

## **Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership Delivery Plan**

### **Summary and Strategic Objectives 2020/21**



**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.buckstvllep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/>

Over the next 12 months we will develop the Sub-Group structure around the key economic assets to help develop action plans, investment proposals and greater collaboration in support of the Local Industrial Strategy.

We will also be looking to develop an Economic Recovery Strategy to sit alongside the Local Industrial Strategy and to support the resilience of the Buckinghamshire economy to respond to, to react and to rebound from the impacts of the Covid 19 crisis. This strategy is to be considered by the Buckinghamshire LEP Board at its meeting in September 2020 and will be supplemented by new digital and skills strategies to be produced by January 2021.

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 90% of overall programme expenditure committed by the end of the 2019/20 financial year.

As we move into the final year of the programme our focus will be on ensuring that the final projects within our growth programme remain on schedule and that funding from projects which cannot be delivered within this timetable are re-allocated to new projects which can meet the revised timetable. We will look to re-allocate the £1.7m from the Marlow to Maidenhead Rail Programme which has been unable to progress at the pace we would have wanted through the national GRIP approval system. This project remains an important scheme for connectivity in Buckinghamshire and should be kept under review for future support once national project approvals are secured.

We will also be commissioning a full programme review of the Local Growth Fund activities, this independent review will examine the impact of the Local Growth Fund Programme on the Buckinghamshire economy and will also look to assess the effectiveness of the LEP in managing the programme and supporting project sponsors to deliver the full benefit from investment schemes. The review will also take an in-depth review of 4 schemes to consider how they could have been supported more effectively through development.

Significant schemes being completed this year include:

### **Business Support and Skills**

Business Innovation Hub at Stoke Mandeville Hospital due to open Autumn 2020

The Silverstone Experience tourism facility due to open Summer 2020.

Westcott Business Innovation Centre due to open Autumn 2020

### **Transport**

Securing planning approval for the Aylesbury Eastern Link Road.

Aylesbury South-East Link Road – Planning application for this Department of Transport Scheme to be submitted Q 4 2020/21.

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 4 projects from the Getting Building Fund to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

The four projects supported are:-

- Expansion of National Film & TV School
- University of Buckingham Centre for Computing & Artificial Intelligence I Hub
- Rural Broadband Programme
- Advance development of DISC (Disruptive Innovative Space Centre) facilities at Westcott Venture Park

## **Other Funding or Growth Programmes**

### **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 Key Performance Indicators 2020/21**

- Businesses helped on 20,000 occasions; 20,000 business assists of which at least 250 will be intensive assists (12+ hrs of support or a £1,000+ grant)
- 400 jobs created
- 50 enterprises supported to introduce new to firm products or services
- 50 people attending an Enterprise Day
- 30 people attending a Start Up Course
- Delivery of the 3rd Buckinghamshire Business Festival by 31 March 2021
- Delivery of Buckinghamshire Business Awards by 31 Dec 2020
- Delivery of the Skills Festival by 31 Dec 2020
- Business Leaders Dinners x 4
- 100 business leaders participating in a “peer to peer” learning set which also benefits from facilitation and external speakers – as part of organised programmes of business support

- To ensure that 4 sector groups are grown/set up to facilitate the operationalisation of the Local Industrial Strategy in the county and across the wider Oxford to Cambridge ARC

The Growth Hub will also be supporting 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:

- **The Careers & Enterprise Company's Enterprise Adviser Network**  
<https://www.careersandenterprise.co.uk/employers-volunteers/join-enterprise-adviser-network>
- **OppsinBucks** - employer / educator platform [www.OppsinBucks.org](http://www.OppsinBucks.org)
- **WANNABE** - work experience and work opportunity website for young people  
[www.WANNABEbucks.org](http://www.WANNABEbucks.org)
- The Virtual Bucks Skills Show October 2020
- We will also be recruiting to a Workforce Development Manager and will be developing an adult workforce development plan during 2020/21 including the development of programme of support for Apprenticeships and Traineeships.

### **Skills Action Plan – over the 2020/21 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, and reinstate the postponed consultation.

**Produce a 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 2020/21 Academic Year**

Coverage At least 46 schools and colleges in the LEP signed up to the Enterprise Advisor Network (EAN)

EA Matching Number of establishments in the EAN matched to an EA at least once:

- 90% in Opportunity Areas
- 100% in Wave 1 Hubs
- 90% Wave 2 and Wave 3 Hubs
- 85% EAN

### **Enterprise Zone**

In the 2020/21 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 3 year period from 2020 to 2023.

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 Autumn 2020

Westcott:

- Develop programme of funding support for 10 year development plan for Westcott Venture Park
- Work with Rocksring/ Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) Highways to secure planning consent for and implement the A41 access improvements; finalise proposals for the SAC Innovation Centre, including planning application, amendments to SAC / BLEP Funding Agreement, and agreement between AVDC and BCC regarding provision of EZ funding to SAC via BLEP; and work with Rocksring on progressing c3,000m2 move on floorspace in EZ Space Cluster (co-ordinate with Innovation Centre proposals).

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.
- Unitary Structure & 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**

- Oxford to Cambridge Arc – LEP and University Group Liaison & England's Economic Heartland Programme.
- 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 2020
- LEP Network – Creative Industries Sector Group & National Indicators Group.
- Sector Growth Deals – Space Sector, Creative Industries.