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BUCKINGHAMSHIRE THAMES VALLEY LEP

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

***Building conditions for sustainable economic growth
in The Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain***

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Foreword

A personal message from the Chair (+Pic)

It is my pleasure to share just some of the fantastic achievements Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP) and partners have accomplished in the last twelve months and our exciting plans for the year ahead. I believe that within the last year, we have made our most significant progress towards our vision of building a connected, creative, dynamic economy that will deliver increased prosperity for all those who choose to live, work, visit and invest in Buckinghamshire.

There is a real momentum within Buckinghamshire, and we are driven to ensure the local business community feels the benefit of this progress. During 2019, Government recognised our delivery as being 'excellent' for projects and programmes which contribute to the execution of our overall vision for Buckinghamshire and the Good Growth for Cities 2018 index placed BTVLEP as the second highest performing LEP area in England!

But we are not a LEP just delivering what is expected, we are trying to push the county's business community to new heights and, by successfully applying to deliver additional projects, we are also seeing Buckinghamshire lead the way nationally and even internationally.

A key highlight is helping shape and deliver the Government's Industrial Strategy. In particular, we have embraced the opportunity to work with Government in delivering one of the first trailblazing Local Industrial Strategies 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.

We are working hard to remove the barriers to growth – improving skills, speeding up connections to broadband, opening-up development land for investment and promoting growth in housing.

BTVLEP stands at the heart of the business relationship between Whitehall and our local partners, a network that includes our region's business associations, higher and further education, and other local area partners. Together, we have combined to form a strong and united approach which reflects our county's priorities for investment, infrastructure and business support. In addition, the reorganisation of local government in Buckinghamshire to establish a single unitary authority opens up opportunities for greater joint working to support the delivery of economic growth for the county.

BTVLEP provides a powerful business voice at the heart of the exciting and dynamic Oxford to Cambridge Arc and has been a firm supporter of the England's Economic Heartland programme which has done so much to advance the case for strategic support and investment in the transport and digital infrastructure of the region.

During the year we were delighted to appoint five new private sector members to strengthen our Board and support the continued growth of our economy and help our businesses to flourish locally and internationally.

BTVLEP and its partners have raised Buckinghamshire's reputation as a great place to do business on a national and global scale and look forward to continuing to do so in coming years. Our strengths are diverse, ranging from the space and advanced engineering sectors to the creative industries, all helping to attract inward investment and make Buckinghamshire a better place to live and work.

Finally, we were delighted to confirm that an exciting new chapter for BTVLEP commenced with its formal establishment as a new company limited by guarantee, to further strengthen partnership and help deliver prosperity for Buckinghamshire - building on the recent board recruitments and our exceptional annual review results.

Put together with our strong economic performance, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP has had an impressive twelve months, and the next twelve promise to be just as exciting. But none of our achievements would be possible without an engaged and thoughtful Board, a strong, experienced and hard-working executive team, and the excellent support we receive from our partners. I am extremely grateful to them all.

I look forward to working with you all in the exciting year ahead to achieve even bigger and better things for Buckinghamshire.

Signature

Andrew M. Smith

Chairman Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP

Chief Executive update (+Pic)

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership continues to be one of the top performing LEP's in the country, supported by incredible enthusiasm from business, a dedicated Chair and board of directors, and a great team.

This year we have seen a flurry of projects come to fruition right across Buckinghamshire. We're on track to unlock delivery of around £300 million of total investment in Buckinghamshire that will fundamentally improve our economy and future-proof our infrastructure. And, as we reflect on progress to date, it's important that we continue to be ambitious and aspirational for Buckinghamshire.

Our economy faces an exciting future, and BTVLEP and our partners are working hard to make sure we maximise the potential for business growth across the county.

Bucks 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 employment and business opportunities and enhancing digital connectivity to support sustainable economic growth in Bucks which sits at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

We have a lot to be proud of. In the past 12 months our Local Growth Fund investment has helped support new educational facilities including the world-leading National Film and Television School; Buckinghamshire College Group sites; and the new Vinson Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Buckingham, along with investment in infrastructure projects such as High Wycombe Town Centre Master Plan. This performance in our Local Growth Fund has enabled BTVLEP 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.

We recognise that businesses today face many challenges, not least the impact of Brexit, but our primary objective remains very simple, helping companies to grow and secure customers in local, national and international markets.

We will continue to focus on helping innovative companies to thrive and create jobs for local people and enhance our position as the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

More than ever this year, we can be proud of our achievements and I look forward to the coming year where we can build on our solid foundations to further grow the Buckinghamshire economy.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and finding out more about Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEPs achievements and our ambitious plans for the future.

Signature

Richard Harrington
CEO Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP

Who are we?

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP) is one of 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships operating across England. We are considered by Government to be amongst the most successful in terms of our strategic outlook, operational delivery and exceptional reach and insight into the business community.

