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

**Don’t miss out on apprenticeship funding**

As part of [National Apprenticeship Week](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/save-the-date-national-apprenticeship-week-2020-to-be-held-3-to-7-february-2020) (3–9 February), [Buckinghamshire Skills Hub](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/key-partners/bucks-skills-hub/) and partners [Buckinghamshire Business First](https://bbf.uk.com/) and Buckinghamshire County Council, are delighted to offer fully funded apprenticeship training costs as part of a time-limited scheme, with training available up to the value of £27,000 per apprentice.

Bucks Skills Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First and Buckinghamshire County Council are committed to supporting small businesses in Buckinghamshire to grow and develop their workforce and have joined forces to pilot a scheme where **local employers can apply for apprenticeship funding from Buckinghamshire County Council.**

Bucks Skills Hub are inviting [expressions of interest](https://bbf.uk.com/forms/apprenticeship-training-vouchers-expression-of-interest) from businesses who would like to benefit from the scheme, which is open to new or existing team members.

Paddy Patterson, Apprenticeship Manager from the [Bucks Skills Hub](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/key-partners/bucks-skills-hub/), part of [Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/), said: “We are delighted to be working with Buckinghamshire County Council to pilot this scheme. This will help smaller businesses, especially those in our priority sectors, to get training costs covered to upskill new and existing employees, maximising the benefits of the apprenticeship programme and levy system for the benefit of the Buckinghamshire economy.”

**more…**

**Don’t miss out on apprenticeship funding: 2**

As a large employer, Buckinghamshire County Council pays an apprenticeship ‘levy’ which it is using to help them develop new recruits and its existing workforce. It can also transfer up to 25% of its levy ‘pot’ to other businesses to pay for the cost of apprenticeship training and assessment, helping them grow and develop their workforce.

Buckinghamshire County Council are making some of its levy funds available to businesses in the county in the form of apprenticeship training vouchers available through Bucks Skills Hub.

To apply for a voucher businesses will first need to submit an expression of interest form available at: <https://bbf.uk.com/forms/apprenticeship-training-vouchers-expression-of-interest>. Once completed the Bucks Skills Hub will be in touch to discuss their needs.

Any business operating in Buckinghamshire County Council administrative area is eligible for a voucher, including voluntary and community sector organisations.Applications will be accepted until **31st March 2020**.

For more information on this funding, contact Paddy Patterson, Apprenticeships Manager at Bucks Skills Hub, on 01494 418414 or at paddy.patterson@bucksskillshub.org.

**Ends**

**Note to editors**

The aim of Bucks LEP’s[Skills Hub](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/key-partners/bucks-skills-hub/)is to make a difference to young people’s employability while addressing the needs of employers. Buckinghamshire Skills Hub is working to ensure all schools have access to effective and impactful employer interactions.

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. Formed in January 2012, the partnership balances a uniquely strong collective business voice with a cohesive elected local leadership. Coming together to engineer the conditions needed to drive forward business prosperity in the county and beyond, Bucks LEP recognises that an important part of this is to support education and skills providers and employers to ensure our young people have the right skills to meet the needs of the economy, including the growth sectors such as life-sciences, space, creative industries and advanced engineering.

[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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