

Buckinghamshire

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

THE ENTREPRENEURIAL HEART OF BRITAIN

Buckinghamshire LEP USP - Buckinghamshire LEP have unparalleled reach to their business community with their Buckinghamshire Business First Growth Hub having 12,000 members representing over 70% of the area's workforce and enabling their Skills Hub to be the top ranked LEP in the country for business engagement. The LEP have a unique role in connecting the Oxford to Cambridge Arc to the global international gateway at Heathrow.

Local Industrial Strategy Priorities

Westcott Space Propulsion Cluster

The Westcott Venture Park and Enterprise Zone, established and managed by Buckinghamshire LEP is a centre of excellence for SMEs and larger companies engaged in rocket propulsion R&D. It is well located in terms of neighbouring anchor institutions within the Oxford to Cambridge Arc. Government is already working in partnership with the Space Industry and Westcott to support the growth of this economic asset by investing in the National Space Propulsion Test Facility. We have built on this national investment through Local Growth Fund resources, establishing incubation and innovation facilities and a 5G test bed on the site. A significant opportunity exists for Westcott to provide a distinct global offer in relation to launch, 5G and in-orbit services.

Pinewood Studios and the National Film and Television School Creative Cluster

Pinewood Studios is a centre of excellence for film and TV production and has hosted internationally renowned franchises including Star Wars and James Bond. There are over 250 business on the site and major expansion is currently underway. The National Film and Television School (NFTS) in Beaconsfield is the pre-eminent film, television and games teaching institution in the UK with alumni including multiple Oscar and BAFTA award winners.

Many SMEs in the creative sector are linked to Pinewood and the NFTS, making it essential to support their links to these and other anchor institutions. A priority is to accelerate the adoption and diffusion of augmented reality and virtual reality technologies amongst such businesses, helping deliver the Creative Industries Sector Deal target of doubling inward investment growth in the film and high-end TV sector to £4bn by 2025.

Silverstone Park and Technology Cluster

The Silverstone Technology Cluster is an important component of the wider high technology cluster which spans the Oxford to Cambridge Arc. Over 4,000 businesses in precision engineering are located within a one-hour radius of Silverstone. There is significant potential to enable further growth in this sector by growing and actively managing the Buckinghamshire LEP Silverstone Enterprise Zone to stimulate potential high technology crossovers. This means building a manufacturing base, utilising the specialist knowledge in areas such as additive manufacturing, aerodynamics and light-weighting to develop new linkages across automotive and advanced engineering sectors into the aerospace, space, clean-tech, health care, sport, materials and electronic sectors.