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**N E W S R E L E A S E**

**BTVLEP Chair appointed governor to the British Film Institute**

The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Matthew Hancock, has appointed the Chair of [Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP) Andrew M Smith, along with Idris Elba, Robin Saunders, and Phil Stokes, to the Board of the British Film Institute (BFI) for a four-year term.

Josh Berger CBE, Chair of the BFI said: “The four Governors announced today are leaders in their fields and their expertise, experience and fresh perspectives will further enhance and strengthen the Board.

“The BFI fulfils a crucial role at the helm of the UK’s most creative, dynamic and fast-moving industries and bringing Andrew, Idris, Phil, and Robin to the board table will strengthen our ability to embrace new opportunities as we continue our growth and development.”

Andrew M. Smith, Chairman of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership and Corporate Affairs Director at Pinewood Studios Group, said: “It is a great honour to be appointed governor to the prestigious British Film Institute. As a county at the forefront of the creative industries this appointment is very fitting, indeed film is very important to the economy of Buckinghamshire with one of the highest proportions of employment in this sector in the UK with over 17,200 jobs across 4,430 businesses.”

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**BTVLEP Chair appointed governor to the British Film Institute: 2**

Andrew M Smith joined Pinewood Studios in June 2008 as Corporate Affairs Director. Prior to this, Andrew was Managing Partner of The Policy Partnership. Andrew is currently a member of the Film Skills Council, the British Film Commission Advisory Board, the British Screen Advisory Board and BAFTA. He is also a non-Executive Director of Buckinghamshire Business First and Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership.

Buckinghamshire is the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain where, for well over a decade, more businesses have started here than anywhere else in the UK. This is borne of the heartbeat of enterprise, which is manifest in a propensity to act; and a

propensity to successfully exploit new ideas. It is no accident that we are the Birthplace of the Paralympics at Stoke Mandeville, the creative film engine for James Bond and Star Wars at Pinewood Studios, and the joint home of the Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit.

**Ends**

**Photo caption:** *Andrew M. Smith honoured to be appointed governor of the BFI*

**Note to editors**

The [**Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership**](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP) is a business-led ‘partnership of equals’ between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County.

[**Buckinghamshire Business First**](http://www.bbf.uk.com/) (BBF), is the Growth Hub for Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs and Local Authorities.  BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

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