

**Open**

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**Title:** **Buckinghamshire Devolution and Comprehensive Spending Review Submission**

**Purpose:** **For Board Members to consider the framework for a potential Devolution Proposal for Buckinghamshire and to comment on and endorse the submission to be made by the Buckinghamshire Growth Board for the Comprehensive Spending Review.**

**Recommendation:** **That Board Members note and comment on the emerging devolution proposals for Buckinghamshire and receive feedback from Buckinghamshire Council on any progress and feedback from Government since the Board Meeting of September 7<sup>th</sup>. To provide comment and feedback on the Comprehensive Spending Review Submission to be made on behalf of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board and authorise the Chairman along with the Executive to assist in the development of the final submission.**

**That Board Members comment on the proposal for enhanced business representation on the Buckinghamshire Growth Board.**

**Impact on Risk Register** **Effective support for these proposals will be essential in providing the funding for the delivery of the Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Recovery Plans of this LEP.**

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## **1 Buckinghamshire Devolution Submission**

At the meeting of this board on September 7<sup>th</sup> it was agreed to endorse Buckinghamshire Council's decision to progress a potential devolution submission for Buckinghamshire. These proposals are being developed in preparation for the Government's White Paper for Economic Recovery and Devolution which is expected to be published later in the Autumn.

Board Members also requested that the devolution proposition be more ambitious but still achievable in terms of the financial asks of Government and that the ask for powers, freedoms and flexibilities in the proposition is wide-ranging enough to enable Buckinghamshire to deliver on its ambitions, particularly around the digital agenda.

Board Members also requested the voice of Business is properly represented at Growth Board discussions and the views of Business properly reflected in the final devolution proposition to go to

Government. A copy of the slides outlining the emerging developing proposal is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report and Councillor Martin Tett as Leader of the Buckinghamshire Council will provide an update on recent feedback from Government in response to the devolution ambitions.

## 2 Comprehensive Spending Review Submission for Buckinghamshire

On the 21<sup>st</sup> July The Chancellor launched the 2020 Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). The Review, which will be published in the autumn, will set out the government's spending plans for the parliament it will set out Government departments' resource budgets for the years 2021/22 to 2023/24 and capital budgets for the years 2021/22 until 2024/25.

It was announced that the CSR will prioritise:

- strengthening the UK's economic recovery from COVID-19 by prioritising jobs and skills
- levelling up economic opportunity across all nations and regions of the country by investing in infrastructure, innovation and people – thus closing the gap with our competitors by spreading opportunity, maximising productivity and improving the value add of each hour worked
- improving outcomes in public services, including supporting the NHS and taking steps to cut crime and ensure every young person receives a superb education
- making the UK a scientific superpower, including leading in the development of technologies that will support the government's ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050
- strengthening the UK's place in the world
- improving the management and delivery of our commitments, ensuring that all departments have the appropriate structures and processes in place to deliver their outcomes and commitments on time and within budget

In following these guidelines an outline submission is being prepared for the Buckinghamshire Growth Board, Buckinghamshire LEP have been supporting this process to ensure that the main priorities within our Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan are reflected in the submission.

The Buckinghamshire Growth Board met on September 14<sup>th</sup> to consider the emerging proposals and copies of the slides and supporting draft narrative are attached as **Appendices 2 & 3** to this report.

The Comprehensive Spending Review Submission is based on three main themes.

- Infrastructure/Investment Fund
- Places
- Stimulating Economic Growth

The packages featured in the stimulating Economic Growth are based on the four assets that we have identified within our Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Recovery Plans, namely Westcott and the Space Sector in particular delivering the 10 year masterplan for Westcott; Silverstone at the heart of an High Tech Engineering Cluster and the further expansion of the Enterprise Zone site; the Creative Industries sector development in Buckinghamshire based around the Pinewood and National Film and TV School axis and also an ambitious Health and

Social Care programme that includes the development of a Health innovation campus at the Aylesbury Woodlands site as part of a widespread review of the Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust Estate. In addition, a package of revenue support is requested for the essential skills and business support packages identified in our Economic Recovery Plan.

These proposals will be further developed ahead of submission on September 24<sup>th</sup> and the business case development of the constituent elements will continue be refined ahead of the Budget which is expected in mid to late November. Board Members are asked to provide feedback on the shape and ambition of the Comprehensive Spending Review submission and authorise the Chairman alongside the Executive to support the final submission.

### **3 Role & Development of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board**

The purpose of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board is as a partnership to provide a single forum working across the public and private sector for the development and oversight of a Buckinghamshire Growth Agenda. At present the Buckinghamshire LEP CEO has been the only representative on the Growth Board.

The Growth Board will be responsible for the following activities:-

- To develop a shared vision for growth in the county and deliver this through the actions of the constituent organisations,
- To facilitate and enable collaboration between Buckinghamshire public sector bodies and the Buckinghamshire LEP on economic development, strategic planning, growth, place shaping, and the emerging national environmental agenda,
- To coordinate collective engagement with national, regional, and sub-regional bodies on growth, infrastructure, environmental, and strategic planning matters.
- To develop and provide shared ownership of the data and evidence on growth, including the Buckinghamshire Strategic Infrastructure Tool,
- To agree growth bids for the allocation of resources and investment in Buckinghamshire and,
- To ensure that decisions and cross-cutting work across all public sector bodies and Buckinghamshire LEP are aligned to 'good growth' principles and align to Buckinghamshire's values and vision.

At the meeting of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board on September 14<sup>th</sup> it was confirmed that there was a desire to see a wider representation from across the business community.

**Board members are asked to:**

**Note and comment on the emerging devolution proposals for Buckinghamshire and receive feedback from Buckinghamshire Council on any progress and feedback from Government since the Board Meeting of September 7th. To provide comment and feedback on the Comprehensive Spending Review Submission to be made on behalf of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board and authorise the Chairman along with the Executive to assist in the development of the final submission.**

**That members comment on the proposal for enhanced business representation on the Buckinghamshire Growth Board.**

