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

**New Board Members appointed to Buckinghamshire Thames Valley**

**Local Enterprise Partnership**

[Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (BTVLEP), are delighted to announce the appointment of two new members to its Board, Philippa Batting from [Buckinghamshire Business First](https://bbf.uk.com/) and Alistair Lomax from the [University of Buckingham](https://www.buckingham.ac.uk/).

Appointed at last Friday’s Board meeting (11th January), Philippa and Alistair both bring a wealth of business experience in both the private and public sector and are committed to building on BTVLEP’s strong foundations and helping drive the future direction of the LEP.

Andrew M. Smith, Chair of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “On behalf of BTVLEP, I am delighted to welcome Philippa and Alistair to the Board of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP. BTVLEP is recognised by Government to be a high-performing LEP, and these new board appointments will support the continued growth of our economy and help our businesses to flourish locally and internationally. In addition, these new appointments will bring further commercial experience and insight to the board, help generate new ideas and will ensure we continue to reflect the communities we serve across Buckinghamshire.”

Andrew added: “In particular, Philippa brings to the BTVLEP Board her in-depth insider knowledge of the Buckinghamshire business community and a strong network of business connections, while Alistair brings to the position

comprehensive knowledge and strong connections to universities and academic institutions from across the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Arc.”

**more…**

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Philippa Batting is currently Managing Director of the largest business representative organisation in Buckinghamshire with more than 11,000 businesses now in its membership. Philippa brings a wealth of entrepreneurial and results-driven experience in addition to an extensive network of business connections to the BTVLEP Board.

Alistair Lomax as Director of Development, is a key member of the senior team at one of the most market/industry facing universities in the UK, and as such plays a pivotal position in the growth of the University of Buckingham and its contribution to the region, most recently being instrumental in the launch of the Vinson Centre for Economics and Entrepreneurship. Alistair brings an extensive skills set to BTVLEP in the fields of education, small business development and creative skills.

BTVLEP is a business-led Local Enterprise Partnership which promotes economic growth and prosperity across Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire is a significant wealth generator for the UK economy, and the commitment of over £73m in Local Growth Funds is unleashing ambition and creativity in the county. This funding is enabling the delivery of new road and rail infrastructure, better skills and business opportunities and enhanced digital connectivity to support sustainable economic growth in the county which sits at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

In the past 12 months our Local Growth Fund investment has helped support new educational facilities at the world-leading National Film and Television School, while new facilities for the creative industries and construction and motor trades have been created at the Buckinghamshire College Group sites. Additionally, work is now complete on the new Vinson Centre for Entrepreneurship at the University of Buckingham. This performance in our Local Growth Fund delivery has enabled BTVLEP to be graded ‘good’ on all fronts in the Government’s annual assessment of Local Enterprise Partnerships.

**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.

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