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

**Call for projects for Business and Skills Capital Grant Funding**

[Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP) has £2m of Local Growth Funding to invest in business and skills capital initiatives to strengthen and build upon some of the key sector strengths of the Buckinghamshire economy, and are therefore issuing a [call for projects](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/interesting-stuff/funding-calls) for Business and Skills Capital Grant Funding.

As part of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Growth Corridor, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership have been selected as one of the trailblazing areas to deliver the [National Industrial Strategy](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/about-btv/local-industrial-strategy).

To help support the development of this strategy BTVLEP are seeking proposals for business and skills capital projects for schemes that will support the development of innovation and research in Buckinghamshire, aligned to the five foundations and four grand challenges of the [National Industrial Strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/the-uks-industrial-strategy?utm_campaign=indstra-wp&utm_source=stakeholder&utm_medium=referral&utm_content=london-southeast).

Andrew M. Smith, Chairman of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “We are issuing this call for projects - to invest £2.0m of capital funding into business and skills projects - to organisations which can demonstrate the funding will have a positive short, medium and/or long term impact for the Buckinghamshire economy.”

**more…**

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Andrew added: “We are particularly interested in receiving partnership proposals from public, private, academic or community organisations that have well advanced schemes with a minimum of 50% match funding secured. All projects will need to demonstrate that they can be delivered and completed by March 2021.”

BTVLEP would also welcome proposals coming forward from its priority sectors: Creative Film & TV; Life-Sciences & Agri-Food; Space Propulsion and High Performance Technologies, although open to other technology propositions if linked to the Industrial Strategy foundations and grand challenges.

As there is a limited amount of funding available, BTVLEP would particularly welcome applications that were looking for loan or equity finance or from projects that were capable of revolving its funds.

Evaluation of proposals will be undertaken by an independent consultant retained by BTVLEP. Evaluation will include an analysis of strategic fit, economic impact, type of funding required and value for money, deliverability, and sustainability.

Proposals need to be submitted by **5.00pm on Friday 28th September 2018**. Full details and an application form are available at: [www.buckstvlep.co.uk/interesting-stuff/funding-calls](http://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/interesting-stuff/funding-calls).

The Industrial Strategy sets out a long-term plan to boost the productivity and earning power of people throughout the UK. It sets out how the government intends to build a Britain fit for the future – how they will help businesses create better, higher-paying jobs in every part of the UK with investment in the skills, industries and infrastructure of the future.

**more…**

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Buckinghamshire is the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain where, for well over a decade, more businesses have started here than anywhere else in the UK. This is borne of the heartbeat of enterprise, which is manifest in a propensity to act; and a

propensity to successfully exploit new ideas. It is no accident that we are the Birthplace of the Paralympics at Stoke Mandeville, the creative film engine for James Bond and Star Wars at Pinewood Studios, and the joint home of the Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit.

**Ends**

**Note to editors**

The [**Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership**](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP) 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 Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs and Local Authorities.  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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