



# Annual Report

2019 - 2020

**Buckinghamshire**  
LOCAL ENTERPRISE  
PARTNERSHIP  
THE ENTREPRENEURIAL HEART OF BRITAIN

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Aylesbury Vale  
Enterprise Zone

BUILDING BUSINESS  
INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES  
IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

[www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk)

Buckinghamshire  
County Council  
Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone

AYLESBURY VALE  
ENTERPRISE ZONE

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### Useful websites:

**Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership**  
[www.buckslep.co.uk](http://www.buckslep.co.uk)

**Buckinghamshire Advantage**  
[www.bucksadvantage.co.uk](http://www.bucksadvantage.co.uk)

**Aylesbury Woodlands**  
[www.aylesburywoodlands.co.uk](http://www.aylesburywoodlands.co.uk)

**Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone**  
[www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk)

**Bucks Skills Hub**  
[www.oppsinbucks.org](http://www.oppsinbucks.org)

**Buckinghamshire Business First**  
[www.bbf.uk.com](http://www.bbf.uk.com)

**LEP Network**  
[www.lepnetwork.net](http://www.lepnetwork.net)

**Buckinghamshire Council**  
[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Aylesbury Garden Town**  
[www.aylesburygardentown.co.uk](http://www.aylesburygardentown.co.uk)

# // Foreword //



I am pleased to introduce this year's Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Bucks LEP) Annual Report, which captures the diversity and range of activity undertaken by the LEP and partners over the past twelve months, and demonstrates the economic impact we are all making across Buckinghamshire.

Of course, times are tough for industry and all kinds of businesses as a result of the Covid-19 crisis and we, doubtlessly, face some considerable challenges ahead. However, Bucks LEP remains steadfast in its ambitions and is well prepared to weather any storms and embrace future opportunities. Indeed, Bucks LEP was one of the first in the country to make available £2 million of funding to support businesses in Buckinghamshire affected by Covid-19.

There is a real momentum within Buckinghamshire, and we are driven to ensure the local business community feels the benefit of this progress. During 2020, Government recognised our delivery as being 'excellent' for projects and programmes which contribute to the execution of our overall vision for Buckinghamshire, and our Buckinghamshire Careers Hub was recognised as the highest achieving in the country by the Careers and Enterprise Company.

But we are not a LEP just delivering what is expected, we are trying to push the county's business community to new heights and, by successfully applying to deliver additional projects, we are also seeing Buckinghamshire lead the way nationally and even internationally.

A key highlight is the delivery of one of the first trailblazing Local Industrial Strategies, which will help drive the Buckinghamshire economy. Our Local Industrial Strategy, which responds to government's own UK Industrial Strategy, has seen us team up with dozens of businesses, education providers and our local authorities to help shape an ambitious strategy that positions the county as one of the top global innovation ecosystems. In addition, we have teamed up with partners to promote the opportunities that exist across the region, as a successful, innovative and productive knowledge-economy that contributes over £11bn GVA nationally, with potential to do much more.

Bucks LEP's Local Industrial Strategy confirms Buckinghamshire's ambitions to have leading sectors, like space and creative industries, capture the world stage and sets out how the area will maximise these economic opportunities to boost productivity and economic potential.

The work of the Bucks LEP Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First, continues to help businesses of all sizes right across the area to achieve their growth plans and thereby maximise investment and employment opportunities. Likewise, our Bucks Skills Hub is ensuring our workforce has the right skills and competencies to allow both individuals and organisations to flourish, with careers advice and guidance, fundamentally at of our core.

Bucks LEP stands at the heart of the business relationship between Whitehall and our local partners, a network that includes our region's business associations, higher and further education, and other local area partners. Together, we have combined to form a strong and united approach which reflects our county's priorities for investment, infrastructure and business support. In addition, the reorganisation of local government in Buckinghamshire to establish a single unitary authority in April opens up opportunities for greater joint working to support the delivery of economic growth for the county.

Bucks LEP is a strong and robust partnership. We have reviewed and improved our governance structures, and this year have welcomed new Board members to support the continued growth of our economy and help our businesses to flourish locally and internationally.

Bucks LEP and its partners have raised Buckinghamshire's reputation as a great place to do business on a national and global scale, and look forward to continuing to do so in the coming years. Our strengths are diverse, ranging from the space and advanced engineering sectors to the creative industries, all helping to attract inward investment and make Buckinghamshire a better place to live and work.

As I reflect on our achievements, I also look towards the next 12 months with optimism and confidence. There is no doubt that we are operating in uncertain times, but one thing is for sure, we have solid foundations to build upon and through ongoing partnership working and clear targets, I believe we will continue to achieve great things.

On behalf of the Bucks LEP I would like to thank our partners and the business community for their ongoing support.

A stylized, handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Andrew M. Smith'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Andrew M. Smith  
Chair, Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership

# // Chief Executive update //



I'm delighted to have seen our LEP's continued success over the past year, with over 12,000 businesses being supported and the unlocking of around £300 million of total investment in Buckinghamshire to improve our economy and future-proof our infrastructure.

