

# **Buckinghamshire – accelerating recovery through devolution**

**September 2020**

**Metro — Dynamics**



# Devolution proposition – Back Bucks to accelerate UK recovery

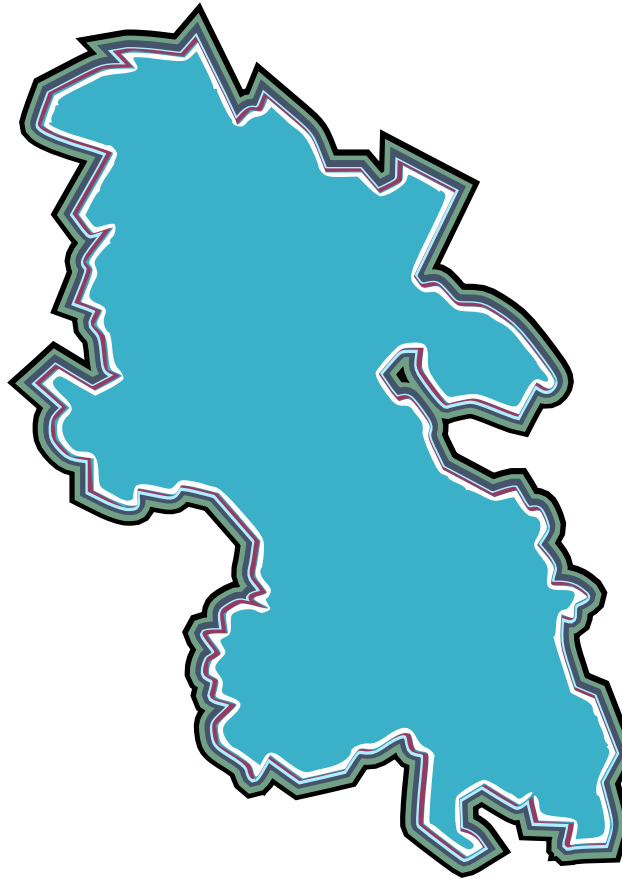
- We can add £10bn to the UK economy if we are given the tools to accelerate recovery
- England's newest unitary, with uniquely integrated council, public service & business leadership
- Strong economy with key sectoral super strengths

## A devo deal will enable Bucks to:

- Support recovery of London & South East economy through repurposing our town centres & better digital connectivity
- Front-load affordable, low carbon housing delivery
- Overcome emerging barriers to productivity growth
- Invest in super growth sectors of the future
- Be a testbed for rapid pathways into future careers – including job matching/reskilling for ex Heathrow and Luton professionals

# Bucks – strong, stable & effective partnerships & leadership ready to accelerate recovery

**A unique opportunity –** the newest unitary authority in England and co-terminosity and strong partnerships between:



**Bucks  
Council**

**Bucks LEP**

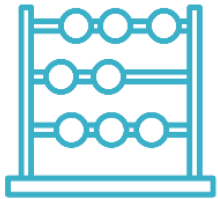
**Bucks New  
Uni, Uni of  
Buckingham, &  
Bucks College  
Group**

**Bucks CCG**

**Bucks  
Business  
First**

**Bucks NHS  
Healthcare  
Trust**

# Economic facts and assets



A **£14.6bn**  
economy



**31,150**  
businesses



**244,500**  
jobs



**£3.8bn** goods &  
**£1.7bn** services  
exports



**77%** businesses  
employ **<5** people



**544,000**  
people



**45%** residents  
with a degree or  
higher



**10** towns, many  
villages & beautiful  
countryside



**Fully integrated**  
with London tube  
network & rail



A **multi-site**  
Enterprise Zone &  
**2** universities,  
Bucks College

# Buckinghamshire's global USP based on four super strengths

## Space



### Westcott Space Cluster

- Centre of excellence in rocket propulsion, 5G & autonomous systems R&D for SMEs & larger firms
- £4.12m investment by UKSA to establish National Space Propulsion Test Facility
- 5 new centres being created over 2 years
- LEP managed Enterprise Zone

## Creative & digital



### Pinewood Studios

- Pinewood is a film production centre, hosting Star Wars & James Bond, with 250 businesses on site and an extension underway
- National Film & TV School based in Beaconsfield
- Home to International eGames Committee
- Potential to accelerate AR & VR

## High performance tech



### Silverstone Park & Tech Cluster

- Focus on precision engineering with specialisations in additive, aerodynamic & light-weight manufacturing
- Plans to expand into a sub-regional hub of battery production, building on Uni of Bucks strengths
- LEP managed Enterprise Zone