BTVLEP is a business led private and public sector partnership that aims to promote local economic growth and prosperity. Acting as a strategic gateway to funding, we support and deliver projects of long-term economic benefit for all in Buckinghamshire.

Our work is primarily concerned with enabling sustainable and productive economic growth through creating more jobs, up-skilling our workforce and by providing the vital supporting infrastructure and housing – read on to find out how are we doing this.

Add 'Some Facts About The BTVLEP Economy' infographic

Building on a strong and successful economy

Buckinghamshire's economy goes from strength to strength. Our businesses have the 4th highest productivity rates in the country with the GVA (Gross Value Added) per hour worked more than 10% above the national average, significantly better than our neighbouring areas in Bedfordshire, Oxfordshire and Hertfordshire. In addition, Buckinghamshire has the highest employment rate in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc at 82 per cent compared with the 75 per cent for England.

(Case study – boxed)

Good Growth puts Bucks Thames Valley LEP at the top (+Pic)

Good Growth for Cities 2018 index has placed BTVLEP as the second highest performing LEP area in England! We are delighted to be rated as a top area for the most improved and overall ranking for good growth. Being located at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc we recognise that the strength in this region comes from collaboration across city, town and rural areas. That is why three LEPs (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and South East Midlands) and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority are working together to use our trailblazing Local Industrial Strategies as the basis for a combined economic vision to support future investment and good growth.

But we are not complacent and we continue to support our high potential businesses and key growth sectors to flourish and grow further and access new national and international markets.

Buckinghamshire is home to iconic business brands and locations: Pinewood, the National Film and Television School, Silverstone, the National Space Propulsion Facility (at Westcott Venture Park) and Stoke Mandeville, the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement, along with businesses such as Bosch, McAfee, ESRI, Silverson, and Cisco.

It has a highly productive economy with a dynamic and resilient employment base underpinned by a strong and high-quality SME business community. Our grammar schools lead the way in the best performing schools' system in the country, Buckinghamshire is a draw for talent, with evidence showing we have the best educated workforce in the land.

Buckinghamshire lies at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, one of the UK's key growth regions with London and the UK's international gateway at Heathrow close by.

The bigger picture

Our Vision (Boxed) (+Pic)

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership's vision is to *“create a vibrant, balanced, competitive Buckinghamshire economy. Our mission is to create the conditions that support business to invest, grow, and thrive.”*

Our Strategic Objectives: (Boxed)

- To work with public and private sector partners to develop a shared vision for the future of the local economy and to use the LEP Board as a forum for collective discussion and decision making on strategic growth priorities;
- To agree a prioritised list of investments within the available budget;
- To make decisions on individual scheme approvals, investment decision making and release of funding, including scrutiny of individual scheme business cases;
- To identify, monitor and evaluate the delivery of funded projects.

Our Outstanding Economy

Add **“Buckinghamshire in numbers – outstanding economy”** infographic

Our LEP is blessed with:

- A guaranteed place at the top of the start-ups tables;
- The highest ratio of private to public sector employment in England;
- Productivity over 10% above the national level;
- Amongst the highest qualified residents in the country.

We are the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

Securing investment

Add **“What have we achieved”** (x2 pages) infographic

Our primary objective is to mobilise each of Buckinghamshire's internationally significant economic assets, enabling the growth of clusters of businesses that are pioneers in their fields and raising productivity nationally, across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and in Buckinghamshire.

Our purpose-built business Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First, is a major strength. Representing a membership of over 11,000 businesses including almost 70% of the local private

sector workforce, Buckinghamshire Business First is helping make Bucks one of the best places to start, run and grow a new business.

We are vital in delivering the national growth agenda, all the evidence suggests that Buckinghamshire, like many other county economies, although rural and without a city, remains a critically important investment channel in underpinning economic growth and national industrial strategy.

(Case study – boxed)

Bucks blazing a trail (+Pic)

The BTVLEP area has been chosen by government as one of the trailblazer areas for developing a Local Industrial Strategy. These are long-term strategies aim to boost productivity-led growth and will shape the investment decisions in the area for the future. We are also working with our partners at SEMLEP, Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire on a joint Growth Arc economic vision.

Over the past six years we have secured over £100m worth of direct investment into Buckinghamshire, unlocking a total investment of over £300m.

Funding allocation:

Fund	Allocation
Growing Places Fund	£8.1m
Local Growth Fund 1	£44.2m
Local Growth Fund 2	£8.8m
Local Growth Fund 3	£20.5m
Local Transport Board	£8.3m
European Structural Funds	£10.9m
LEP Core Capacity Funding	£1.2m
Total	£102m

Increasing prosperity and growth – Local Growth Fund

Bucks is a major wealth generator for the UK economy, and the commitment of over £73m in Local Growth Funds is unleashing ambition and creativity across the county. This funding is enabling the delivery of new road and rail infrastructure, better skills and business opportunities and enhancing digital connectivity to support sustainable economic growth in Buckinghamshire.