The LEP's core mission is to improve productivity and support inclusive growth and in this annual review you can read more about many of the projects which have benefitted from investment to help us achieve these aims. Through a period of economic uncertainty, the LEP has identified opportunities for growth, innovation and collaboration. The LEP's role in helping businesses grow, seek new markets and innovate has never been more relevant.

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 employment and business opportunities and enhancing digital connectivity to support sustainable economic growth in Buckinghamshire.

This year we have seen a flurry of projects come to fruition right across Buckinghamshire. In the past 12 months our Local Growth Fund investment has helped support the development of the Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub; the Satellite Applications Innovation Centre at Westcott; new educational facilities including at the world-leading National Film and Television School and the University of Buckingham's School of Computing and Centre for Artificial Intelligence; along with investment in infrastructure projects such as the High Wycombe Town Centre link

road. This performance in our Local Growth Fund has enabled Bucks LEP to be graded 'excellent' for delivery in the Government's annual assessment of Local Enterprise Partnerships.

In addition, there has been major growth and development in many of our key projects and schemes, including activity around our three Enterprise Zones at Silverstone Park, Westcott Venture Park and Aylesbury Woodlands to attract and develop new business investment.

We recognise that businesses today face many challenges, not least the fallout from the Covid-19 crisis, but our primary objective remains very simple, helping companies to grow and secure customers in local, national and international markets.

We will continue to focus on helping innovative companies to thrive and create jobs for local people and enhance our position as the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

More than ever this year, we can be proud of our achievements and I look forward to the coming year where we can build on our solid foundations to further grow the Buckinghamshire economy. But none of our achievements would be possible without an engaged and thoughtful Board, a strong, experienced and hard-working executive team, and the excellent support we receive from our partners. I am extremely grateful to them all.

I hope you enjoy reading this report and finding out more about our achievements and ambitious plans for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Harrington". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Richard Harrington  
CEO Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership

# // Who are we? //

Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership (Bucks LEP) is one of 38 Local Enterprise Partnerships operating across England. We are considered by Government to be amongst the most successful in terms of our strategic outlook, operational delivery and exceptional reach and insight into the business community.

The purpose of Bucks LEP is to help drive forward the local economy. Stimulating growth and attracting investment, thereby improving the economic prospects of the communities and people across our area.

Our work is primarily concerned with enabling sustainable and productive economic growth through creating more jobs, up-skilling our workforce and by providing the vital supporting infrastructure and housing – read on to find out how are we doing this.

**HIGHEST PROPORTION OF VERY SMALL COMPANIES IN BRITAIN, WITH 77% EMPLOYING FEWER THAN 5 PEOPLE**

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HAS THE 2ND HIGHEST 'LIFE SATISFACTION' SCORE OF ALL 38 LEP AREAS**

**2ND HIGHEST BUSINESS SURVIVAL RATES (3 YEARS AFTER STARTING UP) OF 38 LEP AREAS**

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE'S POPULATION EXPECTED TO GROW 4.5% BETWEEN 2018 – 2030**



**BUCKS HOUSE BUILDING RATES ARE A QUARTER ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE**



# // Building on a strong and successful economy //

Buckinghamshire has a strong economy, which is the number one LEP area for good growth according to the latest Demos-PWC Good Growth Index.



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

It has been another successful year for top performing Buckinghamshire LEP, with confirmation coming from the Government's annual assessment of LEPs, which awarded Bucks LEP with 'exceptional' for its delivery. In the past 12 months Bucks LEP's Local Growth Fund investment has supported many projects including the completion of the High Wycombe Town Centre Transport Improvement Scheme, Silverstone Sports Innovation Campus and Pinewood Creates. In addition, Bucks LEP's Skills Hub has been ranked number one in the country by the Careers & Enterprise Company; and its Enterprise Zones are going from strength to strength with over 40,000m<sup>2</sup> of new growth being delivered at Silverstone, Westcott and Woodlands sites.

But we are not complacent, and despite the impact of Covid-19, we continue to support our high potential businesses and key growth sectors to flourish and grow further and access new national and international markets.

Buckinghamshire is home to iconic business brands and locations: Pinewood, the National Film and Television School, Silverstone, the National Space Propulsion Facility (at Westcott Park) and Stoke Mandeville, the birthplace of the Paralympic Movement, along with businesses such as Bosch, McAfee, GE Healthcare, Instron, ESRI, Cisco and Silverson.

It has a productive economy with a dynamic and resilient employment base underpinned by a strong and high-quality SME business community. Our grammar schools lead the way in the best performing schools' system in the country, with evidence showing we have one the best educated workforces in the land.

## Our Vision

**Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership's vision is to “create a vibrant, balanced, competitive Buckinghamshire economy. Our mission is to create the conditions that support business to invest, grow, and thrive.”**



# Our Strategic Objectives:



To work with public and private sector partners to develop a shared vision for the future of the local economy and to use the LEP Board as a forum for collective discussion and decision making on strategic growth priorities.



