

Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership Delivery Plan

Summary and Strategic Objectives 2021/22



Buckinghamshire LEP were one of the trailblazing areas producing Local Industrial Strategies publishing the final strategy in the summer of 2019.

The Buckinghamshire strategy is framed around four main assets that are critical to the Buckinghamshire economy and have both national and international significance.

- **The creative and digital economy with Pinewood Studios at its core:** Pinewood Studios and the National Film and TV School will be enhanced global centres in the pioneering, development and use of AR, VR and other new technologies in storytelling, to make Buckinghamshire the international leader in immersive content.

- **Medical technologies exploiting the international status of Stoke Mandeville Hospital and its status as birthplace of the Paralympic movement:** Buckinghamshire will pioneer the development of an innovative, health and social care living lab, which will support the creation of an efficient and effective health and social care model, built on commercial capability.
- **Silverstone's position at the core of a high-performance technology innovation:** Silverstone will be the global location of choice for high tech innovation, developing and manufacturing technologies that will change the world.
- **The role of the Westcott Space Cluster as a key link in the UK space sector supply chain:** businesses in the Westcott Space Cluster will be at the frontier of launch, in-orbit services and satellite technologies.

These place based assets are supported by a series of key drivers linking the strategy to the other foundations of the Industrial Strategy notably:

Skills and inspiration revolution

Buckinghamshire businesses will collaborate more effectively with the whole skills system to ensure the available talent is inspired and equipped with the necessary skills to support the future growth of the economy.

High quality career paths, beginning with inspiring work experience opportunities will provide the workforce of the future with the aspiration and skills to work in Buckinghamshire's leading businesses in creative, space, digital health and high value manufacturing sectors.

Digital infrastructure

Resilient and future-proofed digital infrastructure will support Buckinghamshire businesses to boost productivity.

Advanced investment in a range of different providers and technologies will create a diverse and buoyant telecommunications marketplace. Investment in 'state of the art' infrastructure technologies will support businesses and individuals to adopt and exploit 'cutting edge' digital applications.

Living Labs

Enhanced, deep and long-term R&D collaborations between the public, private, academic & community sectors in Buckinghamshire will underpin a high-quality environment for testing, developing and commercialising innovation.

Living labs will drive commercial innovation at speed and scale in Buckinghamshire advancing the use and development of the latest technologies in the fields of health and social care, clean energy and future mobility.

Commercialising innovation

Buckinghamshire's businesses will top the innovation league as they double their investment in R&D.

An enhanced innovation ecosystem supported by closer collaboration between businesses and universities will enable Buckinghamshire to exceed the national 3% R&D target leading to major improvements in businesses leadership, the development of new products and markets and their access to talent. The growth of micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) will underpin Buckinghamshire's productivity improvements.

Business scale-up and efficiency

Buckinghamshire will benefit from sustained success in enabling businesses with scale-up potential to benefit from targeted support. Successful leadership and growth programmes and improved access to finance will boost the micro-SME firm economy and establish a new generation of growth orientated firms.

For further details on the strategy visit <https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/>

Our Economic Recovery Plan published in 2020 builds on these principles and seeks to support a swift recovery for the Buckinghamshire Economy and to capitalise on the new opportunities created by the new post Covid working environment.

During 2021 we will be looking to undertake a detailed review into the Green Economy of Buckinghamshire, to build upon our existing Energy Strategy and to identify where we can target support most effectively for the national plan for growth "Build Back Better"

A range of indicators monitoring the progress against the Economic Recovery Plan will be monitored throughout the year and will be assessed by the LEP Board on a quarterly basis over the next two years.

Local Growth Fund

Buckinghamshire LEP have secured *exceptional* in relation to the delivery of its Local Growth Fund programme with over 98% of overall programme expenditure committed by the end of the 2020/21 financial year.

A number of the projects that were supported by the Local Growth Fund programme will be opening throughout 2021 and we will support their launch programmes throughout the year. Major opening events are planned for the

Centre for Computing and Artificial Intelligence at the University of Buckingham
September 2021

Business Innovation Hub at Stoke Mandeville Stadium October 2021

A full review of the Local Growth Programme was undertaken during the first half of 2021 and we will continue to monitor the performance of LGF supported projects on a quarterly basis throughout 2021/22.

A summary of Local Growth Fund project progress can be found via the attached link: <https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-projects/local-growth-fund-projects/>

Getting Building Fund

Buckinghamshire LEP have secured £7.7m for the delivery of 10 projects from the Getting Building Fund to be completed by 31st March 2022

The projects supported are:-

Project Sponsor	Project Name	GBF Reallocated	Total Value
Satellite Applications Catapult	DISC Phase 1 at Westcott	£1,200,000	£5,500,000
Buckinghamshire Council	Bucks Rural Broadband Project	£710,000	£2,872,408
Buckinghamshire Council	Bucks Rural Broadband Voucher Top Up	£300,000	£300,000
Satellite Applications Catapult	Innovation Ecosystem at Westcott	£2,609,530	£5,219,065
URA Thrusters	TESTA – Novel Test Facility at Westcott	£250,000	£544,341
Flannery Plant Hire	Bucks Operator Skills Hub	£750,000	£3,000,000
European Astrotech Ltd	Centre of Excellence for Rocket Engine and Flow Tests Facility	£740,000	£1,588,558
England's Economic Heartland	East West Rail-Fibre Provision Upgrade	£643,000	£1,610,000
LUNAZ Group	LUNAZ Applied Technologies - Silverstone	£250,000	£500,000
D2H Group	Advanced Braking Facility	£247,470	£800,000
	Total	£7,700,000	£21,965,140

We will work closely with the project sponsors to ensure that the 10 projects are progressed within the next 12month period and to ensure 100% grant expenditure.