(Case study – boxed)

Investment secures new road scheme for Bucks (+Pic)

BTVLEP Local Growth Funding of £6.05m provided a new road scheme to improve the resilience and performance of Buck's highway network, and enhance strategic north/south connectivity for the county. Without Beaconsfield's new relief road, the county would be put at a disadvantage in terms of transport access across the county and the knock-on effects to economic growth.

There's certainly plenty to shout about, 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, new facilities for the creative industries and construction and motor trades have been created at the Buckinghamshire College Group sites, and the new Vinson Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Buckingham, along with investment in infrastructure projects such as High Wycombe Town Centre Master Plan and the A355 Improvement Scheme. This performance in our Local Growth Fund has enabled BTVLEP to be graded 'excellent' for delivery in the Government's annual assessment of Local Enterprise Partnerships – one of only four LEPs to achieve this!

(Case study – boxed)

Push off for high-performance cycling centre (+Pic)

BTVLEP invested £2m of its Local Growth Funds in the development of a new 26,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art sports engineering innovation centre. Situated in BTVLEP's Silverstone Enterprise Zone, the Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub, which is owned by TotalSim Ltd, will establish a research, development and business incubation centre for British high-performance cycling – the first of its kind in the UK.

(Case study – boxed)

New funding supporting growth of Bucks creative sector

Buckinghamshire's creative sector is world renowned and we want to do everything we can to support and continue its growth. BTVLEP were therefore delighted to announce £4 million in funding to support three new initiatives – 'The National Centre for Immersive Storytelling', 'School of Computing and Centre for AI' and 'Bucks Creates @ Pinewood' – to strengthen and build Buckinghamshire's creative sector, a key growth driver of the local economy.

Firing up major investment - Growing Places Fund

BTVLEP is investing, recycling and re-investing its £8.1m Growing Places Fund on projects that offer great returns for Bucks on jobs, business critical infrastructure and growth.

We have already demonstrated our ability to deliver an ambitious programme. 100% of our Growing Places Funding has been used to kick-start the regeneration of the town centres and access gateways in Aylesbury and High Wycombe, as well as supporting tourism and BTVLEP's skills and wider growth programmes.

European funding continues to secure jobs and growth in Bucks

The 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) bring the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) together into a single Growth Programme for England. This supports our key growth priorities of innovation, research and development, support for small and medium sized enterprises, low carbon, skills, employment, and social inclusion.

Businesses and communities across Buckinghamshire have benefited from £10.9m of European funding, secured by BTVLEP, for growth and jobs. Projects supported by this funding include:

- **Skills Brokerage Service**
Identifying training opportunities to increase the productivity of over 1,000 Buckinghamshire based businesses.
- **Low Carbon Workspaces**

Awards grants between £1,000 and £5,000 to help small to medium sized business enterprises (SME) in Buckinghamshire install energy saving projects.

- **Rural Funding**

Awards to support the development and diversification in our rural and tourism businesses.

- **Halo Growth Programme**

Businesses can access either tailored business growth advice or £1,000 Growth Grants.

- **Business Incubation Space**

Our European programme funding has enabled business incubation and support services to be established in High Wycombe, Stoke Mandeville and at Westcott, providing invaluable support for start-ups and growing businesses in the health, social care and space and rocket propulsion sectors.

Amazing facts about Bucks (full page image)

- **Pinewood Studios**, opened in 1936 by J Arthur Rank, filmed the first James Bond Film Dr No in 1962 and in 2016 Pinewood became home to the world's first e-games organisation.
- **Westcott Venture Park** became Britain's first dedicated rocket and engine test centre in 1946, and in 2016 funding was received from the UK Space agency to establish the first space propulsion catapult testing facility.
- Beaconsfield's **National Film and Television School**, which opened in 1972, was named first in the list of top 15 international film schools and has recently launched one of the UK's first 4x Digital Content Training Studios.
- Princes Risborough based **Hypnos** is the only active bed supplier to the Royal Family and in 2012 Hypnos became the first UK Bedmaker to achieve the carbon neutrality standard.
- The world's first carbon neutral dairy is run by **Arla** in Aylesbury.
- The first Stoke Mandeville Games, precursor to the Paralympic Games, were held in **Stoke Mandeville** in 1948.
- Lucian Ercolani, founder of iconic furniture brand **Ercol**, drew his inspiration from the time proven local design and craft in the Chiltern Hills and in 1920 built his first factory in High Wycombe.
- **Silverstone** held the first formula1 Grand Prix in Britain in 1950 and in 2016 opened the country's first metrology (the science of measurement) facility.

