****

No. 029.18 1 November 2018

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

**Good Growth puts Bucks Thames Valley LEP at the top**

[Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP), is delighted by the news that the [Good Growth for Cities 2018 index](http://www.pwc.co.uk/goodgrowth) has placed BTVLEP as the second highest performing LEP in England, having “experienced the second largest increase in its score and emerged second in the overall LEP index” according to the report.

Richard Harrington, Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “We are delighted to see Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP as a top area for the most improved and overall ranking for good growth. Being located at the heart of the Oxford, Milton Keynes, Cambridge growth corridor we recognise that the strength in this region comes from collaboration across city, town and rural areas.”

Richard added: “The continued prominence of these great Cities at the upper levels of the good growth ranking is excellent news but the wider economic potential of the region will only be harvested if connections around new infrastructure and shared knowledge sharing are grasped. That is why the three LEPs (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and South East Midlands) and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority are working together to use our trailblazing Local Industrial Strategies as the basis for a combined economic vision to support future investment and good growth”.

**more…**

**Good Growth puts Bucks Thames Valley LEP at the top: 2**

Published today, the annual *Good Growth for Cities 2018* index sets out to show that there’s more to life, work and general well-being than just measuring GDP. The index measures the performance of 42 of the UK’s largest cities, England’s Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and the nine Combined Authorities, against ten indicators based on the views of the public as to what is key to economic success and wellbeing, these include employment, health, income and skills.

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**

**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.

For further information please contact:

Richard Burton

Communications Manager

T: 01494 927160

M: 07866 492292

E: richard.burton@btvlep.co.uk