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**S T A T E M E N T**

**BTVLEP Welcome Heathrow Expansion Announcement**

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP), are delighted by today’s Government announcement supporting plans to expand the capacity at Heathrow Airport.

The business opportunities arising from the expansion of Heathrow Airport for the local economy are substantial and include access to new markets, supporting reduced flight costs and providing employment and skills opportunities for the local communities.

Andrew M. Smith, Chair of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “We welcome today’s announcement, which will have a significant impact on the local economy and will continue to support the global status of Buckinghamshire as an excellent location for business and for national and international investment.”

Andrew added: “Of course, any growth of this scale needs to be carefully planned, which is why we are working closely with Heathrow and many other local partners to ensure that the environmental, business and community impacts, particularly in the Ivers area adjacent to the expanded airport, will be closely managed during the development process and that local businesses can compete for and win new construction contracts.”

**Ends**