An enabler for growth

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP is an enabling body which seeks to create a business-friendly environment in which organisations can succeed. We have worked with our partners to identify an approach for directing and prioritising our activity and achieving improved business productivity. As a result of this approach, we have achieved great success during 2018/19.

A summary of achievements 2018/19 – (across two pages with pics)

Spring

- Supported by £1m BTVLEP Growing Places Fund, The Duke of Sussex gave the green light to the Silverstone Heritage Experience centre. (+Pic)
- BTVLEP's allocation of £2.69m Local Growth Funding provided a new technical and construction trades facility at Buckinghamshire College Group's Wycombe Campus, which opens up new opportunities for students in the automotive sector. (+Pic)
- Schools across Bucks went head-to-head in the county's Sales Apprentice Challenge at Pinewood Studios, organised by BTVLEP's Skills Hub to help students gain essential skills for the world of work. (+Pic)
- BTVLEP supported the launch of Buckinghamshire Business Firsts 'Investment Readiness Service', which provides SME's with financial guidance to help grow their business to the next level.
- BTVLEP supported opportunities for early stage businesses at the new Westcott Business Incubation Centre located at BTVLEP's Enterprise Zone. (+Pic)
- BTVLEP supported the Bucks Skills Hub in its call for Young Apprentice Ambassadors to inspire young people to consider an apprenticeship.
- BTVLEP sponsored the Growth Business of the Year at the Bucks Business Awards won by Gartec LTD of Aylesbury.

Summer

- Work commenced on the BTVLEP funded Beaconsfield relief road (A355), which will improve the resilience and performance of Buck's highway network and enhance strategic north/south connectivity for the county. (+Pic)
- The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport appointed the Chair of BTVLEP Andrew M Smith to the Board of the British Film Institute (+Pic)
- BTVLEP welcomed the Government announcement supporting plans to expand the capacity at Heathrow Airport, which will support the global status of Buckinghamshire as an excellent location for business and for national and international investment.
- The Department for Education announced that BTVLEP is to become one of 20 'Careers Hubs' across England, to transform careers education in schools and prepare young people for the world of work.
- BTVLEP supported Government changes to Apprenticeship funding transfers, which will help more small businesses across Buckinghamshire benefit from fully funded apprenticeship training.
- The government's Review of LEPs was strongly welcomed by BTVLEP, which will enable it to continue to build on its track record of delivery and ambitious programme for long-term economic growth in Buckinghamshire.
- Mandeville School took on BTVLEP's Apprentice Challenge to design, market and build a working prototype of a mobile app. (+Pic)

Autumn

- BTVLEP supported and promoted the 2018 Bucks Skills Show on 12th and 13th October, the county's largest careers fair attended by over 3,000 students from across Bucks. (+Pic)
- The multi-million-pound Westcott Space Cluster launched, following investment by BTVLEP to establish the Westcott 5G Step-out Centre and Innovation Centre at the site. (+Pic)
- BTVLEP invested £2m of its Local Growth Funds in the development of a new 26,000 sq. ft. state-of-the-art sports engineering innovation centre at Silverstone. (+Pic)
- BTVLEP was delighted to be named by the AHRC as one of nine successful bids to host an ambitious research and development partnership, called StoryFutures, aimed at boosting the UK's creative sector.
- Work commenced on the first phase of the BTVLEP supported development at Symmetry Park in our Aylesbury Woodlands Enterprise Zone. (+Pic)
- BTVLEP were delighted to invest £3m of its Local Growth Funds in the new Vinson Building for Economics and Entrepreneurship. (+Pic)

Winter

- The Good Growth for Cities 2018 index placed BTVLEP as the second highest performing LEP area in England.
- BTVLEP supported the Bosch *Smart Future Challenge* for Bucks students. (+Pic)
- BTVLEP went out to consultation on its trailblazing Local Industrial Strategy (+Pic)
- Showcased the great careers focused work taking place in Bucks by our Skills Hub during a visit by Lord Agnew (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools) to the county. (+Pic)
- BTVLEP celebrated their achievements and previewed 2019's plans at their first AGM. (+Pic)
- Launched the new BTVLEP website: www.buckstvlep.co.uk (+Pic)
- BTVLEP supported the first ever Buckinghamshire Business Festival organised by our Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First. (+Pic)
- BTVLEP were delighted to announce the appointment of five new private sector members to its Board, Philippa Batting from Buckinghamshire Business First, Alistair Lomax from the University of Buckingham, Hiren Gandhi from Blaser Mills Law, Adrian Brown from the Berkeley Group, and Prof Rebecca Bunting, Education Consultant.

Our business plans

Buckinghamshire's economic position relative to other LEP areas remains strong with high rates of economic participation, low unemployment, a well skilled workforce and a strong enterprise base. But there are major challenges! The fact is that we are a largely rural county whose digital, road and rail infrastructure needs critical new investment.

