****

No. 001.19 14 January 2019

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

**New Skills Board Members sought by Buckinghamshire Thames Valley**

**Local Enterprise Partnership**

Business people are invited to join the Skills and Employability Board of the [Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP) to help steer the skills for growth agenda in Bucks.

BTVLEP is a business-led Local Enterprise Partnership which promotes economic growth and prosperity across Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire is a significant wealth generator for the UK economy, and the commitment of over £73m in Local Growth Funds is unleashing ambition and creativity in the county. This funding is enabling the delivery of new road and rail infrastructure, better skills and business opportunities and enhanced digital connectivity to support sustainable economic growth in the county which sits at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

In the past 12 months our Local Growth Fund investment has helped support new educational facilities at the world-leading National Film and Television School, while new facilities for the creative industries and construction and motor trades have been created at the Buckinghamshire College Group sites. Additionally, work is now complete on the new Vinson Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Buckingham. This performance in our Local Growth Fund delivery has enabled BTVLEP to be graded ‘good’ on all fronts in the Government’s annual assessment of Local Enterprise Partnerships.

**more…**

**New Skills Board Members sought by BTVLEP: 2**

Skills development is central to creating local conditions for sustained innovation, excellence and growth, and through our collaborative skills strategy, we are supporting our priority industries through skills focussed sector specific action groups – employer-led think tanks and task forces enabling change at the coalface of Creative Industries, Space, Construction, Digital Skills, High Performance Technologies and Integrated Health, Life Sciences and Medical Technologies.

BTVLEP’s Skills Hub and its Enterprise Adviser Network (part of the Careers and Enterprise Company’s national network) supported 70,000 employer-student encounters in Bucks in 2017/18. Home to one of 20 pilot Careers Hubs in England, as part of the established Careers and Enterprise Company programme, we are connecting schools and businesses with ‘offers’ and ‘asks’ via www.oppsinbucks.org and organising skills competitions in schools with employers including Bosch, East-West Rail and the National Film & Television School, and work place visits to British Standards Institution and Emerson.

The annual [Bucks Skills Show](https://wannabebucks.org/bucks-skills-show/) is the county’s largest interactive and experiential skills festival: 3,000+ people attended across the two day event in October 2018, with 100+ high profile exhibitors linked to BTVLEP growth sectors and guest speakers included David Lidington MP, Google, Ministry of Sound, ITV News, Civil Service and Sir Anthony Seldon.

Professor Rebecca Bunting, Chair of BTVLEP Skills Board, said: “BTVLEP is recognised by Government to be a high-performing LEP. These new Skills Board appointments will support the continued skills development and growth of our economy and help our businesses to flourish locally and internationally.”

Rebecca added: “We are seeking applications from new private sector board members who will bring further commercial experience and insight to the board and help generate new ideas, and who will best reflect the growth sectors in Buckinghamshire.”

**more…**

**New Skills Board Members sought by BTVLEP: 3**

A Board Member’s role is to use their business knowledge to give strategic advice on boosting the area’s skills landscape; promote LEP interests when dealing with Government and business contacts; help inform and drive forward the skills activities, including those around increasing jobs and business growth, developing the skilled talent pipeline industry needs; contribute to the development and delivery of the area’s Local Industrial Strategy; and champion the work of the BTVLEP Board to relevant partners, networks and other business organisations. The Skills Board reports to the BTVLEP Board.

Applicants should be excellent communicators, demonstrate leadership, understand what drives economic prosperity, have a good knowledge of the area and its needs, and possess extensive business networks and contacts. They must also be available to serve on the BTVLEP board for up to four years, and to attend regular meetings and events. There are 6 Skills Board meetings per year.

The closing date for applications is **Tuesday January 29th**, with interviews being held in the week commencing February 4th 2019.

Applicant packs, including a role description and person specification, can be requested by contacting info@buckstvlep.co.uk or telephoning 07973 830440.

In addition, further details can be found on the BTVLEP website at: [www.buckstvlep.co.uk/about-us/board-appointments/](http://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/about-us/board-appointments/)

**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.

For further information please contact:

Richard Burton

Communications Manager

T: 01494 927160

M: 07866 492292

E: richard.burton@btvlep.co.uk