Growth Hub Programme

BLEP will ensure that the Buckinghamshire Growth Hub managed by BBF will comply with the new KPIs agreed with BEIS. This compliance will be managed through the BLEP Executive Team meetings and bi-monthly board meetings.

The Growth Hub will deliver the following services:-

- To act as a First Stop Shop for any business looking for support and / or guidance
- To increase local economic growth and employment
- To support the growth of existing businesses
- To encourage the start-up of new businesses
- To increase the Gross Value Added in the region
- To create jobs that are accessible by the local community
- To decrease the number of skills gaps in the county
- To increase the number of companies engaged with the Growth Hub and its key partners.
- To act as a catalyst for businesses to network, provide mutual support and to gain more business

The Key Performance Indicators 2021/22

The KPIs for the Growth Hub have been set as follows:

	Target
Light Assists including unique web views of the business support pages	35,000
Medium Assists	400
Intensive Assists	150
Tonnes of CO2e reduced	1,260
Projected jobs creation	400
No of new products / services supported	150
People supported to start own business	40
No of businesses supported with workforce skills	150
No of apprenticeship / T Level opportunities identified	175
Events	200

The Growth Hub will also continue to support additional programmes related to the EU Exit and Covid Recovery Programme including the Peer Review Programme and Kickstart Programme.

Skills Programme and Skills Advisory Panel

The aim of the Bucks Skills Hub is to promote and optimise links between employers and educators, in order to help young people to become more work ready, that their ambitions are informed and aligned to identified local priority growth sectors.

The Bucks Skills Hub delivery infrastructure includes:

- **Development and maintenance of the Bucks Skills Hub website** [Bucks Skills Hub](#)
- **The Careers & Enterprise Company's Enterprise Adviser Network** <https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/employers-volunteers/join-enterprise-adviser-network>
- The Virtual Bucks Skills Show November 2021 & Skills Show March 2022

Skills Action Plan – over the 2021/22 financial year Buckinghamshire LEP will:

Refresh the Buckinghamshire Skills Analysis to accommodate the impact of Covid-19, drawing on 1. quantitative analysis of official data directly from Government and via Emsi, 2. qualitative analysis of primary data captured via the Buckinghamshire Business First/ Buckinghamshire LEP's Skills Advisory Panel and network of Sector Advisory Panels, 3. a review of relevant evidence gathered by the BBF/BLEP stakeholders including Buckinghamshire County Council, industry associations and networks, academic sources, and local/national press and social media.

Update the draft Buckinghamshire Skills Action Plan to accommodate the refreshed Skills Analysis in-depth sector analysis.

Update the Local Skills Report that provides a measure of how the Skills Advisory Panel has responded to local demand, what else needs to be done and key challenges/opportunities.

Careers and Enterprise Company Target KPI's 2021/22 Academic Year

Performance	Target
Coverage	At least 46 schools and colleges in the LEP signed up to the Enterprise Advisors Network (EAN)
EA Recruitment	An Enterprise Adviser to be recruited for every school or college in your EAN/Hub
EA Matching	Number of establishments in the EAN matched to an EA at least once: 98% of schools / colleges in EAN/Hub to be matched with an EA All schools and colleges across the Network and Hubs should be offered an EA

Benchmark Performance % Achieved	All EAN schools/colleges to achieve at least 2 Gatsby Benchmarks (BMs) All Hub schools/colleges to achieve at least 3 BMs
Compass+ Onboarding	Upgrades to Compass+ should have taken place for: 75% of all Hub schools
Stakeholder Satisfaction	70% or higher stakeholder satisfaction (EAs, Cornerstone Employers)

Enterprise Zone

In the 2021/22 the initial MOU for the development of the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone is to be updated to take into account the changed local authority landscape in Buckinghamshire and to review delivery targets for a 5 year period from 2021 to 2026.

During the next 12 months principal areas of focus for each EZ site will be:

Silverstone:

- Work with TotalSim, MEPC and University of Buckingham to progress the Sports Innovation Campus.
- To support MEPC in the development and promotion of 270,000sq ft of new development space to be available for occupancy A4 2021/2022
- To work with the British Racing Drivers Club to support the expansion of the trackside employment space and potential Enterprise Zone expansion.

Westcott:

- Develop programme of funding support for 10 year development plan for Westcott Venture Park
- Complete Construction of the next phase of open access innovation space as part of the advance DISC facility.

Woodlands:

- Secure issue of outline planning consent; seek to progress/ conclude landowner negotiations; procure planning/ design work on EZ access from College Road north and internal spine roads as part of overall ELRs project.

Strategic Activity

Buckinghamshire LEP will provide strategic support in the following areas:

Buckinghamshire

- Cultural Strategy, Energy Strategy, NEP Biodiversity Strategy and Natural Capital Plan, Housing Infrastructure Funds, Bucks Planning Policy, Aylesbury Garden Town, RAF Halton.
- Community Board Development and Integration
- Buckinghamshire Growth Board
- Sector Action Groups linked to Local Industrial Strategy Delivery – Space, Creative Industries, Health and Social Care Ventures, Silverstone Technology Cluster.

Regional

- Cross LEP collaboration in support of the key sector growth and international trade.
- Southern LEPs – Story Futures, London Plan, UK Gateways.
- Heathrow Airport & Thames Valley Major Projects.
- South East England - Regional Energy Hub.
- Buckinghamshire Business First Growth Hub Support beyond Buckinghamshire.

National

- Comprehensive Spending Review Submission Autumn 2021
- National Innovation Strategy and delivery of the Space, Hydrogen and Digital Strategies
- LEP Network – LEP Review Implementation Group Creative Industries Sector Group & National Indicators Group.
- Sector Growth Deals – Space Sector, Creative Industries.