 

No. 008.20 7 April 2020

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

# **Top performing Bucks LEP 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), with confirmation coming from the Government’s annual assessment of Local Enterprise Partnerships, which awarded Bucks LEP with ‘exceptional’ for its delivery.

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 ‘exceptional’ for delivery in the Government’s 2019-2020 annual assessment – Bucks LEP continues to set the standard for others to follow!

In addition, Bucks LEP were awarded ‘good’ for governance, with special praise for its Board diversity, and meeting all its strategic impact requirements.

Andrew M. Smith, Chair of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “There is a real momentum within Buckinghamshire, and we are driven to ensure the local business community feels the benefit of this progress. We are therefore delighted that Government recognised our delivery as being ‘exceptional’ for projects and programmes which contribute to the execution of our overall vision, to drive the Buckinghamshire economy to further increase innovation, support international trade and improve connectivity to help all businesses deliver their full economic potential.

**more…**

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

Andrew added: “I would like to thank the commitment and dedication of the Bucks LEP team, our partners that never fail to support our efforts, and for an outstanding effort by the Bucks LEP Board in maintaining our position and continuing to champion the local economy of Buckinghamshire for the benefit of the national economy.”

In addition, over the past 12 months 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.

Most recently Bucks LEP has made available £2 million additional funding to support businesses in Buckinghamshire affected by the Covid-19 (coronavirus) crisis - one of the first LEPs to announce such funding. The fund complements those national measures already in place, to support Buckinghamshire businesses to assist with the emergency response and to assist with remote and flexible working practices that are essential at this time.

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**

**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.

For further information please contact:

Richard Burton

Communications Manager

T: 01494 927160

M: 07866 492292

E: richard.burton@btvlep.co.uk