

# SUCCEEDING AS A PLACE, SUCCEEDING AS A COUNTRY:

A scalable Buckinghamshire proposition to accelerate UK recovery





Waterside Theatre, Aylesbury



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# A LETTER FROM MARTIN TETT, CHAIR OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GROWTH BOARD



As Chair of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board, I am delighted to set out and support our highly ambitious Recovery and Growth Deal proposition for Government. Our proposal has been prepared as part of a collaborative 'place based' approach led by the Buckinghamshire Growth Board in the context of the need to rebuild our national economy at pace following COVID and two Lockdowns. It has a clear and deliberate focus on economic recovery. It builds upon our Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan by recognising the need to invest in Buckinghamshire as an area that can accelerate the kind of economic growth and wealth creation that supports a robust UK economy capable of delivering on a national 'levelling-up' agenda.

Buckinghamshire is an 'aligned county', with a shared geography between the Council, Local Enterprise Partnership, Healthcare NHS Trust, Clinical Commissioning Group and Buckinghamshire Business First. Our universities and further education providers are also closely tied in, giving us a unique ability to unite key organisations to deliver coherently for the benefit of all. This strong, collaborative model is fundamental in our intention to assist Government by bringing together health and wellbeing; the environment; economic growth; delivery of the right mix and tenure of new housing; digital accessibility; and connectivity on a 'place basis'.

Importantly, Buckinghamshire has a proven track record and the strong, aligned leadership to ensure that ideas are turned into action, moving together at speed to deliver our ambitions. Those ambitions are simple; provide more land for our growth sectors and internationally recognised economic assets to thrive; focus a devolved skills budget on our key sectors and where there is the opportunity to retrain for the 'new economy'; help create more and better-quality jobs; and accelerate the delivery of affordable homes to a greener standard. Combining these with a climate for innovation and flexible investment, we project that Buckinghamshire can add £10bn to the UK Economy by 2050.

Our proud history of supporting local and national prosperity stands us in an impressive position to deliver this. We are, as a county,

the 'entrepreneurial heart of Britain' containing both global brands and large numbers of entrepreneurial small and medium sized businesses. We are home to world renowned economic clusters such as the Creative and Digital cluster, shaped around Pinewood Studios in the south, the space sector based around Westcott in the west and High-Tech engineering driven by the Silverstone Park and Tech Cluster in the north. All of this is underpinned by our outstanding education providers and a desire that growth should maintain and enhance our natural environment so that it can support prosperous and healthy future generations.

In conclusion, we believe that COVID has produced both a major economic challenge and opportunity for Britain. We can rebound and thrive by locally led and empowered growth. This cannot be done by slow, ponderous, 'top down' structures. Our proposal can be a blueprint for the country, moving at speed and with determination to deliver post COVID growth. In doing so we will increase the net contribution to HM Treasury, enable the 'levelling-up' agenda and deliver the bright economic future our country needs. Buckinghamshire has begun work to develop our proposals and stands ready to work with Government and partners to deliver them.

COUNCILLOR MARTIN TETT

## Buckinghamshire Partners



Councillor Martin Tett, Leader –  
Buckinghamshire Council



Professor James Tooley, PhD Vice-  
Chancellor – The University of  
Buckingham



Professor Nick Braisby, Vice  
Chancellor – Bucks New Uni



Karen Mitchell, Principal and Chief  
Executive – Buckinghamshire  
College Group



Andrew M. Smith, Chair –  
Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise  
Partnership



Hattie Llewelyn-Davies, Trust Chair  
– Buckinghamshire Healthcare  
NHS Trust



Michael Garvey, Chair –  
Buckinghamshire Business First



Dr James Kent, Accountable  
Officer – Buckinghamshire Clinical  
Commissioning Group





## 1. SUMMARY OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE PROPOSITION

The Buckinghamshire Growth Board is delighted to outline our ambitious proposition for a Recovery and Growth Deal for Buckinghamshire.

By giving Buckinghamshire the tools to accelerate recovery, this deal can add £10bn to the UK economy by 2050. We already have one of the strongest local economies in the UK, with high levels of GVA per capita and strengths in critical growth sectors for the future, with further untapped potential. Moreover, as England's newest unitary authority, we have a uniquely integrated council, public service and business leadership, with coterminous Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), Council, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Healthcare Trust boundaries.

**'Our proposition will combine our economic and governance assets to enable Buckinghamshire to accelerate recovery.'**

Our proposition will combine our economic and governance assets to enable Buckinghamshire to accelerate recovery, increase our net contribution to HM Treasury, re-train and reskill our workforce impacted by COVID-19, and provide scalable and innovative solutions tested in Buckinghamshire to assist with national recovery.

### It will:

- Support the national recovery and help realign the London and South East economy through repurposing our town centres and improving digital connectivity
- Front-load affordable, carbon-neutral and high-quality housing delivery
- Overcome emerging barriers to productivity growth
- Invest in the super growth sectors of the future
- Be a testbed for rapid pathways into future careers, including job matching, redeployment, and reskilling for those in shrinking markets such as ex Heathrow Airport, London Luton Airport and retail professionals to those in the actively recruiting sectors such as health and social care, IT and construction, creating an opportunity to trial levelling up approaches which can then be mainstreamed across England
- Reduce the health inequalities experienced and support the improvement of the physical and mental health and well-being of our residents and workforce



# WE NOW WANT TO ACCELERATE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT TO DELIVER THIS

Our proposals for increasing national wealth are based on maximising employment opportunities supported by better digital and physical infrastructure; having an approach to skills that supports our key sectors, creates opportunities for our recently unemployed, and tackles our age-old skills gaps, and developing a greener housing offer that can be delivered quickly and is cheaper to run.



View of Old Amersham

**‘Enabling higher levels of affordable and key worker housing, and where front-funding of infrastructure accelerates housing delivery.’**