To make decisions on individual scheme approvals, investment decision making and release of funding, including scrutiny of individual scheme business cases.



To identify, monitor and evaluate the delivery of funded projects.



To agree a prioritised list of investments within the available budget.

## Our Outstanding Economy

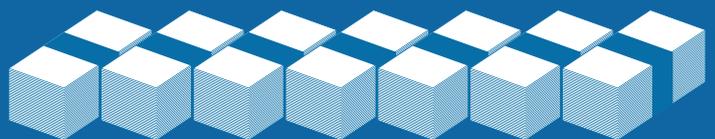
**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HAD ONE OF THE HIGHEST RATES OF GROWTH OF EMPLOYMENT OF ALL 38 LEP AREAS, BETWEEN 2015 – 2018**

**3RD HIGHEST EMPLOYMENT RATE OUT OF 38 LEPS**



**OVER 20% OF ALL BUSINESSES ARE EITHER IN THE PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC OR TECHNICAL SECTORS, SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN NATIONAL AVERAGE**

**£17 BILLION ECONOMY**



**9TH HIGHEST BUSINESS START-UP RATES OF 38 LEP AREAS**

## Our LEP is blessed with:



A guaranteed place at the top of the start-ups tables



1st out of 38 LEP areas for good growth.



The highest ratio of private to public sector employment in England



Amongst the highest qualified residents in the country

# Securing Investment

Our primary objective is to mobilise each of Buckinghamshire's internationally significant economic assets - space, creative, advanced manufacturing and digital health - enabling the growth of clusters of businesses that are pioneers in their fields and raising productivity nationally, regionally and in Buckinghamshire.

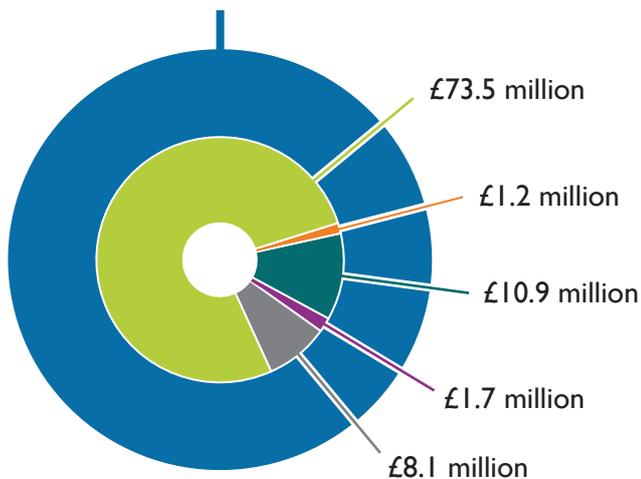
Our purpose-built business Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First, is a major strength representing a membership of over 12,000 businesses including almost 70% of the local private sector workforce. Buckinghamshire Business First is helping make Bucks one of the best places to start, run and grow a business.

We are vital in delivering the national growth agenda. All the evidence suggests that Buckinghamshire, like many other county economies, although rural and without a city, remains a critically important investment channel in underpinning economic growth and national industrial strategy.

## Increasing prosperity and growth – Local Growth Fund

Bucks is a major wealth generator for the UK economy, and the commitment of over £73m in Local Growth Funds is unleashing ambition and creativity across 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 Buckinghamshire. The Local Growth Fund grant has leveraged over £119m match funding generating a capital programme value of over £192 million.

**OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS WE HAVE SECURED OVER £100M WORTH OF DIRECT INVESTMENT INTO BUCKINGHAMSHIRE UNLOCKING A TOTAL INVESTMENT OF OVER £300M.**



- Growing Places Fund
- Local Growth Funds (Including £8.3m Local Transport Body)
- European Structural Funds
- LEP Core Capacity Funding
- Enterprise Zone retained business rates

## Bucks LEP investing in recovery

Bucks LEP has taken the lead to support businesses who have started to make plans for how they can recover from the Covid-19 crisis, by making available £2m for new grants to ensure recovery, future resilience and growth. The Buckinghamshire Recovery Investment Fund, provided by Bucks LEP, is part of a coordinated support programme for businesses, to help them not only survive but position themselves to grow and flourish post-Covid. Match-funded grants of between £3,000 and £120,000 were made available to support businesses with innovative projects to help accelerated recovery and support future resilience.

**Funding is being invested in better transport links, business and innovation space, education facilities and technology:**

7.5km of new strategic road links enabling the delivery of over 11,000 new homes  
reducing flood risk to over 1,400 homes

Creating over 5,000 jobs and apprenticeships

18km of new cycleways

Providing 54,000 premises access to superfast broadband

New education and training facilities for over 4,500 people

Over 229,000 square meters of new business and commercial space

(projected targets over the life of the Local Growth Fund Programme)

There's certainly plenty to shout about. In the past 12 months our Local Growth Fund investment has helped support the development of new educational facilities, infrastructure projects and centres of innovation and engineering.