## Medtech

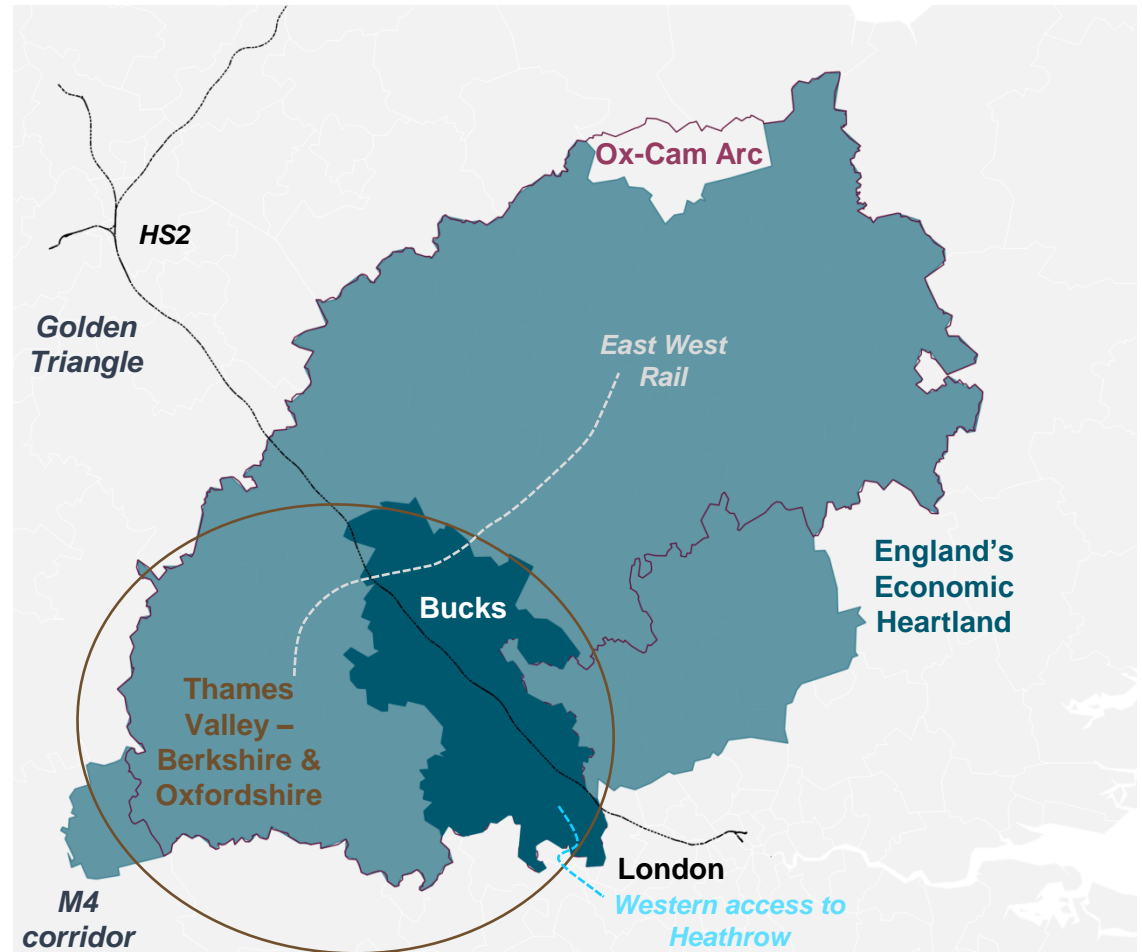


### Stoke Mandeville

- UK National Spinal Centre based in Stoke Mandeville
- Home to Janssen/Johnson & GE Healthcare
- First wave of 8 integrated care systems, trialling new, local approaches to health & care
- Developing Bucks Life Sciences Innovation Centre
- Birthplace of global Paralympic Movement

# At the heart of a growing, innovative region

- **Integral part of London economy** – fully integrated with London tube & rail network.
- **Located within or close to major growth corridors** – knowledge intensive economy with strengths in high-tech sectors, science & R&D = potential to deliver transformational growth, create jobs & boost economy.
- **Strong partnership working through England's Economic Heartland** – focusing on sustainable growth opportunities, improved quality of life and harnessing globally renowned centres of innovation to unlock a world class, de-carbonised transport system.