## Key elements of the proposition include:

- Expanding and developing the Buckinghamshire Growth Board as the Board responsible for the governance and delivery of this Deal
- Establishment of a new Housing Investment Board with Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) powers, borrowing, funding and permitted development land, freedoms and powers, thereby providing locally-led remedies to housing delivery barriers
- Allocation from Government of a £100m Single Pot Housing Investment Fund to deliver planned, affordable, carbon-neutral housing and associated infrastructure which enhances the quality of housing delivered, enables higher levels of affordable and key worker housing, and where front-funding of infrastructure accelerates housing delivery
- Control of a £400m Single Pot Investment Fund, over 30 years, to accelerate investment and unlock opportunity through the planned delivery of a long-term strategic infrastructure programme
- Provision of a £60m Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund to enable Buckinghamshire to operate as a fully connected rural economy with every premise connected to gigabit-capable broadband
- Establishment of a Local Evaluation Framework co-designed with HM Treasury to assess the interventions and investments funded by the Investment Fund
- Devolution and expansion of the Adult Education Budget to enable accelerated additional re-skilling and training to meet local demand by working with local education providers and the Buckinghamshire Skills Advisory Panel to develop accelerated learning in key growth areas
- Work with government to streamline the approach for local delivery of national employment programmes such as Kickstart
- Devolution and reform of the Apprenticeship Levy to one that is locally determined and delivered, ensuring that it is responsive to our large proportion of micro and SME business needs which are key to future jobs growth, particularly in the green economy
- Freedom to invest the Levy to establish a county-wide Apprenticeship Training Agency with a Buckinghamshire Skills Fund providing bursaries and loans and brokering apprenticeship relationships with SMEs
- Opportunity to be a pilot skills response testbed to trial new models, systems and projects, tailored to the post-COVID-19 economy, before they are rolled out in other places to help drive levelling up
- Increase and retain Business Rates by attracting new businesses to the area, developing commercial space and supporting our existing businesses to grow



## 2. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE – ABLE TO DELIVER RECOVERY THROUGH OUR INTEGRATED PLACE LEADERSHIP

Marlow Bridge

Buckinghamshire has robust and effective partnerships and leadership, ready to accelerate UK recovery. We have a unique opportunity with the newest unitary and the most integrated and coterminous county structure in England of the council, public service and business leadership and partnerships.

Buckinghamshire Council was established in April 2020. Moving from a two-tier model to a single unitary authority is a significant achievement and a major challenge for local government in many other parts of England. We now want to develop an integrated economic recovery and public service reform approach to place leadership, achieving better outcomes for residents, reducing health inequalities, driving accelerated growth, and the expediting move to carbon-neutrality.

A key part of transitioning to a unitary authority in Buckinghamshire has been about empowering local communities and neighbourhoods through a double devolution approach. Devolution to local places within Buckinghamshire, underpinned by the principle of subsidiarity, is about passing power down to communities, at the most local level.

The Council is coterminous with the Buckinghamshire LEP, Buckinghamshire Business First, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Buckinghamshire CCG. There are also strong partnerships with Buckinghamshire New University, University of Buckingham and Buckinghamshire College Group. Our Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) institutions work closely together through their aligned curriculums and seamless pathways for students, from FE to HE.

Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire LEP

Bucks CCG

Bucks Business First

Bucks Healthcare NHS Trust

Buckinghamshire New University,  
University of Buckingham &  
Buckinghamshire College Group

## OUR HIGH-QUALITY INSTITUTIONS HAVE A STRONG TRACK RECORD OF DELIVERY:

Buckinghamshire LEP was graded **'excellent' for delivery** in the Government's annual assessment of LEPs in 2020

Representing 13,000 business members and 75% of the county's private sector workforce, Buckinghamshire Business First secures in excess of **£3m annually to support all businesses** in the county

Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust rated as 'Good' and 'Outstanding for Caring' by the Care Quality Commission and the CCG ranked **8th nationally** for mental health therapy referrals

Buckinghamshire New University is in the **top 10 for graduate employability**, University of Buckingham ranked **1st for student** satisfaction and are **pioneers of the two-year degree** and Buckinghamshire College Group has been cited as **exemplar by the Department for Education** for their merger process

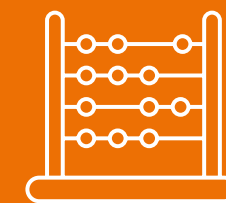


### 3. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S ECONOMY

## A VITAL ECONOMY

Buckinghamshire has a strong £14.6bn economy with the 11<sup>th</sup> highest GDP per head in the country (amongst LEP areas in England). There are 281,000 jobs, 34,400 businesses and 544,000 residents.

**A £14.6bn  
ECONOMY**



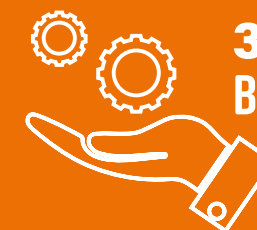
**£3.8bn  
goods &  
£1.7bn  
services  
EXPORTS**



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



**34,400  
BUSINESSES**



**77%  
business  
employ  
<5 PEOPLE**



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



**3 Enterprise  
Zones, 2  
universities &  
Bucks College  
Group**



**281,000  
JOBS**



**544,000  
PEOPLE**



**FULLY INTEGRATED  
with London tube  
network  
& rail**



We have high skills levels with over 45% of residents having a degree or equivalent qualification or higher, compared to 40% nationally. As of 2017, almost 82% of working-age adults were in work (in England, this is 75%). Earnings are high with median resident wages 15% higher than nationally.

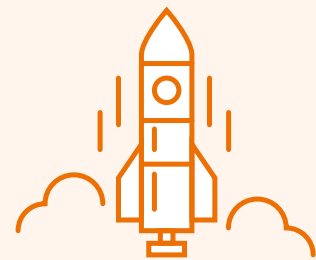
Our strong economy is based around an entrepreneurial culture of micro businesses and SMEs with over 3 in 4 of Buckinghamshire firms employing fewer than five employees. Buckinghamshire has a strong track record of stimulating start-ups and businesses that start here, stay here. There are high business survival rates with 48% of firms that started in 2013 operating five years later, compared to the national average of 42%. Our strong education system supports this helping to train entrepreneurial skills to people of all ages from a variety of backgrounds.

Buckinghamshire's thriving and attractive market towns are significant and growing commercial and residential centres. Amersham and Chesham are both on the tube network, and the highly-rated Chiltern Line service means many of our towns are well-connected to national transport infrastructure. East West Rail will further improve connectivity. We have a high-quality environment and natural capital assets. The county's canals and parks, such as Black Park, make the area an attractive place to live, and the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is a significant asset supporting the health and wellbeing of our residents and workforce as well as our economy.

# OUR SUPER STRENGTHS

Buckinghamshire's global USP is based on four super strengths, space, creative and digital, high performance tech and medtech, linked to a set of world-renowned assets.

## SPACE



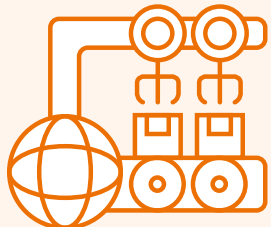
**Westcott Space Cluster** including, a LEP managed Enterprise Zone, is a centre of excellence in rocket propulsion R&D for SMEs and larger firms. Recent public and private investment in excess of £20m includes £4.12m by the UK Space Agency to establish a National Space Propulsion Test Facility, a 5G step out facility as well as business incubation and innovation hubs. An impressive 10-year development plan will place Westcott at the forefront of global innovation in satellite propulsion systems and in-orbit maintenance.