This performance in our Local Growth Fund has enabled Bucks LEP to be graded 'excellent' for delivery in the Government's annual assessment of Local Enterprise Partnerships – one of only four LEPs to achieve this!



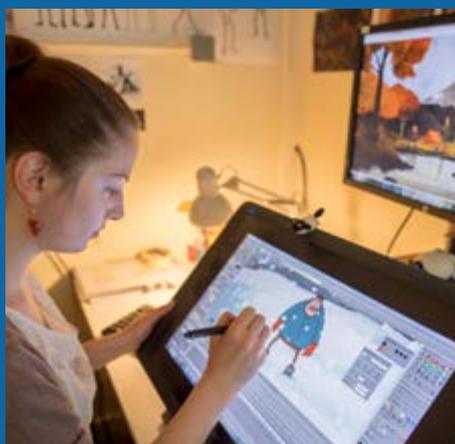
### **Investment regenerating High Wycombe Town Centre**

A new road link through High Wycombe Town Centre has been completed thanks to Bucks LEP Local Growth Funding of £8.5 million, boosting regeneration potential, unlocking hundreds of high quality new homes, as well as commercial and retail opportunities. Work started on the scheme in 2015 to improve accessibility, public realm, address local congestion and traffic movement through the town centre. This outstanding collaboration with local authorities and developer, Inland Homes, has transformed the town centre, paving the way for future investment and regeneration plans in High Wycombe.



### **World class sports engineering hub opens at Silverstone Enterprise Zone**

A cutting-edge elite sports engineering facility, funded by Bucks LEP, has officially opened at Silverstone. Investment of £2m Local Growth Funding in the Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub, situated in our Silverstone Enterprise Zone, has established a research, development and business incubation centre to put Bucks at the forefront of the development of aerodynamic technologies for high-performance sport.



### **Boost to Buckinghamshire's world-renowned creative sector**

Bucks LEP funding of £1.6m is supporting Bucks Creates@Pinewood to bring a full suite of 21 new masters and bachelor's degree programmes in the crafts integral to the film, media and TV industry. A partnership involving Buckinghamshire New University, Creative Media Skills, Pinewood Studios and Bucks LEP will boost education in the creative industries, which contributes £7.7bn to the economy and is the UK's fastest growing sector. Buckinghamshire's creative sector is world-renowned - with the highest proportion of employment in this sector in the UK with over 17,300 jobs across 4,430 businesses – and funding this major project will further unlock its long-term impact for the local economy and support the delivery of the Government's Industrial Strategy.



### **Ground-breaking computing and AI centre comes to Bucks**

Thanks to a £2m LGF grant from Bucks LEP, the University of Buckingham is able to commence work on a pioneering new School of Computing and Centre for Artificial Intelligence. Due to open in early 2022, the new School of Computing and Centre for AI will offer new undergraduate and Masters programmes in AI, Cyber Security, Immersive Technologies and Data Science. This new development will have a game-changing impact on Buckingham and the surrounding area by facilitating the training of the next generation of leaders and supporting the UK to realise its industrial ambitions. It will also enhance Buckinghamshire's pivotal position and help to attract inward investment and create a step change in local economic growth.

# Firing up major investment - Growing Places Fund

Bucks LEP is investing, recycling and re-investing its £8.1m Growing Places Fund on projects that offer great returns for Bucks on jobs, business critical infrastructure and growth.

We have already demonstrated our ability to deliver an ambitious programme. 100% of our Growing Places Funding has been used to kick-start the regeneration of the town centres and access gateways in Aylesbury and High Wycombe, as well as supporting tourism and Bucks LEP's skills and wider growth programmes.

## European funding continues to secure jobs and growth in Bucks

The 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) bring the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), European Social Fund (ESF) and part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) together into a single Growth Programme for England. This supports our key growth priorities of innovation, research and development, support for small and medium sized enterprises, low carbon, skills, employment, and social inclusion.

Businesses and communities across Buckinghamshire have benefited from £10.9m of European funding, secured by Bucks LEP, for growth and jobs. Projects supported by this funding include:

### Skills Brokerage Service

Identifying training opportunities to increase the productivity of over **1,000** Buckinghamshire based businesses.

### Low Carbon Workspaces

Awards grants between **£1,000 and £5,000** to help small to medium sized business enterprises (SME) in Buckinghamshire install energy saving projects.

### Rural Funding

Awards to support the development and diversification in our rural and tourism businesses.

### Halo Growth Programme

Businesses can access either tailored business growth advice or **£1,000** Growth Grants.

### Business Incubation Space

Our European programme funding has enabled business incubation and support services to be established in High Wycombe, Stoke Mandeville and at Westcott, providing invaluable support for start-ups and growing businesses in the health, social care and space and rocket propulsion sectors.

