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

**Buckinghamshire LEP Look Back on Year of Achievements**

[Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) celebrated their achievements of the past 12 months and previewed ambitious plans for the future, at their Annual General Meeting this week, presented at Buckinghamshire New University, High Wycombe.

As well as celebrating the achievements of the LEP over the past 12 months, the AGM marked the launch of the [Buckinghamshire Economic Intelligence Observatory](https://www.buckseconomy.co.uk/), 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.

In addition, it was announced that a Net Zero Audit is to be commissioned by the LEP to identify businesses initiatives from across Buckinghamshire that are spearheading the journey to a Low Carbon future and to help target where further support should be aimed to help businesses on this journey. The event also showcased some of the new business innovation hubs that have opened in Buckinghamshire over the past year following LEP Local Growth Fund support, including the Satellite Applications Catapult Innovation Centre at Westcott, the Bucks Lifescience & Innovation Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital and the University of Buckingham’s Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Innovation.

**more…**

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Andrew M. Smith, Chair of Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership said: “We were delighted to welcome attendees to hear more about our achievements over the past 12 months and our ambitious future plans. In particular, to reflect on the delivery of projects and programmes which have contributed to the delivery of our Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan, to help drive the Buckinghamshire economy to further increase innovation, support international trade and improve connectivity to help all businesses deliver their full economic potential.”

Andrew added: “We recognise that businesses have faced many challenges over the past year, not least the fallout from the Covid-19 crisis, but our primary objective has remained very simple, helping companies to grow and secure customers in local, national and international markets.”

The event provided a great opportunity to learn more about how Bucks LEP secured investment is helping support economic growth across Buckinghamshire and to learn how business can work more closely with Bucks LEP and its Skills, Growth Hub, Funding and Enterprise Zone teams.

This year Bucks LEP has seen a flurry of projects come to fruition right across Buckinghamshire. In the past 12 months Local Growth Fund and now Getting Building Fund investments have helped support the development of the Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub; the Innovation Centre at Westcott; the Lifescience & Innovation Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital; and deliver new broadband connections for many rural businesses; along with investment in infrastructure projects such as the High Wycombe Town Centre link road. This performance has enabled Bucks LEP to be graded ‘excellent’ for delivery in the Government’s annual assessment of Local Enterprise Partnerships.

In addition, there has been major growth and development in many of our key projects and schemes, including activity around our three Enterprise Zones at Silverstone Park, Westcott Venture Park and Aylesbury Woodlands to attract and develop new business investment. **more…**

**Buckinghamshire LEP Look Back on Year of Achievements: 3**

To find out more about Bucks LEP’s impressive achievements over the past year, please read our Annual Report at: <https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/useful-information/publications-reports/>

**Ends**

**Photo caption:** *Bucks LEP celebrating their achievements and previewing plans at their Annual General Meeting.*

**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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