# A successful economy, but with emerging barriers to future growth & productivity

- **Successful economy** – £14.6bn economy, 11<sup>th</sup> highest GDP per head in the country. Almost 82% of working age adults in work (England – 75%) & median resident wages 15% higher than nationally.
- **Barriers to future growth** – future success of Buckinghamshire critical for UK prosperity. But economic growth was third lowest in England between 2014 & 2018.
- **So productivity is stagnating** – recent growth slower than other parts of the UK, so overall GVA gap between Bucks & national average closing. If rental income removed, productivity would be 7% below the national average

## Constraints include:

- Lack of available housing, particularly affordable homes, and business space, with 50% of Bucks either AONB or Green Belt
- Poor digital connectivity, especially in rural areas, with 3.6% full fibre coverage (UK – 4%)
- Specific COVID-19 job losses amongst high skilled aviation professionals at Heathrow and Luton
- Ongoing pressure on public services with potential for COVID-19 to undermine gains on reducing health inequalities
- Challenges of an ageing population on public services and labour market with 10% more residents over 90 years old than national average and expected growth of 147% in this age group by 2038

# Bucks recovery and devolution deal

Metro — Dynamics



# The recovery opportunity for devolution & investment

## **LOCALLY:**

Maximise the potential from new ways of working and changing business practices to benefit existing residents and attract new people & businesses

## **NATIONALLY:**

Accelerate our leading contribution to UK recovery and renewal through high-tech sectors, zero carbon & the future success of London and south east

### **The economic case**

- A proven track record of delivery with strong partnerships and a coterminous geography
- Fully integrated with London and at the centre of major growth corridors with good connectivity
- Strengths in future growth sectors and world-renowned assets with a culture of entrepreneurship
- Well placed for leading new working & new normal economy post-COVID-19

### **What does Buckinghamshire need?**

- Powers & funding to front-load delivery high quality, affordable & low carbon housing (achieving existing targets)
- Continued investment in repurposing town centres for residential and business
- Powers & funding for reskilling of the workforce
- Investment in business networks and the innovation ecosystem
- Improved digital connectivity in certain areas

# THE SIZE OF THE PRIZE: Adding £10bn more to the UK economy by 2050



Buckinghamshire,  
producing **£44** per hour in  
2050



Recovering to & growing at  
pre-crisis levels of **15%**  
higher productivity  
than the UK

By:

- Growing our high-tech sectors
- Investing in infrastructure
- Front loaded building of low carbon houses (on existing targets)
- Improving skills levels, rapid job matching & career pathways

# Devolution ambitions and priorities

**AMBITION:** Add £10bn more to the UK economy by 2050, leading the renewal and reshaping of the British economy

## PLACES



Repurpose and create quality, low carbon & connected communities for people to live & work

## HIGH-TECH SECTORS



Mobilise distinctive and internationally recognised economic assets & strengths

## SKILLS



Ensure residents have the skills, including retraining, they & businesses need for the future



# PLACES: Repurpose and create quality, low carbon & connected communities for people to live & work

**OFFER:** Create a housing investment deal to prioritise affordable housing and develop innovative approaches to using public land

## PRIORITIES

- Front-load the delivery of 50,000 homes by 2036, regenerating & reviving towns
- Build high-quality, low carbon, digitally enabled, affordable homes for life – adaptable & suitable for key workers, home working, family living & healthy/independent living in older years (inc. care villages)
- Reimagine and diversify town centres with high-quality housing, co-working space, public spaces and walking & cycling routes
- Invest in digital, physical & green infrastructure to unlock development

## ASK

### A single pot Investment Fund

- To support economic & natural capital development, including repurposing town centres, charging EV points
- Flexible & multi-year with ability to reprofile expenditure and move funding between projects to meet immediate need & shifting priorities
- Governed by a Local Assurance Framework to assess interventions & investments

### A Housing Investment Board with single pot Housing Investment Fund

- To deliver affordable, low carbon housing & associated infrastructure, increasing town centre residential density
- With CPO, borrowing, funding and permitted development land, freedoms and powers
- Establish development company to lead delivery
- County wide approach to public land to provide affordable housing & care villages for older residents
- Focus on Aylesbury – significant potential around East West Rail, relocation of the depot & Garden Town



# HIGH-TECH SECTORS: Mobilise distinctive and internationally recognised economic assets & strengths

**OFFER:** Strengthen global Britain's position at the forefront of innovation and future, growth sectors

## PRIORITIES

- Grow high-tech sectors – space, creative & digital, high performance tech and medtech – boosting productivity & the shift to zero carbon
- Nurture the clusters around economic assets by accelerating the extension & enhancement of Enterprise Zones & support for post-Brexit trade
- Transform services at scale through health & social care innovation, building on Stoke Mandeville expertise, co-terminosity with health partners, and skills offer at colleges & unis
- Develop the innovation ecosystem, connecting businesses to research institutions and universities within Buckinghamshire & beyond
- Underpin with high-quality digital and 5G infrastructure

## ASK

### A single pot Investment Fund

- A recyclable investment fund with gainshare principles and gateway review
- Alongside the functions in the Place theme, deliver Local Industrial Strategy priorities, such as:
  - Strengthen networking across space and enhance facilities at Westcott Space cluster
  - Enhance the Screen Industries Global Growth Hub at Pinewood Studios
  - Develop innovation ecosystem and SME innovation in high performance tech
  - Test the application of new health and care technologies and innovation through the Aylesbury Garden Town