# Space, Connectivity and Innovation at Westcott

(by Kieran Arnold, Director of Ubiquitous Connectivity at the Satellite Applications Catapult)

Located within the Enterprise Zone at Westcott Park is the Westcott Space Cluster, currently home to a 5G Step-Out Centre, a Business Incubation Centre, and the recently opened Innovation Centre. These centres are run by the Satellite Applications Catapult in partnership with Buckinghamshire LEP.

5G is the fifth generation (thus, the “G”) of mobile wireless systems, a way for devices, both mobile and stationary, to send and receive data without being plugged into a wall in your home or at the office. Typically, a new generation is named when it denotes a significant leap in wireless mobile technologies.

The 5G Step-Out Centre (5G SOC) houses facilities and expertise in connectivity, with a specific focus on 5G but also capabilities in satellite communications and other terrestrial networks. The 5G SOC boasts the latest infrastructure and testing facilities for both 4G and 5G networks, and the team are currently developing what is planned to be the first private standalone (not reliant on an existing 4G) 5G network in the UK. The 5G SOC is currently being used by businesses testing their innovations, as well as by the Catapult team on its own work.

Over the road from the 5G Centre is the Westcott Business Incubation Centre (BIC), offering tailored support and grants to growing businesses. The BIC focuses on 5G, space propulsion and autonomous systems due to the multitude of opportunities available with other organisations and testing facilities on site.

A successful BIC organisation, Extend Robotics, who have been receiving support at the BIC to develop their road safety technology, are now about to begin working in the 5G SOC to test and develop this technology further and to complete demonstration trials with local authorities on nearby roads.

The Innovation Centre, funded by Bucks LEP, was launched in October and aims to build on the opportunities provided by the BIC and to offer flexible manufacturing space, offices and meeting rooms to support businesses, as well as access to networks and expertise that the Catapult and Westcott Space Cluster can offer.

As with all the Catapult’s activities, the 5G Centre, BIC and Innovation Centre have been created to deliver impact to the UK space industry by supporting the commercialisation of new ideas.



# // An enabler for growth //

Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership is an enabling body which seeks to create a business-friendly environment in which organisations can succeed. We have worked with our partners to identify an approach for directing and prioritising our activity and achieving improved business productivity. As a result of this approach, we have achieved great success during 2019/20.

## Spring

Bucks LEP announced £4 million of funding to support three new initiatives – ‘The National Centre for Immersive Storytelling’, ‘School of Computing and Centre for AI’ and ‘Bucks Creates @ Pinewood’ – to strengthen and build Bucks’ creative sector.



Thanks to a £2m LGF grant from Bucks LEP, the University of Buckingham is able to commence work on a pioneering new School of Computing and Centre for Artificial Intelligence.



Showcased the great careers-focused work taking place in Bucks by our Skills Hub during a visit by the Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon John Bercow MP, when he visited The Cottesloe School in Aylesbury Vale.



Bucks LEP was delighted to confirm its formal establishment as a new company limited by guarantee, to further strengthen the partnership and help deliver prosperity for Bucks.

Schools across Bucks went head-to-head in the county’s Sales Apprentice Challenge at Pinewood Studios, organised by Bucks LEP’s Skills Hub to help students gain essential skills for the world of work.



Bucks LEP funding supported the new two-way Easton Street road system to improve road infrastructure in central High Wycombe.

Bucks LEP launched its trailblazing Local Industrial Strategy to drive the Bucks economy to further increase innovation, support international trade, improve connectivity and maximise the economic opportunities of the region.

## Summer



A new, Bucks LEP funded, Innovation Centre is to be built at globally recognised Westcott Space Cluster and will complement the new 5G Step-Out Centre and the Westcott Business Incubation Centre.



Bucks LEP’s Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First, was delighted to be working with the University of Buckingham on its new Enterprise Hub, to support enterprise and tomorrow’s entrepreneurs.

Bucks LEP was delighted to announce that in just 18 months all industrial units on the 125,000 sq ft Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone site at Silverstone had been let.

Visit Buckinghamshire & The Chilterns were delighted to work in partnership with Buckinghamshire New University on the creation of a new video to put Buckinghamshire’s visitor attractions on the map.



A cutting-edge sports engineering facility, funded by Bucks LEP, for world class athletic performance was officially opened at Silverstone Enterprise Zone.

Bucks LEP was delighted by the news that its Buckinghamshire Careers Hub was recognised as the highest achieving in the country by the Careers and Enterprise Company.

Bucks LEP funding of £1.6m supported Bucks Creates@Pinewood to bring a full suite of 21 new masters and bachelor’s degree programmes in film, media and TV industry to the area.

# Autumn

Completion of the Bucks LEP funded A355 road improvement scheme.

Support for Bucks LEP's Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First, to deliver Brexit funding, events and advice.

Over 4,000 young people from Bucks enjoyed meeting over 130 local businesses and gaining invaluable careers advice at the biggest ever Bucks Skills Show.



