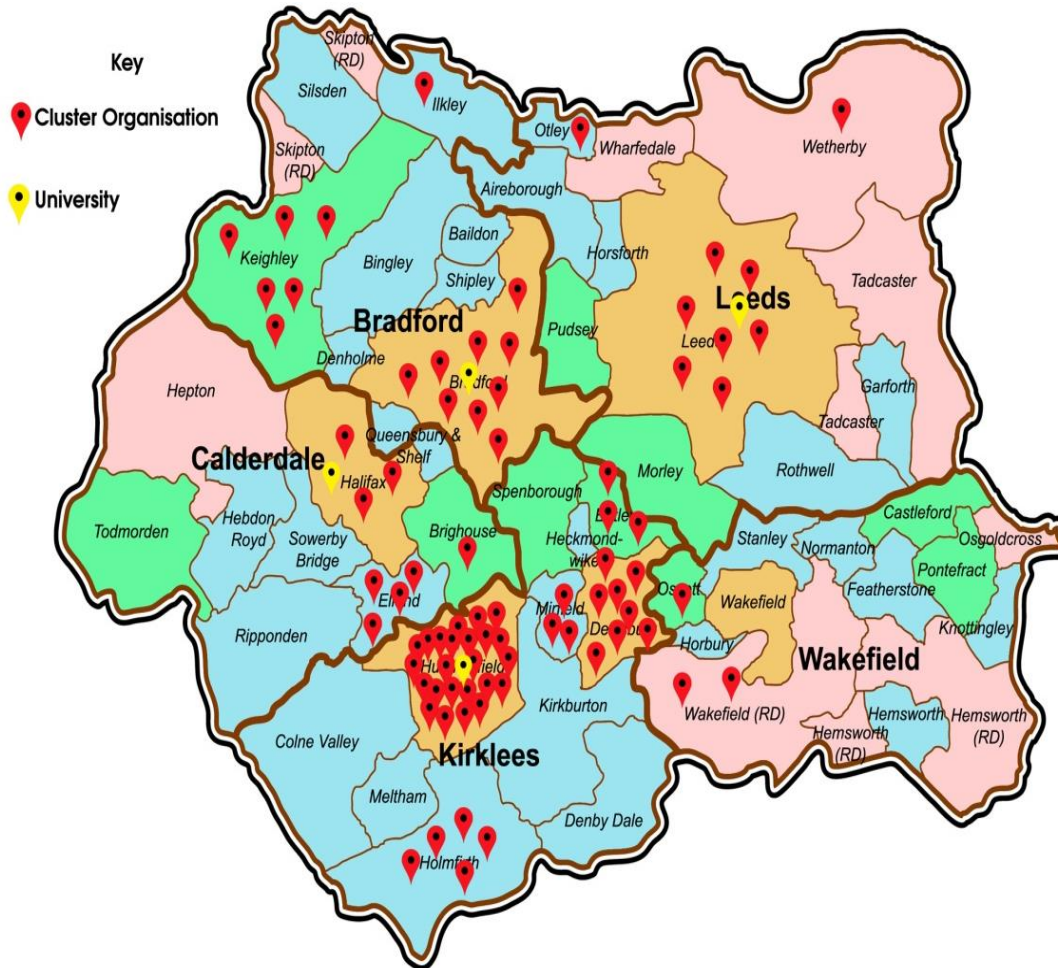
The cluster has changed significantly since its inception in 1976 and is proud to be represented by the Textile Centre of Excellence, a £2 million development located in the heart of the UK textile sector, Huddersfield.

The organisation is heavily involved in R&D projects with ESF and ERDF funding. It is the recognised national Group Training Association (GTA) and provides a wide range of training and development for employees within the textile, fashion and apparel sector.

Exports

Although the Cluster is not a major player in the global textiles trade it still exports significant volumes of typically high value cloth and apparel where design, branding and marketing are the key to its success. The main markets for these are Europe, North America, Asia Pacific and China.

Cluster Mapping

The Cluster

	CLUSTER DATA
Number of companies	103
Number of employees	7000 (approx)
Number of jobs	2,900 are employed in spinning and weaving, 1,500 in home furnishings, 800 in dyeing and finishing, 900 in carpets, rugs, cords and ropes and 400 in technical and industrial industries.
Specialisation	Manufacturing Textiles
Main Markets	Europe, North America, Asia Pacific and China

The Cluster:
Regional/National Level

- There are no policies or policy frameworks at a Leeds City Region level specifically targeting the textile and clothing sector. However, companies in the sector are eligible to seek support from a number of programmes:

- At a UK level, the textile sector has recently been classified as 'High Value Manufacturing' and is included in its strategy for 2016 – 2020 as part of the forthcoming National Innovation Plan. Key themes for the T&C sector are:

- Emerging and Enabling Technologies: identifying and investing in technologies and capabilities that will lead to the new products, processes and services of tomorrow

- Manufacturing and Materials: focusing on advancing manufacturing readiness so R&D and technology developments can be delivered at scale across a range of sectors to increase productivity and grow to capture the value in the UK.

Support Services Provided

- **R&D/Innovation support programmes and feasibility studies**

- **Laboratory testing services**

- **Organisational Needs Analysis/Training Needs Analysis (Business Advice)**

- **Funding applications and bid writing**

- **School Engagement Programme advice**

- **Lean, 5S, 6Sigma, SMED, Continuous Improvement, Business Improvement, Export Training**

- **Health, Safety & Welfare training (entry level to degree equivalence)**

- **Industry specific apprenticeships in Warping, Weaving, Carding, Spinning, Dyeing, Finishing, Apparel Furnishings, Bespoke Cutting, Tailoring, Mending, Engineering, Sewing Machining, Buying, Merchandising, Administration, Customer Service, ICT and Warehousing (levels 2, 3 and 4).**

- **Leadership & Management training (Levels 2 to Level 5)**

- **Recruitment/Staffing**

Application Journey

- "Basically a phone call to our MD, Bill Macbeth"

- WHY?

- To be a partner in a project you need the 3 R's:

1. Reputation
2. Respect
3. Results

- If you can achieve these, then you deserve the 4th 'R' which means you got it "RIGHT"

Our Future Vision

- The Cluster is a very proud industry, but maybe too traditional.

- What we want is;

- "A One Stop Shop"

- Universities utilising industry laboratory equipment, bringing them closer to our cluster organisations – Conversations currently underway. (Professor Goswani, Huddersfield University)

- We see ourselves as the space between industry and government, we are working on bringing the cluster closer to those who influence change and policy – Meeting 29th November 2017 with LEPs to discuss Industrial Digitalisation Technologies.

- Attendees represented by Government, Universities, Support industries, Companies, Research Centre's and Consultants.

- "Vision" to have 3 flags of "Excellence" TCOE shared with Local Universities and The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Regional Government) working together

Step 6 Lessons learned

Barriers to entry

- Disparity between "Gold Label" Clusters and smaller SME cluster collaborations

- Regional funding, Current relations with Higher Education/Research Centre's and Horizontal Integration

Highlights

- We have taken the time to understand different business models and the emerging consumer demand led processes

- We have a better understanding of Organisations like ours in other parts of Europe and how they respond to their sector needs

- We are more confident of our service offer and we are more active in our relationships with regional fundholders

Thank you
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