Our Strategic Economic Plan highlights local aims to deliver increased prosperity and jobs for Buckinghamshire by putting any available funds to work, focusing on better transport connectivity, helping businesses to grow faster, and bringing business and education together more fruitfully.

What we aim to do

The focus for BTVLEP is in preparing the ground for continued prosperity through enabling sustainable economic growth:

- To get the right economic growth decisions taken more quickly;
- To stimulate more smart and sustainable business growth in the county;
- To bring forward the necessary business-critical infrastructure;
- To secure the inward investment needed to underpin growth;
- To ensure the supply of the skilled, flexible workforce needed by our firms.

We use BTVLEP's powerful national, regional and local voice to ensure that critical infrastructure projects such as East-West Rail and Cross-rail are delivered on schedule. We are currently supporting the case to advance development for business-critical national infrastructure projects such as the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway and the expansion of Heathrow airport.

(Case study – boxed)

Come fly with us (+Pic)

BTVLEP are delighted by the Government's announcement supporting plans to expand the capacity at Heathrow Airport, which will continue to support the global status of Buckinghamshire as an excellent location for business and for national and international investment. In addition, expansion will facilitate access to new markets, support reduced flight costs and provide up to 50,000 job and apprenticeship opportunities for local communities.

Our strength and depth of business support and leadership sets us apart:

- Through the Buckinghamshire Business First network we have links to the business community unparalleled in any other LEP;
- We are small, flexible and proactive;
- We can spot and react to business needs quickly.

(Case study – boxed)

A celebration of business in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain (+Pic)

The first ever Buckinghamshire Business Festival last March, was a celebration of business in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain, organised by our Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First. The festival, with highlights including the Bucks Business Expo, Brexit Summit and Routes into Work events, was designed to bring the Buckinghamshire business community together and to create a whole host of promotional, networking and learning opportunities for local people and businesses.

Strategic Economic Plan (+visual)

Our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Buckinghamshire reflects the government's policy for local economic growth, the emerging UK Industrial Strategy framework, the work of England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance and the changed local planning conditions.

Our SEP sets out ambitions to 2031 to drive innovation and accelerated economic growth to meet the needs of our economy and place Buckinghamshire at the forefront of the UK's global growth ambitions.

The SEP will do this by supporting four main strategic priorities:

- Business growth & innovation;
- Skills and talent;
- Connectivity; and
- Town centre regeneration

Trailblazing Local Industrial Strategy for Bucks (+visual)

“Local Enterprise Partnerships have a vital role to play in delivering our modern Industrial Strategy. Working closely with government, their leadership is helping make sure businesses thrive as we prepare to leave the European Union.

“I was pleased to hear directly from LEP representatives how they are bringing together the local business community, universities and other partners to design long-term, ambitious plans tailored to the strengths and needs of their areas.

“Using their unique insight and expertise to co-develop Local Industrial Strategies, LEPs are boosting economic growth, securing jobs and delivering prosperity – making sure that no community is left behind.”

Prime Minister Theresa May (Boxed)

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP have embraced the opportunity to work with Government in delivering one of the first trailblazing Local Industrial Strategies in the country. The aim of our Local Industrial Strategy is to help drive the Buckinghamshire economy to further increase innovation, support international trade and improve connectivity to help businesses thrive.

The Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy focuses on how to strengthen and exploit the county's most important economic assets – including Silverstone, Pinewood Studios, and Westcott Space Cluster - assets that are distinctive to Buckinghamshire and are significant nationally and internationally. For further information please go to:
www.buckstvllep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/

(Case study – boxed)

Bucks space cluster launch takes UK beyond the final frontier (+Pic)

The space age has entered a new chapter with the launch of the multi-million-pound Westcott Space Cluster dedicated to engineering, research and innovation. BTVLEP are delighted to be investing in this key development, which encompasses our Enterprise Zone, the Westcott 5G Step-out Centre and Innovation Centre, and is a key asset in our Local Industrial Strategy.

(Full page image)

"Buckinghamshire is a hotbed for the creative industries and it's fantastic to see even more investment being made in the area to grow and nurture new talent. Through our modern Industrial Strategy we are making sure that the UK is a world leader for the creative sector, an industry that will continue to go from strength to strength."

Margot James MP, Digital and Creative Industries Minister

Business-led and focused

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP is 100% business-led and focused, with a Private Sector Board and 11,000 businesses now engaged with our Local Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First.

Our strategy and projects have been shaped by thousands of local business owners through their direct involvement with Buckinghamshire Business First, at regular roundtable 'Think Tank' events, Business Leaders' Dinners, workshops and a multitude of other networking opportunities.

