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**N E W S R E L E A S E**

**Launch of Buckinghamshire Economic Intelligence Observatory - a single source of economic data and insight for Bucks**

[Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP), today launched the [Buckinghamshire Economic Intelligence Observatory](https://www.buckseconomy.co.uk/), a single source of up-to-date local economic data and insight.

The Buckinghamshire Economic Intelligence Observatory is an invaluable tool to help all businesses and public organisations in Buckinghamshire to easily find the latest economic data for the county, including latest statistics, reports and analysis.

The Observatory has been established to improve evidence-based economic policy decision making within Buckinghamshire. It’s four key objectives are:

* To have **one single ‘go-to’** source of up-to-date economic evidence for the County,
* To make economic data and intelligence **easy to access and interpret**,
* To **increase the amount** of local economic data and intelligence that is made publicly available,
* To **increase collaboration** amongst socio-economic research professionals within Buckinghamshire.

Richard Harrington, Chief Executive, Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “It is vital that local economic policy is grounded in robust and reliable evidence. Buckinghamshire LEP has a strong history of producing such evidence, and the creation of the Observatory takes us another step forward in ensuring evidence is shared publicly for use by others in an open and transparent way.”

**more…**

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Richard added: “We look forward to developing a strong local research network over the coming years that can help us tackle local economic challenges as we continue to growth the local economy in a sustainable and inclusive way.”

Phase one of the project is now complete with the creation of a new website - [www.buckseconomy.co.uk](http://www.buckseconomy.co.uk), which was launched today at Buckinghamshire LEP’s Annual General Meeting held at Bucks New University. Themes covered on the website include: economic output and productivity; business and innovation; jobs and skills; population and wellbeing; infrastructure and environment; and impact of Covid-19.

Phase two of the project will involve establishing a network of socio-economic research professionals across the county to share expertise and take forward collaborative projects. This phase will kick off in the new year.

If you have local-level research you’d like to share with a wider audience via the Observatory website, or would like to join a network of local socio-economic researchers, please contact Caroline Hargrave, Research Manager, caroline.hargrave@buckslep.co.uk.

**Ends**

**Note to editors**

The [**Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership**](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) is a business-led ‘partnership of equals’ between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County.

[**Buckinghamshire Business First**](http://www.bbf.uk.com/) (BBF) is the Growth Hub for the county and is backed by Buckinghamshire-based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs, the Buckinghamshire LEP and Buckinghamshire Council. BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

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