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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 three new private sector members to its Board, Hiren Gandhi from [Blaser Mills Law](https://www.blasermills.co.uk/person/hiren-gandhi/), Adrian Brown from the [Berkeley](https://www.berkeleygroup.co.uk/) Group, and Prof Rebecca Bunting, Education Consultant.

Appointed at last Friday’s Board meeting (22nd March), Hiren, Adrian and Rebecca 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 Hiren, Adrian and Rebecca to the Board of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP. BTVLEP is recognised by Government to be one of the highest performing LEPs, and these new board 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 to deliver economic growth across Buckinghamshire.”

These new appointments follow the appointments last month of Philippa Batting from [Buckinghamshire Business First](https://bbf.uk.com/) and Alistair Lomax from the [University of Buckingham](https://www.buckingham.ac.uk/).

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**Hiren Gandhi** is currently a Partner at Blaser Mills Law, a Legal 500 and Chambers UK top ranked law firm primarily based in Buckinghamshire, where he oversees the business development and marketing functions for the firm, playing a key role in the strategic growth of the firm and across all of its teams.  Prior to joining Blaser Mills, Hiren worked for several other law firms, advising multi-national corporates such as Shell, Nissan, and Jaguar-Land Rover. Hiren is also currently Vice-Chairman and Non-Executive Director on the board of Buckinghamshire Business First.

Prior to becoming a full-time Education Consultant last year, **Professor Rebecca Bunting** was Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of Buckinghamshire New University. Rebecca began her career teaching in London schools, moving into higher education as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Roehampton. She later became Dean of Education at Anglia Ruskin University and Pro-Rector at the University of Northampton. From there she moved to the University of Portsmouth in 2004 as Pro Vice Chancellor and from 2007 as Deputy Vice Chancellor. Professor Bunting also sits on the board of The Higher Education Academy.

# As the Managing Director at Berkeley Strategic, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Berkeley Group Plc, **Adrian Brown** is responsible for the long-term land business of the Group. Adrian has successfully promoted numerous large-scale development schemes for the Group over the past 21 years and brings a wealth of highly relevant expertise and experience to add real value to the BTVLEP Board. In addition, Adrian was a board member of the Aylesbury Vale Advantage and latterly Chair of the Buckinghamshire Advantage Board.

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. **more…**

**New Board Members appointed to BTVLEP: 3**

In the past 12 months our [Local Growth Fund](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-projects/local-growth-fund-projects/) investment has helped support new educational facilities at the world-leading [National Film and Television School](https://nfts.co.uk/), [Buckinghamshire College Group](https://www.buckscollegegroup.ac.uk/) sites, and the new [Vinson Centre for Entrepreneurship](https://www.buckingham.ac.uk/latest-news/buckingham-launches-new-centre-for-entrepreneurship/) at the University of Buckingham, along with investment in infrastructure projects such as [High Wycombe Town Centre Master Plan](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-projects/local-growth-fund-projects/). This performance in our Local Growth Fund has enabled BTVLEP to be graded ‘excellent’ for delivery 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.

For further information please contact:

Richard Burton

Communications Manager

T: 01494 927160

M: 07866 492292

E: richard.burton@btvlep.co.uk