Bucks Business First setting the standards for others to follow (+Pic)

Our Business Growth Hub is the envy of almost every Local Enterprise Partnership in England and it has been another successful year for top performing Buckinghamshire Business First. There's plenty to shout about, having delivered £1.8 million in grants to businesses, provided nearly 10,000 business support interactions, and facilitated nearly 700 new jobs through their activity over the past 12 months. Representing more than 30% of the county's businesses, and more than 70% of the county's private sector employees, Buckinghamshire Business First continues to set the standard for others to follow.

Add 'Our Growth Hub Priorities' infographic

Delivery partnerships

Buckinghamshire Advantage, our joint delivery vehicle, has bridged the gap between public and private sectors. Its mission is to identify new opportunities, remove barriers to sustainable development and add value to planned development by promoting growth.

Buckinghamshire Advantage has accelerated the development and delivery of a variety of projects and schemes, including the Aylesbury Woodlands mixed use development covering over 200ha of employment led development to the east of Aylesbury, providing much needed new road infrastructure and supporting the growth of the Aylesbury Garden Town programme.

Buckinghamshire Advantage has also enabled the Handy Cross development in High Wycombe and the Aylesbury Waterside, and is now pumping investment into our Enterprise Zone sites.

Enterprise Zones taking Bucks beyond the final frontier (+map)

Since 2016 Enterprise Zone status has provided an enormous boost to help Buckinghamshire grow our existing businesses and attract and accelerate new investment in key business sectors at our three strategically important Enterprise Zone sites.

The scale and special nature of the development, the mix of uses and the highly strategic position, at the heart of the 'Golden Triangle' and the 'Oxford to Cambridge Arc' enables the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone sites to compete internationally as major new employment locations.

Three years on, the sites at Silverstone Park, Westcott Venture Park and at Aylesbury Woodlands are driving forward the Buckinghamshire economy in the sectors of high-performance engineering, space technology and life sciences – all critical to the national economy and just as importantly securing business rate returns to be reinvested into the local business community.

Working with our Enterprise Zone partners – MEPC, Rockspring and DB Symmetry - there are currently exciting investment and development opportunities across all of our sites.

At **Silverstone** (+Pic) the first phase of the Enterprise Zone, consisting 125,000 sq. ft. of new employment space, built by MEPC, is now full attracting businesses of the calibre of Virgin Racing, the World Champion Mercedes-AMG Petronas Formula 1 Team, David Brown Automotive and Twintec Baumont. £5m of retained business rates has been invested into a new multi-utility trench to advance the development of future phases of development, and a further £2m of Local Growth Funding has been committed to develop a new Innovation Centre providing business access to the UK's premier aerodynamics facility for racing cycles and sports equipment.

At **Westcott** (+Pic) a mixture of UK Government, UK Space Agency and European Funding has been secured to create a new vibrant centre for space propulsion testing and development. New facilities include a 5G test centre for unmanned automated vehicles, being managed by the Satellite Application Catapult, alongside incubation facilities for businesses operating in the sector. Reaction Engines' landmark testing facility for the ground-breaking SABRE engine will be completed later this year and work is commencing on the UK Space Agency's Innovation Centre for rocket propulsion. All this activity puts Westcott at the heart of the UK's Space Sector.

Aylesbury Woodlands (+Pic) will form one of the largest new employment sites in the south of England. The Aylesbury Woodlands development was key to Aylesbury securing Garden Town Status and will help deliver the Eastern Link road, a vital element in the transport infrastructure needed for the growth in Aylesbury and beyond. The Aylesbury Woodlands site will also provide the opportunity to develop over 1,100 homes, including 160 custom built housing units, providing a template for a viable alternative to the major housing developers. Most recently at Aylesbury Woodlands construction has commenced on over 250,000 sq. ft of new employment floorspace.

For further details on the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone please go to our website: www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk (boxed)

(Case study – boxed)

Enterprise Zones flourishing (+Pic)

BTVLEP is supporting national logistics developer DB Symmetry, on the commencement of the exciting first phase of a 248,000 sq. ft. development at Symmetry Park. Located on BTVLEP's Aylesbury Woodlands Enterprise Zone, this major warehouse and distribution development will help to support new investment and growth for the local economy.

(Case study – boxed)

Opportunities for early stage businesses at Enterprise Zone (+Pic)

New entrepreneurial companies are an essential component of the vibrant innovation ecosystem needed in Bucks and BTVLEP are keen to support and encourage the development of new companies working in high value businesses sectors. The new Westcott Business Incubation Centre located in the Westcott Venture Park and part of BTVLEP's Enterprise Zone, provides incubation support for early-stage businesses and entrepreneurs looking to develop in rocket propulsion, 5G or autonomous systems.

Ensuring businesses have the right skilled workforce

The Bucks Skills Hub, by working with local schools and colleges, is connecting young people with business to develop a dynamic programme of employer engagement. An effective ecosystem of skills development and careers inspiration is evolving. While the careers inspiration work is broad, there is a focus on our identified growth sectors ensuring that young people's ambitions are aligned to where they will be needed most.