## CREATIVE & DIGITAL



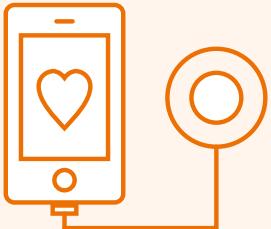
**Pinewood** is an internationally renowned centre for film production, hosting Star Wars and James Bond productions. There are 150 businesses on site with a major extension underway. The National Film and Television School (NFTS), the number one film school globally, is based in Beaconsfield, and the county is also home to the International eGames Committee. Pinewood and the NFTS lead in immersive content, pioneering the development and use of augmented reality, virtual reality and other technologies.

## HIGH PERFORMANCE TECH



A high performance technology cluster has developed around the iconic F1 Circuit with 4,000 businesses operating within a one hour radius of Silverstone. **The Silverstone Park and Tech Cluster**, including a LEP managed Enterprise Zone, focuses on precision engineering with specialisations in additive manufacturing, aerodynamics and light-weight production methodologies. There are also plans to expand into a sub-regional hub of battery production, building on commercial research and development strengths.

## MEDTECH



Buckinghamshire has a heritage of working at the forefront of advances in health as the birthplace of the global Paralympic Movement and with the UK National Spinal Injuries Centre based in **Stoke Mandeville**. Large, international firms in the area include Janssen/Johnson and GE Healthcare. Buckinghamshire is in the first wave of eight integrated care systems, trialling new, local approaches to health and care provision. Buckinghamshire will continue to position itself at the forefront of life science innovation, including supporting the innovation campuses at Stoke Mandeville and High Wycombe.

# AT THE HEART OF A GROWING, INNOVATIVE REGION

Buckinghamshire is highly connected. We are an integral part of the London economy, integrated with the London tube and rail network, and are located within or close to major growth corridors. Across Buckinghamshire and our neighbouring areas, there is a knowledge intensive economy with strengths in high-tech sectors, science, and research and development. There is the potential to deliver transformational growth, create jobs and boost the economy.

**'Deliver transformational growth, create jobs and boost the economy'**

Future planned investments in Buckinghamshire include East West Rail, connecting Aylesbury and Winslow to Bedford, Oxford and Bicester by 2024, and eventually Cambridge. There are major opportunities linked to Chiltern Rail routes, a rail connection to Old Oak Common and the development of the M40 corridor. Buckinghamshire will also benefit from other nationally significant investments, either within or close to the county, including potential Heathrow and London Luton Airport expansions, Western Rail Link to Heathrow Airport, and Crossrail.

We have strong relationships with our neighbours, including Berkshire and Hertfordshire. Our strong partnership working through England's Economic Heartland focuses on sustainable growth opportunities, improved quality of life and harnessing globally renowned centres of innovation to unlock a world-class, decarbonised transport system. England's Economic Heartland are prioritising improvements to east-west connectivity, including a southern arc connecting Buckinghamshire, Watford, southern Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.





## A strong economy with barriers to future growth and productivity

Buckinghamshire has a strong economy, founded on our global super strengths, connectivity and strong regional infrastructure. The future success of Buckinghamshire is critical for UK prosperity, but there are growing barriers to future growth. Economic growth was the third lowest amongst LEP areas in England between 2014 and 2018. Productivity growth is slowing in comparison to other areas, leading to the closing of the productivity gap between Buckinghamshire and the national average.

It is critical that Buckinghamshire grows sustainably, in a way which protects its

natural environment and improves the social wellbeing of our residents and workforce. There is an opportunity for Buckinghamshire to pioneer sustainable economic and housing development. For instance, the Aylesbury Garden Town sets out an ambition to create a diverse and distinct set of clean and inclusive local economies.

For our businesses to accelerate recovery and maintain our strong, vibrant local economy, it is important that they have access to specialist inward investment and Business Growth support to enable longer-term planning and growth.



Silverstone Sports Hub

## Constraints to future economic growth and prosperity include:

- A lack of available housing, particularly affordable homes, and business space, with house prices averaging 13 times higher than incomes, and 50% of Buckinghamshire being either an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Green Belt
- Poor digital connectivity, especially in rural areas, with 7.8% full fibre coverage, compared to a 14% average in the UK
- Specific COVID-19 related job losses amongst aviation professionals at Heathrow and London Luton Airports, as well as those from the hospitality, tourism, leisure and retail sectors
- A shortage and availability of skills and labour in our key growth sectors
- Ongoing pressure on public services with spatial concentrations of health inequalities, such as a gap of seven years in life expectancy between males in the most and least deprived population quintiles
- Challenges of an ageing population on public services and labour market with 10% more residents over 90 years old than the national average and an expected growth of 147% in this age group by 2038
- High levels of traffic congestion with Aylesbury ranked as the 8th highest for hours lost to congestion in the UK in 2019 by Inrix
- Constrained opportunities for young people attending non selective secondary schools

**'There is an opportunity for Buckinghamshire to pioneer sustainable and economic housing development!'**



Berkeley Homes developments at Taplow Riverside



## 4. THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ACCELERATED RECOVERY



## THE RECOVERY CHALLENGE

The initial freezing of large parts of the economy as part of the COVID-19 lockdown has already produced unprecedented economic impacts. We now know that COVID-19 restrictions are likely to be in place for at least the next six months. The major priority for the UK will be to recover economically, whilst managing future waves of the virus. Individual and family livelihoods, the viability of our town centres, and of our public finances all depend on effective and rapid economic recovery.

Buckinghamshire has challenges in reducing health inequalities for our communities. Most areas in Buckinghamshire, are ranked highly (health deprivation is relatively low). However, within this overall finding of low health deprivation, 19 'small areas' rank more deprived than the England average for health deprivation. Three areas rank within the 30% most deprived across England.

Geographically, health deprivation is more common nationally in urban areas and this pattern occurs in Buckinghamshire. Health deprivation is more prevalent in the north of the county. Of the three most health-deprived areas (ranked by the Health Deprivation and Disability domain), two are located in Aylesbury, the third in Buckingham.

If the first six months of the crisis have accelerated existing economic and technological trends, the next six months may well entrench them. Our economy

has been impacted by the pandemic with 63,000 of our residents furloughed, a 34% reduction in job postings and a 40% reduction in footfall in our county town. However, we have also seen opportunities such as those presented by a reduction in out commuting by highly skilled professionals.

**'Buckinghamshire has been more resilient to the impact of the crisis than other parts of the country'**

Early evidence has shown that the Buckinghamshire economy has been more resilient to the impact of the crisis than other parts of the country, and is recovering more quickly. This is despite significant challenges, such as the impact on our residents of the loss of highly skilled aviation jobs at Heathrow and London Luton Airports.

