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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Buckinghamshire Economic Intelligence Observatory</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<b>To provide Board members with information about the Buckinghamshire Economic Intelligence Observatory prior to its official launch at the LEP AGM.</b>
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>That members note the content of this report, provide feedback on the Observatory to the Research Team and help promote the Observatory through their networks.</b>  <b>That members promote the Observatory through their networks.</b>
<b>Impact on Risk Register:</b>	<b>None</b>

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- 1 Caroline Perkins, Research Manager, will present an overview of the [Buckinghamshire Economic Intelligence Observatory](#).
- 2 We are developing the Observatory to improve evidence-based economic policy decision making in Buckinghamshire. This is important in context of the LEP Review, in which government and LEPs agree that a key function of LEPs is to ‘fulfil a strategic role, providing place-based economic expertise and insight to central and local government, and helping secure long-term inclusive growth at the local level as part of the [Plan for Growth](#)’.
- 3 The Observatory will perform two functions. It will:
  - a. Provide a single ‘go-to’ source of up-to-date economic evidence for the County (the Observatory website)
  - b. Increase collaboration between local socio-economic research professionals
- 4 The Observatory website will be officially launched at the LEP AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- 5 The website will make local economic data and intelligence easy to access and interpret. In addition, it will increase the amount of local economic data and intelligence that is made publicly available by the LEP and partners.
- 6 The website will be managed by the LEP Research Team and will be regularly updated. Users will be able to sign-up to receive ‘new content’ e-mail alerts. Partner organisations will be encouraged to publish data and intelligence that they hold, or research reports they have commissioned, on the site.
- 7 The website was soft launched in September 2021 and is being refined on the back of feedback that has been received.

- 8 Once the site is established, focus will turn to facilitating increased collaboration between local socio-economic research professionals, with the goal of making the best use of data, intelligence and expertise to understand local economic challenges and opportunities.

**Board members are asked to:**

- i. **Note the content of this report and provide feedback on the Observatory to the Research Team ([research@buckslep.co.uk](mailto:research@buckslep.co.uk))**
- ii. **Promote the Observatory through their networks.**