Some recent highlights include: our skills programme firmly established the Bucks Skills Show as an invaluable event to inform young people about career opportunities; we became only the second area in the country to have Enterprise Adviser coverage in all secondary schools; we developed an extensive apprenticeship support programme; and produced a detailed Labour Market insight assessment to assess the latest trends in the employment market across business sectors.

(Case study – boxed)

Bucks Skills Show shines bright light on future talent (+Pic)

Three thousand visitors saw careers brought to life at the Bucks Skills Show thanks to a range of interactive experiences ranging from sweetie selfies created with cutting edge 3D printing technology to immersive virtual reality demonstrations. Students, teachers and parents headed to The Gateway in Aylesbury over two days to take part in the county's largest careers fair sponsored by technology giant Bosch. Attendance at the event doubled from last year and attracted over 100 high profile exhibitors including Jaguar Land Rover, the NHS, Pinewood Studios and HS2.

Underpinning the skills programme is robust research which proves that exposing young people to at least four encounters with employers during their school career reduces their chances of leaving education or training without a job and increases their earning potential.

(Case study – boxed)

Lord Agnew sees careers excellence in action (+Pic)

The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Lord Agnew, at the Department for Education visited Bucks to see first-hand what excellent careers education really looks like. Taking place at the start of National Careers Week, the visit was an opportunity to showcase the fantastic work of BTVLEP's Skills Hub, which is making excellent progress in Bucks to improve careers awareness and skills development in all our secondary schools. The 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 last year and is home to one of only 20 Careers Hubs in England.

Add "Buckinghamshire in numbers – the best trained workforce" infographic – see BTVLEP presentation

A bright future for Bucks!

What's next for BTVLEP in 2019/20 and beyond?

Add “Unleash the growth within – growth sectors” infographic – see BTVLEP presentation

Growing our priority sectors (+Pic)

We are very excited about developing further collaboration and research capacity within our priority sectors. The iconic locations of Pinewood and Silverstone are now the focus for new business collaboration, along with our vibrant clusters in the fields of high-performance technology and film and creative industries.

For example, a BTVLEP backed bid, was one of only nine successful applications to receive funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council to boost the UK's creative sector. The project, pioneered by the Royal Holloway University, will bring together universities, world leading creative and digital businesses. BTVLEP look forward to helping this vibrant creative cluster develop as leaders in this industry with one of the highest proportions of employment in the sector in the UK with over 17,200 jobs across 4,430 businesses.

We are also working alongside the UK Space Agency to develop the national Space Propulsion test centre in Buckinghamshire and developing integrated healthcare solutions to reduce the burden on our national health service with Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, Bucks New University and leading technology and life-science companies.

Bucks the centre of entrepreneurship (+Pic)

Developing entrepreneurship is core to BTVLEP's DNA and the new Vinson Centre for Economics and Entrepreneurship is a vital hub for new innovation and local growth. The new facilities enable the University of Buckingham to grow as one of the country's leading centres for entrepreneurship and enterprise. BTVLEP is therefore delighted to invest £3m of Local Growth Funds on this key project to create an exciting centre where business and education can interact and build on the University's internationally recognised reputation in pioneering the techniques of entrepreneurship learning.

Building the Bucks Local Industrial Strategy (+Pic)

For the year ahead, regional alignment across the Oxford to Cambridge Arc will be of vital importance. BTVLEP together with our neighbouring LEP colleagues are leading the development of one of only three trailblazer Local Industrial Strategies.

The Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy focus is on how to strengthen and exploit the country's most important economic assets, assets that are distinctive to Buckinghamshire and are significant nationally and internationally. The strategies also look to support the delivery of the five themes (ideas, people, infrastructure, business environment and places) and four grand challenges (artificial intelligence, ageing society, clean growth and the future of mobility) set out in the Industrial Strategy white paper.

A consultation draft of our strategy was produced earlier this year where we sought the views of businesses, communities and individuals from across Buckinghamshire to help shape our proposal to government, with a view to the final strategy being published in summer 2019.

Ultimately the strategies will support funding bids for this area, including the new National Productivity Fund which will be launched in 2021.

Infrastructure for growth (+Pic)

Infrastructure investment is essential for the continued delivery of economic growth in Buckinghamshire. That is why BTVLEP is investing in major transport infrastructure - including the A355 improvement scheme, Aylesbury Eastern Link Road, High Wycombe Southern Transport Scheme and Stoke Mandeville Relief Road - fixing utility constraints that prevent commercial site developments and unblocking major commercial property investments which support the needs of business.

In addition, our involvement in The Greater South East Energy Hub is delivering local energy projects to aid the UK's transition to a low carbon economy, through the provision of renewable energy infrastructure and application of new technologies.

