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

# **Bucks setting the standards for others to follow**

It has been another successful year for top performing [Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP), who celebrated their achievements and previewed 2020’s plans at their networking breakfast and Annual General Meeting today at The Gateway, Aylesbury.

This event, part of the [Buckinghamshire Business Expo](https://bbf.uk.com/event/buckinghamshire-business-expo-2020), provided a great opportunity to learn more about the priorities for the [Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/), how Bucks LEP secured investment is helping support [economic growth](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-projects/local-growth-fund-projects/) across Buckinghamshire and how business can work more closely with Bucks LEP and its Skills, Growth Hub, Funding and Enterprise Zone teams.

There was certainly plenty to shout about, in the past 12 months Bucks LEP [Local Growth Fund](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-projects/local-growth-fund-projects/) investment has supported many projects including the completion of the High Wycombe Town Centre Transport Improvement Scheme, Silverstone Sports Innovation Campus and Pinewood Creates. This performance in its Local Growth Fund has enabled Bucks LEP to be graded ‘excellent’ for delivery in the Government’s annual assessment of Local Enterprise Partnerships – Bucks LEP continues to set the standard for others to follow!

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# **Bucks setting the standards for others to follow: 2**

In addition, Bucks LEP has made major progress in developing the Oxford to Cambridge Arc as a major source of economic growth for the area; its Skills Hub being ranked number one in the country by the Careers & Enterprise Company; its Growth Hub, [Buckinghamshire Business First](https://bbf.uk.com/), now exceeding a membership of 12,000 with over 30,000 business support activities carried out last year; and its [Enterprise Zones](http://aylesburyvaleez.co.uk/) going from strength to strength with over 40,000m2 of new growth being delivered at Silverstone, Westcott and Woodlands sites.

A key highlight of the AGM was the announcement that Bucks LEP is inviting expressions of interest for well-developed schemes that will support [Buckinghamshire’s Local Industrial Strategy](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/) and strategic drivers around our four key sectors, Space, Creative and Digital, Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing and Medical Technology and Health. Individual bids for minimum of £500k Local Growth Fund capital grant, are for environmentally sustainable projects with a minimum of 50% match funding that can be completed and operational by March 2021. Full details will be available on the Bucks LEP website.

Andrew M. Smith, Chair of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “We were delighted to welcome a packed room of attendees to hear more about our achievements over the past 12 months and our ambitious future plans. In particular, to reflect on the delivery of projects and programmes which have contributed to the execution of our overall vision for Buckinghamshire, and how we have embraced the opportunity to work with Government to deliver one of the first trailblazing Local Industrial Strategies, which is helping to drive the Buckinghamshire economy to further increase innovation, support international trade and improve connectivity to help all businesses deliver their full economic potential.”

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# **Bucks setting the standards for others to follow: 2**

Keynote speakers at the AGM, based around the themes of how innovation will help shape new thinking and the workplaces of the future, were Sir Anthony Seldon - Vice-Chancellor University of Buckingham and one of Britain’s leading contemporary historians, educationalists, commentators and political authors - who talked about harnessing the power of artificial intelligence in the workplace; and Jon Wardle - Principal at the National Film and Television School and Co-Director of the National Centre for Immersive Storytelling (Storyfutures Academy) - who gave a presentation on how the creative industries are helping shape all our futures

Bucks LEP is a business led Local Enterprise Partnership which promotes economic growth and prosperity across Buckinghamshire. Bucks 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 enhancing digital connectivity to support sustainable economic growth in Bucks, which sits at the heart of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

**Ends**

**Photo caption:** *Top performing Bucks LEP celebrating their achievements and previewing plans at their networking breakfast and Annual General Meeting.*

**Note to editors**

The [**Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership**](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) 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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