It is critical that Buckinghamshire is able to respond positively to these challenges and opportunities as we can accelerate recovery for the UK. Our strong economy, key sectoral super strengths, and connectivity position us to lead new ways of working, and the new normal economy post-COVID-19. Furthermore, our position as England's newest unitary with a uniquely integrated council, public service and business leadership enables us to make things happen quickly and effectively.



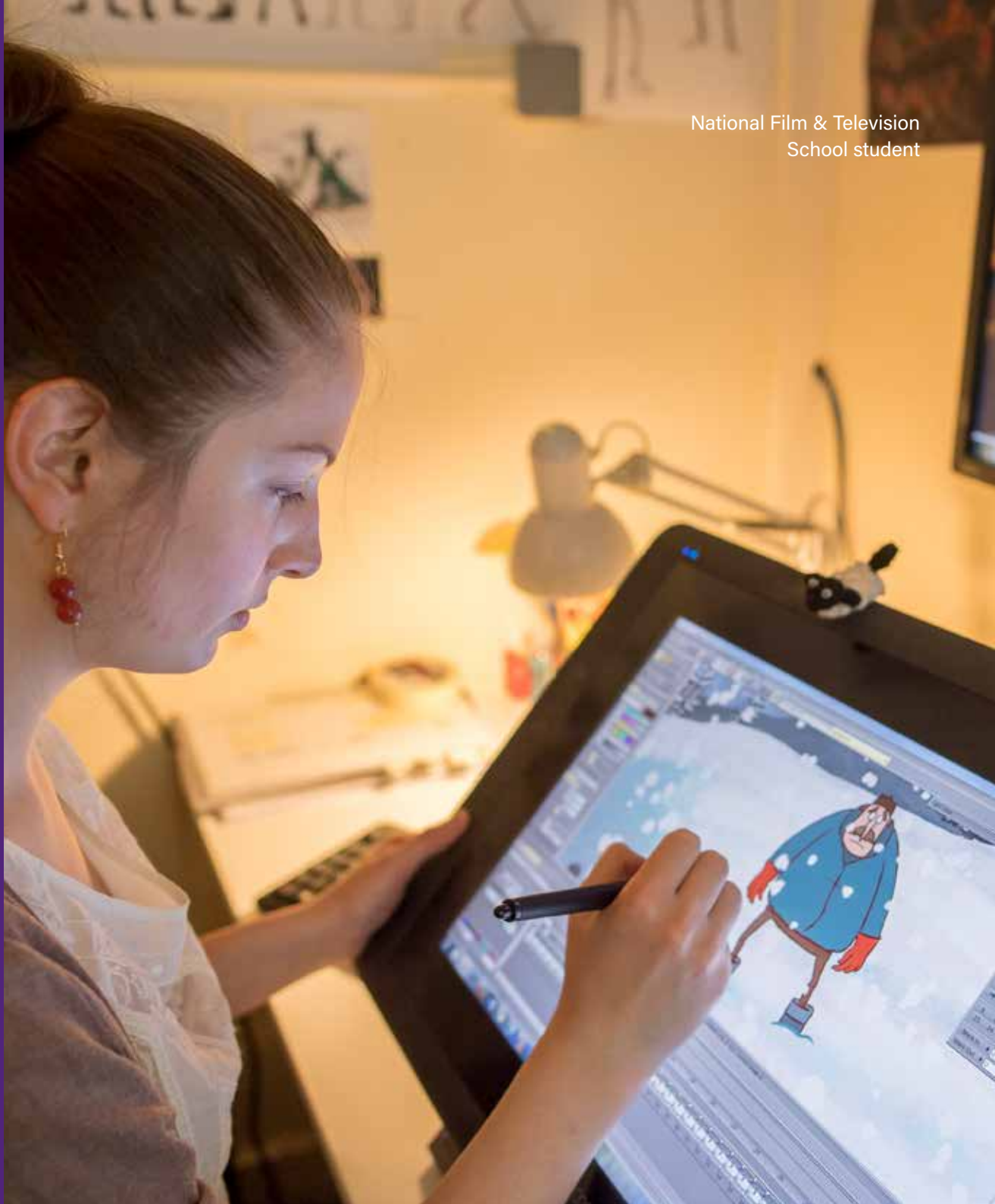
# OUR RECOVERY PRIORITIES

Many of our residents have been, or are likely to be impacted, by the significant drop in activity at Heathrow and London Luton Airports. Over 2,000 residents work on-site at Heathrow Airport with many more working at London Luton and in our airport supply chains. This is an opportunity for job matching, bringing people displaced from aviation and other industries into our key growth sectors such as health and social care.

Health and social care is the largest employer in Buckinghamshire and has significant labour and skills demands. Being at the forefront of healthcare innovation, it will be important to utilise our assets, including the world-renowned National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, to overcome health inequalities given the greater impact of COVID-19 on people living in poor health and deprivation.

The long-term growth and local significance of space, creative and digital, high performance technology and medtech are unlikely to be impacted by COVID-19. With changes in business practices and the rapid uptake of technology, the pandemic may lead to greater cross-sector innovation as firms pivot and diversify.

Prior to COVID-19, 34% of residents commuted out of Buckinghamshire. With high levels of home working likely to be in place for the next six months and into the future, this is a significant opportunity for Buckinghamshire to position itself as a regional working hub.