The future is digital (+Pic)

Digital connectivity is a critical factor in supporting business growth and effectiveness, that is why we have developed a new digital strategy for Bucks to see how we can improve connectivity, support the development of digital skills and invest in new tech businesses for Bucks.

Buckinghamshire has continued to make great strides in improving its digital connectivity, achieving its goal of getting to 95% superfast coverage by December 2019 sixteen months early. The county now has over 95% of its premises supplied with superfast coverage, and we continue to put plans in place for further rollout, looking to start delivery on a new £1.8million contract funded by central government in the coming year. We continue to work towards pushing the county towards 100% superfast broadband coverage, and can clearly see the appetite in local communities, as the take-up of the connections provided in contract one is the second highest in the UK.

We have also committed to supporting investment in 5G Technology to ensure that Buckinghamshire businesses have the opportunity to enjoy the competitive advantage from being at the leading edge of the next great technological leap forward.

Board of Directors

The Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership board comprises nine local business leaders, one of whom is Chair, and five senior elected members from each of the Buckinghamshire local authorities.

The board provides clear direction and defines priorities for economic development interventions in Buckinghamshire.

The members of the BTVLEP Board are: (plus pics)

Andrew M Smith - Chair

Corporate Affairs Director at Pinewood Studios & Chair of LEP
Network Creative Industries Network
Tel: 01753 656732
Email: AndrewM.Smith@pinewoodgroup.com

Adam Stronach

Director, Harwood Hutton and SME Business Representative for BTVLEP.
Tel: 01494 739500
Email: adamstronach@harwoodhutton.co.uk

Cllr Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire County Council.
Tel: 01296 382302
Email: mtett@buckscc.gov.uk

Michael Garvey – Vice Chair

Managing Director of Chandler Garvey, Chair of our Digital Infrastructure Group, Joint Chair of the Broadband Project Board, BTVLEP representative on the Bucks Planning Group, Chair of Buckinghamshire Business First.
Tel: 01494 446612
Email: mg@chandlergarvey.com

Cllr Isobel Darby

Leader of Chiltern District Council.
Tel: 01494 729000
Email: idarby@chiltern.gov.uk

Cllr Katrina Wood

Leader, Wycombe District Council
Tel: 07827 820531
Email: katrina.wood@wycombe.gov.uk

Eman Martin-Vignerte

Head of External Affairs, Government and Political Relations at Bosch
Tel: 01895 878050
Email: Eman.Martin-Vignerte2@uk.bosch.com

Rebecca Bunting

Education Consultant
Chair of Bucks Skills Board
Email: rebeccabunting13@gmail.com

Cllr Steve Bowles

Deputy Leader, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Bucks representative of the Heart of England
Strategic Transport Alliance Board
Tel: 07766 951010
Email: sbowles@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Cllr Nick Naylor

Leader, South Bucks District Council
Tel: 07986 023722
Email: cldr.nick.naylor@southbucks.gov.uk

Philippa Batting (Since January 2019)

Managing Director of Buckinghamshire Business First
Tel: 01494 927159
Email: Philippa@bbf.uk.com

Alistair Lomax (Since January 2019)

Director of Development at the University of Buckingham
Tel: 07884 196423
Email: alistair.lomax@buckingham.ac.uk

Hiren Gandhi (Since March 2019)

Partner, Blaser Mills Law
Tel: 07917 811014
Email: hjg@blasermills.co.uk

Adrian Brown (Since March 2019)

Managing Director Berkeley Strategic, Chair of Buckinghamshire Advantage.

Tel: 0208 6144830

Email: adrian.brown@berkeleygroup.co.uk

Financial Position – Year-Ending 31st March 2019

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley receives funding for its day to day core activity from National Government and local partners. The Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP Board manages these funding streams and Buckinghamshire County Council acts as the Accountable Body for the LEP.

The Financial Statements for the year 2018/19 ended on 31st March 2019, are submitted for external audit scrutiny and, subject to satisfactory completion of the audit, are presented to the Board for sign off. The Financial Statements are below:

BTVLEP Income and Expenditure Account 2018-19

Add spreadsheet 'AR 18.19'

Useful websites:

- Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership: www.buckstvlep.co.uk
- Buckinghamshire Advantage: www.bucksadvantage.co.uk
- Aylesbury Woodlands: www.aylesburywoodlands.co.uk
- Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone: www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk
- Bucks Skills Hub: www.oppsinbucks.org
- Buckinghamshire Business First: www.bbf.uk.com
- LEP Network: www.lepnetwork.net
- Buckinghamshire County Council: www.buckscc.gov.uk
- Aylesbury Garden Town: www.aylesburygardentown.co.uk

Contact us



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Keeping Buckinghamshire open for business

[Photos and Logos](#)