

Open

Title: Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy Publication & Delivery & Arc Productivity Group Update.

Purpose: To update board members on the process of finalising the co-publication of the Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy and to identify immediate development priorities and the process for delivering these priorities. To also update on the work of the Arc productivity group and the Buckinghamshire LEP links to the Arc wide Governance.

Recommendation: That Members note the contents of this report and endorse the activity to be undertaken to progress both the Buckinghamshire specific and Arc wide actions in relation to the Local Industrial Strategy and Spending Review.

1 Introduction

At the time of writing the Buckinghamshire Local Industrial remains in draft form with final comments awaited from SPADs. Hard copy may be circulated at the Board meeting as the launch date is currently scheduled for the 19th July. In lieu of attaching the draft strategy this paper carries a number of attachments to convey the progression and adjustments made in the final stages of the co design process. For relative ease of reference a current summary of the sixty seven actions, broken down by economic asset, economic driver and grand challenge, is appended to give some perspective of the scale and nature of the task ahead. Our local partners remain keen to work with us and in particular the Satellite Applications Catapult are keen to gauge Board support for a joint promotion of a Disruptive Innovation for Space Centre (DISC) proposition at Westcott. A short presentation on DISC will be made during consideration of this paper. Moving from the local to the regional the four Arc LEPs have been working well together within the construct of the Arc Productivity group. Government officials have recently shared their thinking on the approach to the Spending Review 2019 and the Arc LEPs have been encouraged to respond by developing strategic outline business cases, over the summer months, on jointly agreed priorities.

2 Local Industrial Strategy

Members will recall that departmental colleagues are holding the pen on the publication of the Local Industrial Strategy. **Appendix 1** provides a summary context of Buckinghamshire LEP commitments but it also tracks the changes made to the final LIS. Essentially care has been taken not to commit to any new funding obligation, language has been aligned and new actions have been inserted where it is felt that these accentuate departmental policy and priorities. In addition **Appendix 2** is simply an extract of all the 'action' sections of the current draft Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy without the supporting narrative. It does however provide a sense of scale of activity under each asset and driver for change.

3 Actions by Assets, Drivers and Challenges

There is a great deal of commonality between the actions for assets and drivers with work already undertaken but requiring enhanced levels of: networking, financial investment, brand and inward investment, education and skills, data sharing and infrastructure. There are also substantial new additions such as the development of a Buckinghamshire Export and Inward Investment Partnership, creation of a Screen Industries Global Growth Hub, establishment of an Innovation and Enterprise Board, new Living Lab initiatives linked initially to Aylesbury Garden Town and promotion of Encore Careers that will require a readjustment of our current structures in order to accommodate and successfully operate. It may be sensible to have an awayday inviting wider partners to consider how best to configure the Board and its sub groups to meet the demands of Industrial Strategy delivery and relationship with new partnerships and boards.

Enterprise Zones will feature prominently in our forward strategy. We have been working closely with the Satellite Applications Catapult (SAC) at Westcott who would like to establish the Board's appetite to work together to an agreed programme designed to position Westcott at the heart of the UK's Space propulsion programme and to diversify into data usage and production. Attached in **Appendix 3** is a draft DISC proposition from SAC which is not intended to be a funding ask, as we do not have that financial headroom, but more an exploratory conversation about a commitment to work together to achieve common goals. For example SAC would be keen to work together with Buckinghamshire LEP on the upcoming Strength in Places bidding round that feature space Propulsion and Westcott prominently. On that theme we might consider the Strength in Places programme for projects at Silverstone, Pinewood and Woodlands too joining forces with equally ambitious partners.

4 Publication

Government currently intent to publish the four Arc Local Industrial Strategies on the 19th July. A roundtable discussion led by Business Minister Lord Henley will be held at Cranfield University commencing at 10:30am and concluding at 1:30pm with one hour scheduled for discussion and the remaining time for networking and tours of the flight simulation suite and Agritech Centre. We have been allocated four spaces.

5 Arc LEP Productivity group

While the Industrial Strategy is not a funding nor bidding document the Arc is being encouraged to develop a pipeline of initiatives and interventions to help realise the economic potential of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc across the four key themes of Productivity, Place-making, Connectivity and the Environment for the Spending Review 2019. The four LEPs, leading the Productivity Group workstream, have agreed to work together on joint initiatives resulting from the PWC commissioned Economic Vision and Local Industrial Strategies. Attached in **Appendix 4** are the initial agreed Arc wide productivity priorities. The group last met on 8th July and agreed to jointly commission strategic outline business cases for these priorities for submission to government in October in advance of the Spending Review.

Members are asked to:-

note the contents of this report and endorse the activity to be undertaken to progress both the Buckinghamshire specific and Arc wide actions in relation to the Local Industrial Strategy and Spending Review.