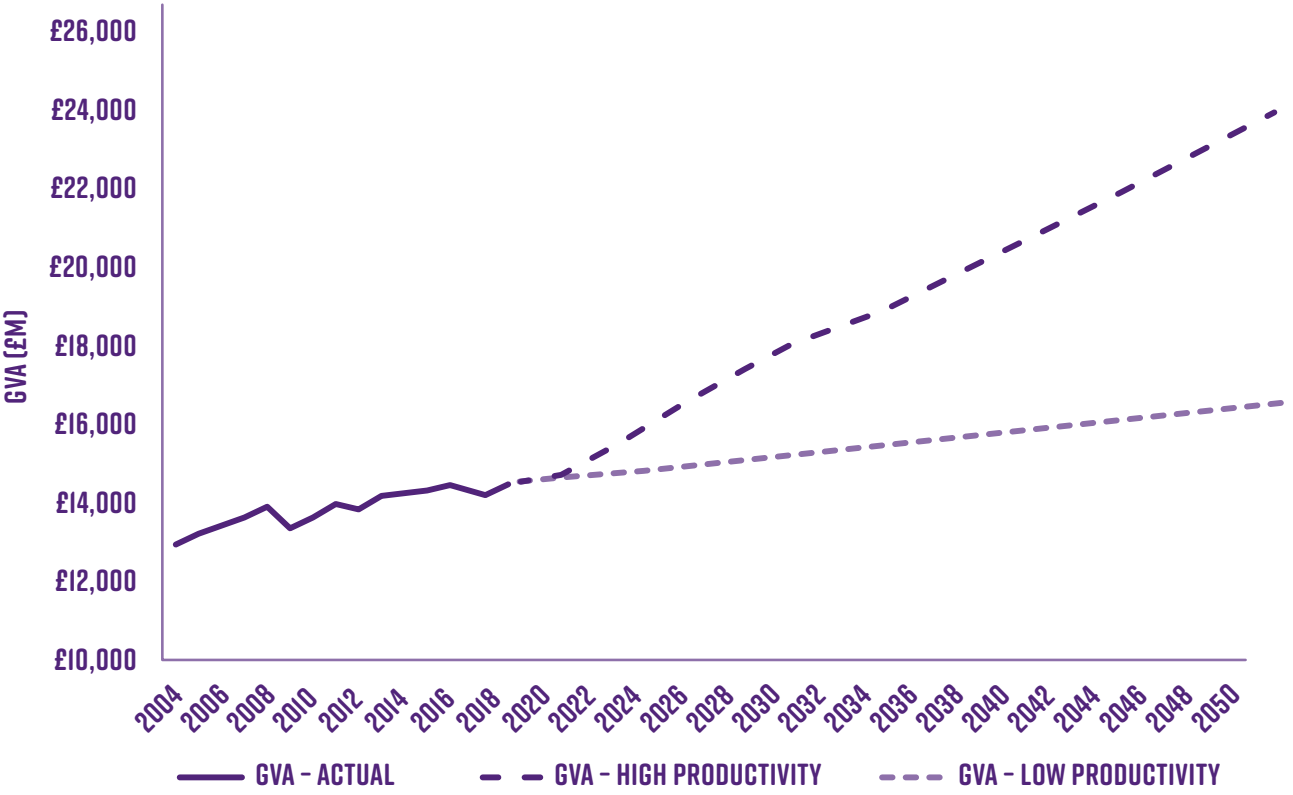
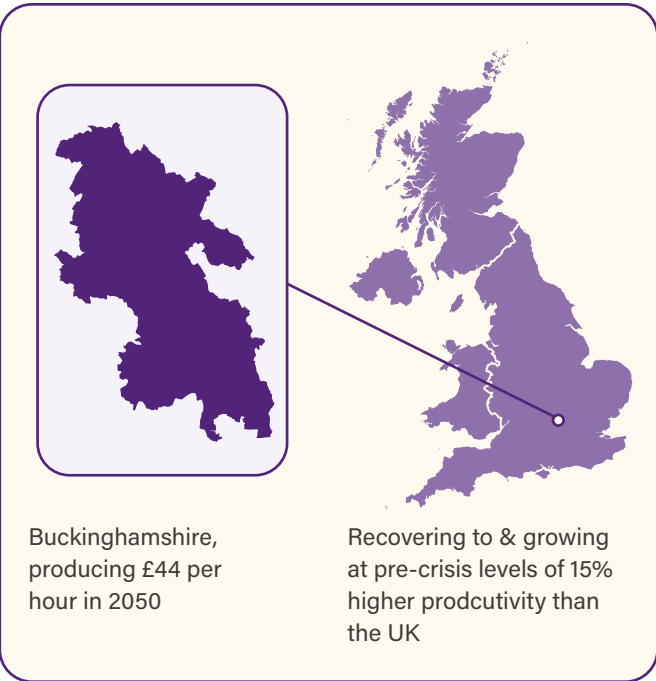


National Film & Television  
School student

# WE CAN ADD £10BN TO THE UK ECONOMY IF WE ARE GIVEN THE TOOLS TO ACCELERATE UK RECOVERY

By growing our high-tech sectors, investing in infrastructure, front-loading the building of carbon-neutral houses (on existing targets), and improving skills levels, rapid job matching and career pathways, we can return to the higher levels of productivity that we experienced in 2010. This will reverse the relative decline in productivity growth we have seen since and put us back at the level of 15% higher productivity than the national average.

With greater investment in Buckinghamshire, we can recover this position by 2028, growing at 1.5% per annum. Between 2028 and 2060, growing at 0.6% per annum, Buckinghamshire's productivity will continue to be 15% higher than the UK. By 2050, our economy will be £10bn larger than in 2018.



Source: Metro Dynamics projections



## ECONOMIC RATIONALE

Buckinghamshire has a proven track record of delivery with strong partnerships and a coterminous geography. We are integrated with London and at the centre of major growth corridors with good connectivity. There are strengths in future growth sectors and world renowned assets with a culture of entrepreneurship. We are well placed to lead new working and the new normal economy-post COVID-19.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

**LOCALLY:** Maximise the potential from new ways of working and changing business practices to benefit existing residents, improving access to employment and training and attract new people and businesses

**NATIONALLY:** Accelerate our leading contribution to UK recovery through high-tech sectors, carbon-neutrality and the future success of London and South East