Bucks LEP were delighted to sponsor the Small Business Award at the 2019 Bucks Business Awards.

Completion of the £8.5m Bucks LEP funded High Wycombe Town Centre link road, supporting future investment and regeneration plans.



Bucks LEP funding has enabled the National Film and Television School to upgrade its facilities to become one of the few film schools in Europe to be awarded Dolby Atmos® certification.

Bucks LEP was delighted by news of Virgin Media's rollout of the UK's fastest gigabit home broadband to High Wycombe and Marlow.

Bucks LEP welcomed Government Transport Minister Baroness Vere of Norbiton to Westcott Enterprise Zone to witness a showcase of new technologies to revolutionise our lives.



Bucks LEP's Skills Hub were delighted to welcome a Spanish delegation to Bucks to see first-hand how the county excels in careers provision. (+Pic)



# Winter



Bucks LEP were delighted to support the launch of two new Innovation Centres in Buckinghamshire with £2.62m Local Growth Funding, to provide a thriving eco-system for early stage health, technology and digital businesses to grow. (+Pic)



Bucks LEP celebrated their achievements and previewed 2020's plans at their AGM. (+Pic)

Bucks LEP's Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First, joined forces with nine other countries to work jointly on a new initiative called Inno Industry, which is helping businesses to embrace digital technologies such as Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI).



Bucks LEP supported the 2020 Buckinghamshire Business Festival organised by its Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First. (+Pic)

The Government's annual assessment of Local Enterprise Partnerships awarded Bucks LEP with 'exceptional' for its delivery.



Bucks LEP launched its new website ([www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk/](http://www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk/)) to provide latest information on key developments across Buckinghamshire's Enterprise Zones.

Bucks LEP made available £2m of funding to provide new grants up to £120,000 to support businesses looking to invest in resilience, repurposing or recovery initiatives as they prepare to overcome the challenges presented by the Covid-19 (coronavirus) crisis.

Supported the Visit Buckinghamshire & The Chilterns bespoke support package to help businesses survive and be ready to bounce back post Covid-19.

Bucks LEP established a redundancy task force to support people who have lost their jobs or are looking for new opportunities due to the Covid-19 (coronavirus) crisis.

# // Our business plans //

Buckinghamshire's economic position, despite the Covid-19 crisis, remains strong with high rates of economic participation, low unemployment, a well skilled workforce and a strong enterprise base.

Our Strategic Economic Plan highlights local aims to deliver increased prosperity and jobs for Buckinghamshire by putting any available funds to work, focusing on better transport connectivity, helping businesses to grow faster, and bringing business and education together more fruitfully.

## What we aim to do

The focus for Bucks LEP is in preparing the ground for continued prosperity through enabling sustainable economic growth:



To get the right economic growth decisions taken more quickly



To stimulate more smart and sustainable business growth in the county



To bring forward the necessary business-critical infrastructure



To secure the inward investment needed to underpin growth



To ensure the supply of the skilled, flexible workforce needed by our firms

We use Bucks LEP's powerful national, regional and local voice to ensure that critical infrastructure is delivered on schedule. We are currently supporting the case to advance development for business-critical national infrastructure projects such as the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway and the expansion of Heathrow airport.

### UK's fastest gigabit home broadband comes to Bucks

Bucks LEP continues to make excellent progress towards supporting superfast broadband in Buckinghamshire, with over 96% coverage, and news of Virgin Media's investment of the UK's fastest gigabit home broadband into the county further supports our position as a top performing LEP for broadband delivery. Gigabit connectivity is vital to ensuring our businesses, and particularly SMEs, are able to remain competitive in an increasingly digital-age by enabling them to adopt new advanced technologies, and to engage and strengthen partnerships with world-leading businesses and research institutes.

Our strength and depth of business support and leadership sets us apart:



Through the Buckinghamshire Business First network we have links to the business community unparalleled in any other LEP



We are small, flexible and proactive



We can spot and react to business needs quickly



### Bucks Growth Hub joins global partners to spearhead 4th industrial revolution

Bucks LEP's Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First, has joined forces with nine other countries to work jointly on a new initiative called Inno Industry, which is helping businesses to embrace digital technologies, such as Big Data and AI, to prepare for the 'fourth industrial revolution' known as 'industry 4.0'. The project aims to increase the number of business clusters that are supporting the transition to Industry 4.0, and to create a blueprint of best practice in digital technologies.

# Strategic Economic Plan

Our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) for Buckinghamshire reflects the government's policy for local economic growth, the emerging UK Industrial Strategy framework, the work of England's Economic Heartland Strategic Alliance and the changed local planning conditions.

Our SEP sets out ambitions to 2031 to drive innovation and accelerated economic growth to meet the needs of our economy and place Buckinghamshire at the forefront of the UK's global growth ambitions.

The SEP will do this by supporting four main strategic priorities:



Business growth & innovation



Connectivity



Skills and talent



Town centre regeneration

## New economic plan to super-charge Bucks

As one of the first trailblazing Local Industrial Strategies in the country, the strategy is driving the Buckinghamshire economy to further increase innovation, support international trade, improve connectivity and set out how the area will maximise economic opportunities.

The Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy focuses on strengthening and exploiting the county's most important economic assets – including Silverstone, Pinewood Studios, and Westcott Space Cluster - assets that are distinctive to Buckinghamshire and are significant nationally and internationally.

The Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy builds on its four big economic assets in the space, creative, advanced engineering and digital health sectors.

This includes:

- A long-term investment plan for Westcott Space Cluster to develop new research and development facilities and a base manufacturing excellence in space propulsion and in-orbit maintenance, and to address skills shortages for technicians and propulsion test specialists.
- A new Screen Industries Global Growth Hub at Pinewood Studios to provide support to creative businesses.

- Using Silverstone Park and technology cluster to stimulate high tech cross overs, supporting emerging technologies through improving links between firms, improving links between businesses and universities, and improving networking across the region.
- Digital health, med-tech and advanced artificial intelligence – building on assets including Stoke Mandeville Spinal Centre and Buckinghamshire Life Sciences Innovation Centre.

*“Buckinghamshire is already the fourth most productive area in England and has the highest employment rate in the Oxford-Cambridge area, and the strategy released today will go even further to help boost earning power and opportunities for people and businesses in Buckinghamshire.”*

Business Secretary Greg Clark MP (Until July 2019).

For further information please go to:  
[www.buckstvlpe.co.uk/our-strategies/  
local-industrial-strategy/](http://www.buckstvlpe.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/)



# Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub firing innovation, business productivity and growth for Bucks

(by Rob Lewis, Director of Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub and Managing Director of TotalSim Ltd)

The Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub (SSEH) was created by Aerodynamics and Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) experts TotalSim. Through their extensive experience working with Team GB and other elite athletes, they discovered a need for affordable, bespoke, sports engineering tools. For decades, aerodynamics has been used in elite sports to improve performance. However, in the past the use of wind tunnels for athletes has been prohibitively expensive as they've mainly been designed for the requirements of motorsport, aerospace and automotive sectors.

The Sports Performance Wind Tunnel at SSEH has been designed to minimise running costs and therefore become a regular training tool for athletes. It can run tests at almost every wind speed and angle an athlete can encounter as well as offering real-life simulator experience where wind speed increases automatically as pedal power increases. The tunnel, whilst designed for cyclists, also has future development opportunities for winter sports including bobsleigh and speed skaters as well as para-athletes and sprinters.

On a smaller scale, the fabric development wind tunnel based at SSEH is available to hire for those companies who wish to assess the aerodynamic qualities of fabrics, particularly for performance sports clothing.

Other services SSEH offer are 3D scanning, whether it be for aerodynamic development, reverse engineering or Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) staff at SSEH have many years of experience in scanning athletes from multiple disciplines and have refined a fast and accurate 3D scanning approach.

The support of Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership with a grant of £2m meant that what started out as an initial project to find a home for a Sports Performance Wind Tunnel could grow into a bigger project to benefit small businesses looking for a presence within the high-tech community at Silverstone Park. The Hub is designed to bring like-minded people into a common community, to help people, teams and companies succeed. At present the Hub is home to seven engineering and technology-based businesses who by being based at the Hub makes them perfectly placed to be able to access the facilities there.

The current tenants at SSEH bring a wealth of skills and knowledge to the Hub and through collaboration can provide services ranging from 3D printing to aerodynamic consultancy, bike fitting services and innovation advice.

For more information on the Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub please visit:  
[www.silverstonesportshub.co.uk](http://www.silverstonesportshub.co.uk)

# // Business-led and focused //

Buckinghamshire LEP is 100% business-led and focused, which includes a Private Sector Board and over 11,000 businesses now engaged with our Local Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First. Our strategy and projects have been shaped by thousands of local business owners through their direct involvement with Buckinghamshire Business First; at regular roundtable 'Think Tank' events, Business Leaders' Dinners, workshops and a multitude of other networking opportunities.

Our Business Growth Hub is the envy of almost every Local Enterprise Partnership in England and it has been another successful year for top performing Buckinghamshire Business First. There's plenty to shout about, having delivered £1.8 million in grants to businesses, provided nearly 12,000 business support interactions, and facilitated nearly 700 new jobs through their activity over the past 12 months. Representing more than 30% of the county's businesses, and more than 70% of the county's private sector employees, Buckinghamshire Business First continues to set the standard for others to follow.



## Bucks Business First supporting businesses during crisis

During these times of unprecedented economic uncertainty, businesses in Bucks have been supported by Buckinghamshire Business First, who have provided advice, grants and support throughout these challenging times. Buckinghamshire Business First was the first port of call for hundreds of businesses when the crisis hit and has been able to help organisations find their way through the mass of support available to find what is appropriate for them and to support planning for recovery. The Growth Hub supported almost 3,000 businesses between March-May, double the amount during the same period last year. Our Growth Hub is also ideally placed to update businesses on opportunities for them to help in areas of need for the NHS and other bodies with over 500 offers of support from the private business sector. One of those businesses was Global Infusion Group (GIG), experts in the delivery of global catering and event services, who adapted their activity by providing over 1,000 meals a day to 15 NHS sites in Bucks.