# SKILLS: Ensure residents have the skills, including retraining, they & businesses need for the future

**OFFER:** Use unique integrated partnerships to be a testbed for the development of rapid pathways into careers for the future

## PRIORITIES

- Support the existing workforce to re/up/multiskill to access new opportunities & a range of jobs, with a strong focus on digital
- Attract and retain young people by providing them with the aspiration and skills to work in Buckinghamshire, strengthening links between schools and flagship global assets
- Ensure there is a strong talent pipeline to support future growth sectors
- Offer accelerated training in qualifications linked to shortage areas – engineering, nursing & social care, and film
- Create good quality, entry level positions with progression opportunities

## ASK

### Adult Education Budget

- Devolved and expanded with resource & powers
- To enable accelerated additional training to meet local demand

### Apprenticeships

- Devolved and reformed Apprenticeship Levy to reflect micro and SME business needs
- County wide Apprenticeship Training Agency with Bucks Skills Fund providing bursaries & loans and brokering apprenticeship with SMES

### Skills response testbed pilot

- To enable a quick and agile response to changing priorities based on provision of real-time data
- Act as a pilot for models, systems & projects to be rolled out in other places

# Key growth and development opportunities



- **A multi-site Enterprise Zone** – linked to nationally strategic assets with potential for expansion and enhancement.
- **Enhancing our thriving and attractive market towns** – our towns are significant and growing commercial and residential centres. Aylesbury Garden Town and Princes Risborough are major housing developments, providing high quality homes with opportunities to embrace smart technology, develop green corridors and encourage active travel.
- **Growing and developing in a way which maintains our high quality environment and natural capital assets** – including canals, parks and national attractions, such as the Ridgeway Path, as well as the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

# Core Bucks asks to help accelerate UK recovery

## Freedoms, powers & flexibilities

### Places

- Housing Investment Board with land powers, CPOs, borrowing, etc.
- County wide approach to public land

### Transport

- Local level – pilot traffic powers
- County wide – bus regulation
- Regional – EEH funding & statutory status

### High-tech sectors

- Extend enterprise zones
- Free port in South Bucks & High Wycombe

### Skills

- Devolution of Adult Education Budget
- Devolution of Apprenticeship Levy
- Pilot agreement with DWP & cross government on shared data to support employment support/job matching

## Investment

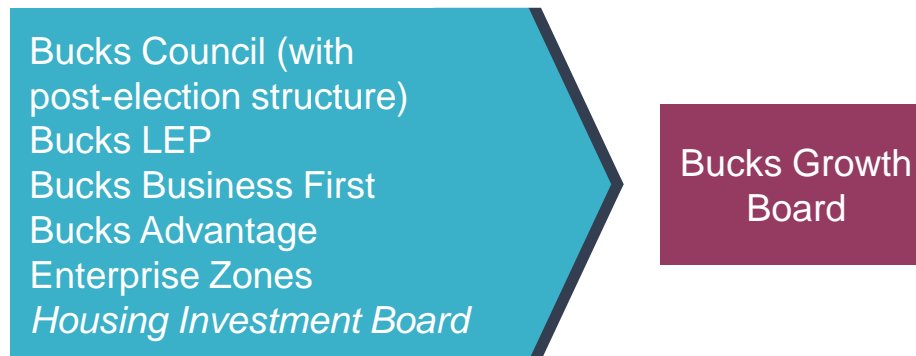
- Housing investment fund (£100m)
- Single pot investment fund (£400m)
- 5G and digital infrastructure investment fund (£8m)
- Pilot area for NHS investment in digital applications

# Governance

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# Buckinghamshire's single voice for place governance

- Buckinghamshire, as England's new unitary, already ticks an important devolution box for Government – we've cleared the unitary hurdle
- We have another unique advantage – co-terminosity with all our key partners - LEP, health service, business, HE and FE
- No need for a Combined Authority and Mayor, because we are one partnership, with one Council.
- Bucks Growth Board is our single voice for Governance
- That's why our devolution proposal is submitted by the Growth Board





# Bucks Growth Board – and devolution governance

- The Bucks Growth Board is one of 4 specific Growth Boards established across the Arc area
- It is a partnership board between the Council and Bucks LEP, Bucks CCG, Education Authority, Bucks & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership & Thames Valley Police, as well as MHCLG, Homes England, BEIS, DHSC, Highways England & Natural England
- Still in development phase, like the Oxfordshire Growth Board it can take on responsibility for a Housing Growth and Investment Deal
- It will be the Board responsible for the governance of the devolution deal (with its membership expanding over time to reflect all the key delivery partners)
- It will put in place framework delivery deals for all its delivery partners
- And it will be supported by a dedicated Secretariat, with Bucks Council acting as the Accountable body

## Metro — Dynamics

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