**= £10bn additional GVA**

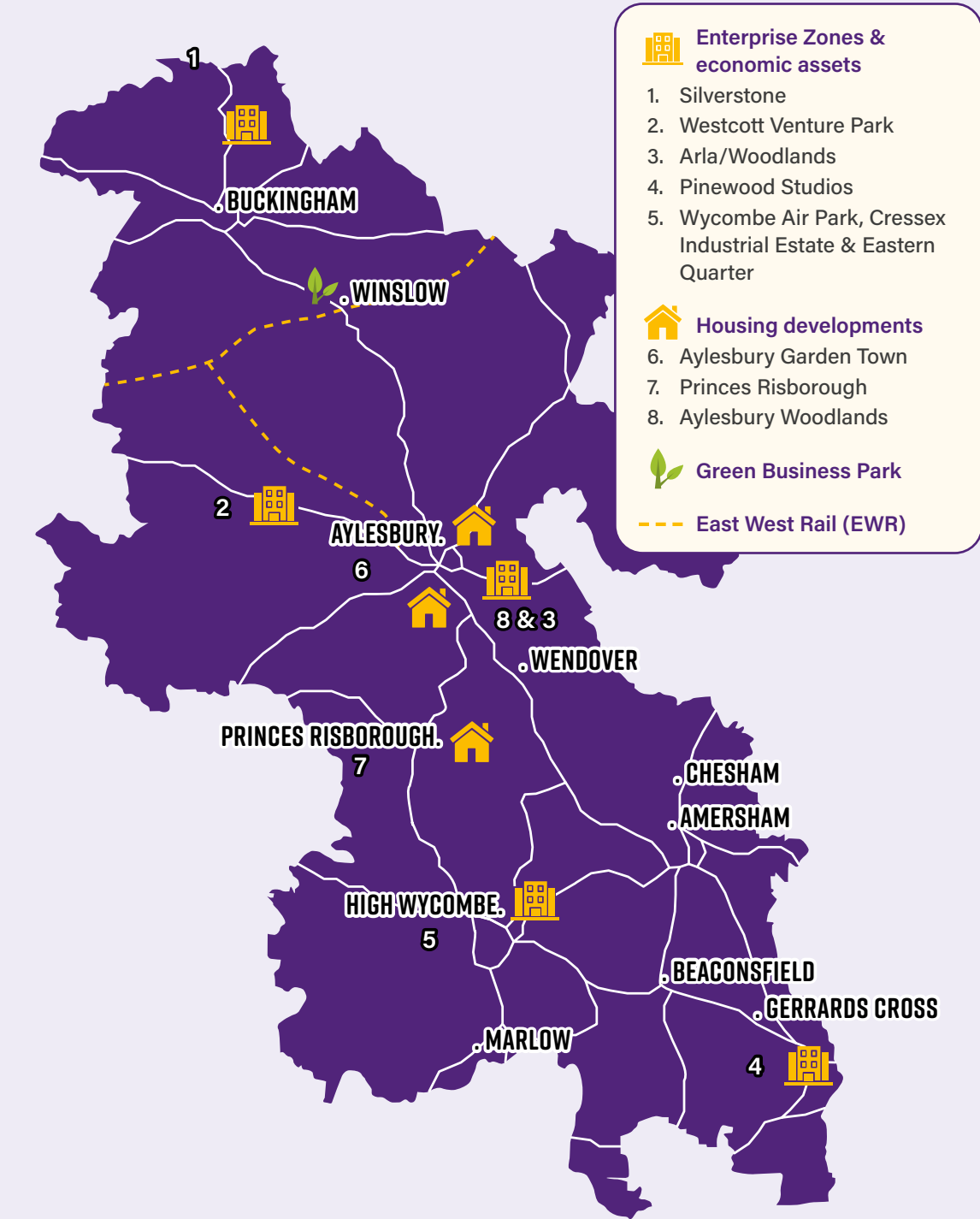
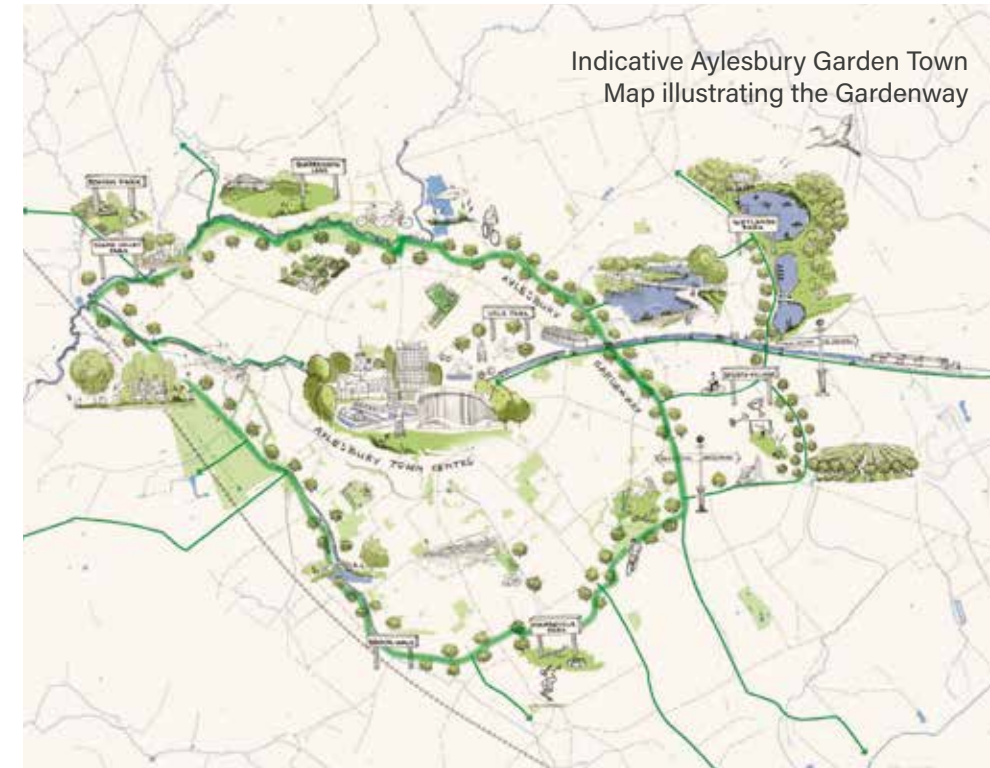
## WHAT BUCKINGHAMSHIRE NEEDS

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

## KEY GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Buckinghamshire has a number of key growth and development opportunities in the county. Accelerating the delivery of these will be a key focus of the Recovery and Growth Deal.

Buckinghamshire has three Enterprise Zones linked to nationally significant assets with potential for expansion and enhancement. Major housing developments include Aylesbury Garden Town (16,000 homes) and Princes Risborough (2,500 homes), providing high-quality homes with opportunities to embrace smart technology, develop green corridors and encourage active and sustainable travel.





## 5. OUR AMBITION AND PRIORITIES

Burnham Beeches

### AMBITION:

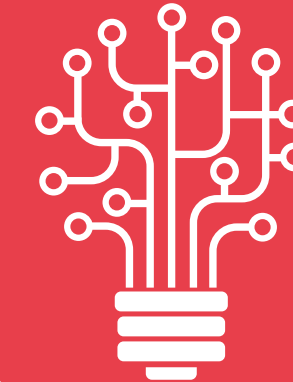
Add £10bn more to the UK economy by 2050,  
accelerating UK recovery

Places



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

High-tech sectors



**Mobilise** distinctive and  
internationally recognised  
**economic assets** and  
strengths

Skills



Create an **accelerated skills**  
delivery system to drive  
our ambitions for recovery,  
retraining and **economic**  
**growth**



# PLACES:

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



## Our offer

We will create a Housing Investment Deal to prioritise affordable, sustainable and carbon-neutral housing, develop innovative approaches to using public land, and introduce lifetime living environments to help our ageing population retain their independence.

## Our priorities

We will:

- Front-load the delivery of 50,000 homes by 2036, regenerating and reviving towns, and consolidating the opportunity presented by major innovative developments such as Aylesbury Garden Town, Princes Risborough, and Aylesbury Woodlands. These homes will be attractive for the workforce for the future and will enable young people to start and grow their careers in Buckinghamshire.
- Build high-quality, carbon-neutral, digitally enabled, affordable homes for life. These will be adaptable, accessible and suitable for key workers, home working, family living, and healthy, independent living in older years, for instance through a care village model. Our housing developments will be energy efficient and sustainable with high-quality integrated green infrastructure and accessible walking and cycling routes to encourage active travel. We will focus on overcoming inequalities and improving physical and mental health and well-being by building high-quality, functional places that support cohesive, healthy communities.
- Reimagine and diversify town centres with high-quality housing, co-working space, public spaces and walking and cycling routes. COVID-19 has accelerated existing long-term trends related to home working and online retail, and the decline of peak office working in central London. This is an opportunity to repurpose our towns, providing the infrastructure and amenities required by our highly skilled and qualified residents, many of whom will want to continue to work locally or at home, for at least part of the week.
- Invest in digital, physical and green infrastructure to unlock development and supported a connected rural economy.



## Core asks to help accelerate UK recovery

### A Housing Investment Board with a £100m Single Pot Housing Investment Fund

This Board and Investment Fund will be used to front-load the delivery of planned high-quality, carbon-neutral, affordable housing and associated infrastructure, developing quality places and increasing town centre residential density. Our Board will have CPO, borrowing, funding and permitted development land, freedoms and powers. We will also explore establishing a development company to lead delivery. Our focus will be on Aylesbury, which has significant potential around East West Rail, the relocation of the rail depot and the Garden Town. This will also enable us to take a county-wide approach to public land to provide affordable housing and care villages for older residents. As part of our core asks, we request that confirmation is provided on the delivery of the East West Rail Aylesbury spur line.

### Investment from the £400m Single Pot Investment Fund

This will enable us to accelerate investment and unlock opportunity by enhancing local infrastructure, delivering shovel-ready schemes and generating recyclable investment. This will enable Buckinghamshire to deliver on its identified priorities efficiently and effectively, and encourage longer-term infrastructure planning horizons through greater certainty.

It will be a flexible and multi-year fund with the ability to reprofile expenditure and move funding between projects to meet the immediate need and shifting priorities. The Investment Fund will be governed by a Local Evaluation Framework, to assess interventions and investments.

The Growth Board has developed a number of proposed projects in its Spending Review submission which could be funded by the Single Pot Investment Fund. There will be a prioritisation process to determine which of these projects will be taken forward, but these could include:

- **Aylesbury Public Realm and Regeneration** – Aylesbury Gardenway, a fully connected corridor encircling the town, enhancing connectivity and liveability of the neighbourhoods on the town's outer reaches
- **Aylesbury Transport Improvements** – improving space and capacity, enabling housing development to come forward, and unlocking further opportunities for improving the town centre public realm
- **High Wycombe Public Realm and Regeneration** – regenerating the Eastern Quarter to create a vibrant and lively public realm, and a diverse cultural offer
- **High Wycombe Transport Improvements** – delivering various measures from the emerging High Wycombe Transport Strategy
- **Winslow** – development of a masterplan linked to opportunity around improved connectivity to Oxford via East West Rail and a green business park
- **Digital town centres** – enhancing WiFi connectivity and digital literacy training to provide consumers and small traders with the technology and skills to trade digitally through recovery and renewal
- **Chesham mesh network rollout** – rolling out an innovative mesh network project, embedding technology in street furniture to benefit adult social care service delivery
- **One Public Estate Community and Service Hubs** – providing a single joined up public service access point for health, social care, libraries and leisure in Buckingham, Iver, Chesham and Amersham
- **Local infrastructure schemes** – delivering relief roads and local sustainable travel routes which will unlock planned housing growth and reduce the challenges existing communities are facing



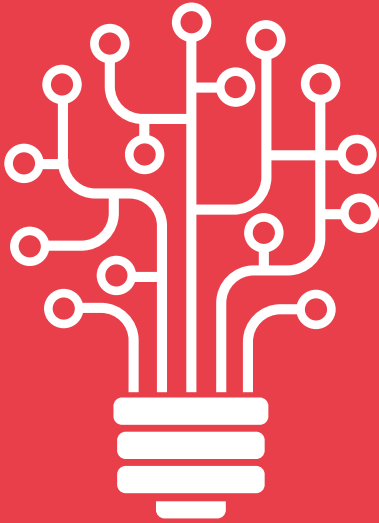
Investment from the £60m Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund

This fund will enable Buckinghamshire to connect the remaining premises, currently without superfast broadband (i.e below 30mbps speed), in the county to gigabit-capable connectivity (>1,000mpbs). Based on the intentions for all UK premises to be 100% connected to gigabit connectivity by 2025, this fund will help to accelerate the delivery across Buckinghamshire supplementing a connected rural economy. Digital infrastructure will be central to the future of our places and will enable residents and the workforce to operate efficiently and effectively with a greater access to skills and reduced digital exclusion. Buckinghamshire has one of the highest levels of take-up for superfast broadband services in country, showing the appetite and need for better connectivity in the area.

Furthermore, investing in the gigabit-capable network of Buckinghamshire will provide the backbone for a future 5G connected county. This will enhance the opportunities for commercial roll out across the county and enable Buckinghamshire to be a leader in digital infrastructure.

HIGH-TECH SECTORS:

Mobilise distinctive and internationally recognised economic assets and strengths



Our offer

We will strengthen global Britain’s position at the forefront of innovation and future growth sectors.

Our priorities

We will:

- Grow our high-tech sectors in space, creative and digital, high performance tech and Medtech, boosting productivity and the shift to carbon-neutrality
- Nurture the clusters around economic assets by accelerating the extension and enhancement of Enterprise Zones, as well as support for post-Brexit trade
- Transform services at scale through health and social care innovation, building on Stoke Mandeville Hospital’s global reputation and expertise, the shared operational boundary with health partners, and the skills offer at our colleges and universities. This could include transforming traditional models of care in the community, and encouraging healthy behaviours and preventative measures to overcome health inequalities and reduce demand on care services

- Develop the innovation ecosystem, connecting businesses to research institutions and universities within Buckinghamshire and beyond
- Rebalance economic growth across Buckinghamshire through opportunities to develop trade and investment hubs in the south of the county, based on sectoral strengths and proximity to Heathrow Airport and London. For instance through expanding the principles of an enterprise zone and the development of new applied and business led research hubs, or exploring opportunities for the establishment of a freeport linked to our nearby airports and international trade
- Underpin the above priorities with high-quality digital infrastructure through ensuring every premise in Buckinghamshire is able to utilise superfast, ultrafast or gigabit-capable connectivity supporting a connected rural economy

Core asks to help accelerate UK recovery

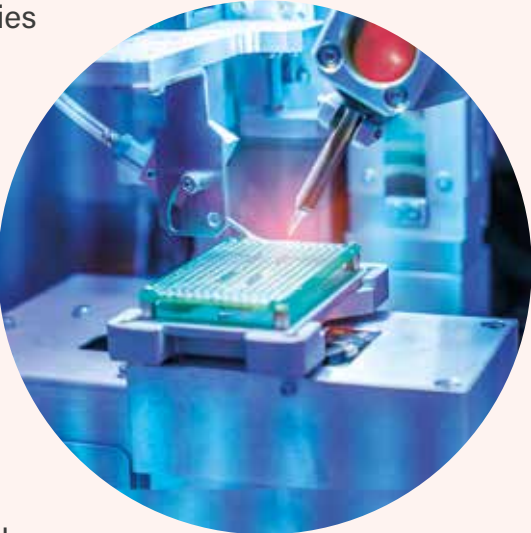
Investment from the £400m Single Pot Investment Fund

- This will be a recyclable investment fund with gainshare principles and gateway review. The Fund will catalyse private sector investment, unlock opportunities and take equity shares in key growth businesses in Buckinghamshire’s super strength sectors. Potential projects which could be funded through the Single Pot Investment Fund could include:
- **Westcott 10-year programme** – ensuring Westcott is a world-leading space propulsion test facility, centre for small satellite manufacture and national innovation cluster supporting and growing the UK space sector
  - **Westcott Disruptive Innovation Space Centre** – providing industry developing novel launch, propulsion and satellite technologies

- **Pinewood Studios Global Growth Hub** – supporting recovery in the creative sector and investing in screen and film, including the application and development of virtual and augmented reality technologies
- **Silverstone Long-term Growth Strategy** – stimulating the next wave of innovation in green technologies to support aspirations around carbon-neutrality, including Electric Vehicles, battery applications and automated vehicles
- **Silverstone Sports Innovation Campus** – expanding a highly successful open-access research and development centre based on the commercial applications for aerodynamics in sport
- **Aylesbury Woodlands Campus development** – exploring the creation of a flagship Health and Social Care Campus and centre of innovation at Aylesbury Woodlands to futureproof the healthcare needs of the growing population of Buckinghamshire

Investment from the £60m Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund

Investing in gigabit-capable connectivity will not only enable typical online activities but it will also allow businesses to engage in the fourth industrial revolution, utilizing innovative technologies such as machine learning, artificial intelligence and Internet of Things communications. This fund would enable our rural economic development zones, which currently do not have superfast connectivity, such as Westcott, to be prioritised in order to enable further economic growth and recovery to be facilitated.





## SKILLS:

Create an accelerated skills delivery system to drive our ambitions for recovery, retraining and economic growth



### Our offer

We will use unique integrated partnerships to be a testbed for the development of rapid pathways into careers for the future.

### Our priorities

We will:

- Explore decision-making improvements that ensure funding is distributed to the most appropriate locations at the local level
- Support the existing workforce to re/up/multiskill to access new opportunities and a range of jobs, with a strong focus on digital
- Attract and retain young people, providing them with the aspiration and skills to work and live in the county, and 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, such as engineering, nursing and social care, and film by building on innovative initiatives such as the accelerated courses pioneered at the University of Buckingham
- Create good quality, entry-level positions with progression opportunities
- Support leadership and management training for senior executives and employers in order to ensure future scale up and growth of our businesses



### Core asks to help accelerate UK recovery

#### Adult Education Budget

A devolved and expanded Adult Education Budget, with resources and powers, will enable accelerated additional training to meet local demand.

#### Streamlined approach of national programmes

Work with government to streamline the approach for local delivery of national employment programmes such as Kickstart.

#### Apprenticeships

A devolved and reformed Apprenticeship Levy will ensure that it is responsive to micro and SME business needs, and will support future jobs growth, particularly in the green economy. We will explore establishing a county-wide Apprenticeship Training Agency with a Buckinghamshire Skills Fund providing bursaries and loans and brokering apprenticeship with SMEs.

#### Pilot skills response testbed

This will enable a quick and agile response to changing priorities based on the provision of real-time data. Buckinghamshire will act as a pilot for models, systems and projects to be rolled out in other places. For instance, a pilot agreement with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and across government on shared data would assist employment support and job matching.



**'Creating good quality, entry level positions with progression opportunities!'**



## 6. GOVERNANCE

### THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GROWTH BOARD



The Buckinghamshire Growth Board will be responsible for the governance and delivery of this Recovery and Growth Deal. It is a partnership board between the Council, Buckinghamshire LEP, Buckinghamshire Business First, Buckinghamshire CCG and Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Business Specialists, as well as the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Homes England, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Department of Health and Social Care, Highways England and Natural England. The Board is one of four specific Growth Boards established across the South East region.

The recent creation of a single unitary council for Buckinghamshire strengthens the county's economic and public service governance system. We now have one LEP, one Council, one CCG, one Healthcare Trust, and one business support organisation (Buckinghamshire Business First), one Further Education group, the Buckinghamshire College Group, and two universities, Buckinghamshire New University and the University of Buckingham. All are co-terminous and are part of a system that has an established culture and practice of partnership working.

The Buckinghamshire Growth Board is still relatively new, but it is developing into a body that can provide effective place leadership on recovery and public service reform. It has already developed an ambitious pipeline of growth projects, which were set out in

its recent submission to the Government's Spending Review. The proposals in this deal proposition have been developed by the Board and its partners over the summer, demonstrating the commitment that all partners have to a deal that can give Buckinghamshire the tools to accelerate recovery.

**'The Buckinghamshire Growth Board will be our single voice for place-based governance.'**

This Board will be our single voice for place-based governance, able to enter into agreement with Government, and to then oversee delivery with and through its partners. We may expand its membership over time to reflect all key delivery partners, which may include putting in place framework delivery deals for all our delivery partners.

It will be supported by a dedicated Secretariat, with Buckinghamshire Council acting as the accountable body.



## 7. SUMMARY OF PROPOSITION ELEMENTS

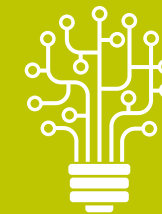
Aylesbury town centre

### PLACES



- A Housing Investment Board with CPO, borrowing, funding and permitted development land, freedoms and powers
- A £100m Single Pot Housing Investment Fund
- A county wide approach to public land

### HIGH-TECH SECTORS



- A £400m Single Pot Investment Fund
- Ability to extend Enterprise Zones
- Pilot area for NHS investment in digital applications
- Principles of an Enterprise Zone or freeport in South Buckinghamshire

### SKILLS



- Devolution of Adult Education Budget
- Work with government to streamline the approach for local delivery of national employment programmes
- Devolution of Apprenticeship Levy
- A county wide Apprenticeship Training Agency with a Buckinghamshire Skills Fund
- Pilot agreement with DWP and across government on shared data to assist employment support and job matching

### INFRASTRUCTURE



- A £60m Digital Infrastructure Investment Fund
- Pilot traffic powers at the local level
- County wide bus regulation
- Fund and statutory status for England's Economic Heartland



# A scalable Buckinghamshire proposition to accelerate UK recovery