Capitalising on the momentum achieved since formation in 2011 our Growth Hub's priorities for 2019-2020 are to realise:

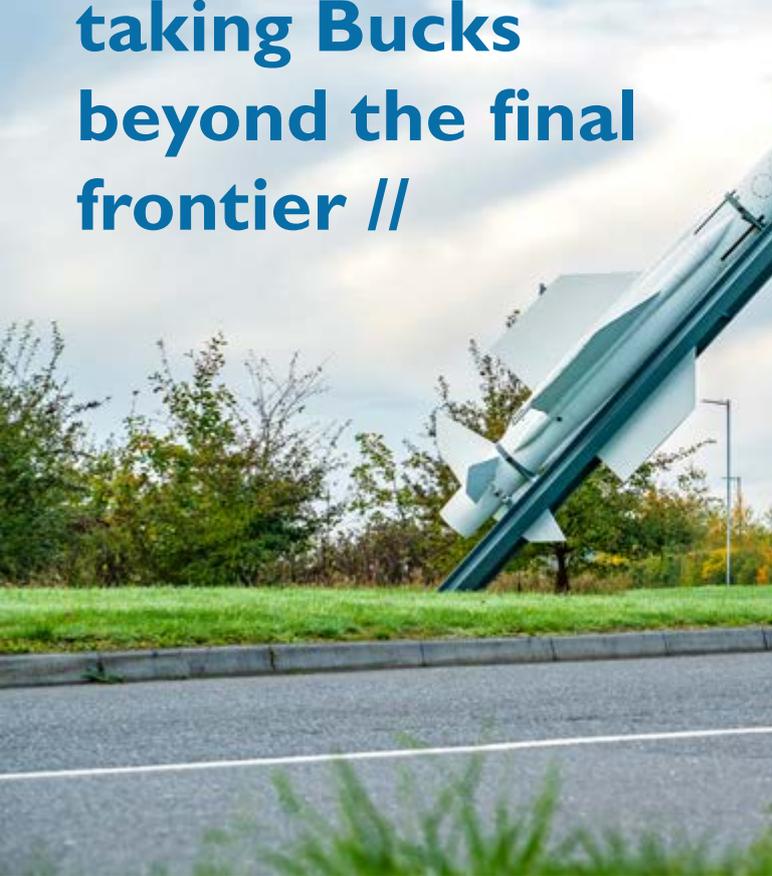
	<b>30,000 business assists</b>
	<b>15 enterprises supported</b> to introduce new products or services
	<b>1,080 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e saved</b>
	<b>500 jobs created</b>
	<b>250 grants paid out</b>
	<b>Start-up support</b> 50 people attending an Enterprise Day 30 people attending a start-up course

# // Delivery partnerships //

Buckinghamshire Advantage, our joint delivery vehicle, has bridged the gap between public and private sectors. Its mission is to identify new opportunities, remove barriers to sustainable development and add value to planned development by promoting growth.

Buckinghamshire Advantage has accelerated the development and delivery of a variety of projects and schemes, including the Aylesbury Woodlands mixed use development covering over 200ha of employment led development to the east of Aylesbury, providing much needed new road infrastructure and supporting the growth of the Aylesbury Garden Town programme.

# // Enterprise Zones taking Bucks beyond the final frontier //



*“We want to level up areas across the country to ensure they have the opportunities and resources they need to succeed in emerging and dynamic sectors.*

*“Through the Local Growth Fund, we have invested £2m in The Westcott Innovation Centre - an important example of this government’s commitment to becoming a world leader in the space sector while levelling up jobs and opportunities in our regions.”*

Luke Hall MP, Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government

Since 2016 the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone has provided an enormous boost to help Buckinghamshire grow its existing businesses and attract and accelerate new investment in key business sectors at Bucks LEP’s three strategically important Enterprise Zone sites.

The scale and special nature of the developments, the mix of uses and its highly strategic position, enables the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone sites to compete nationally and internationally as major employment locations.

Four years on, the sites at Silverstone Park, Westcott Park and at Aylesbury Woodlands are driving forward the Buckinghamshire economy in the sectors of high-performance engineering, space technology and life sciences – all critical to the national economy and, just as importantly, securing business rate returns to be reinvested into the local economy.

Since Enterprise Zone status was granted to these three sites in 2016, there has been major growth and investment, resulting in: 44,370 m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace completed; 25,190 m<sup>2</sup> of floorspace under construction; 32 new businesses established; over 300 jobs created; more than £50m private sector investment; and £11.5m project funding committed to support the growth of Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone.

Working with our Enterprise Zone partners – MEPC, Rockspring and DB Symmetry - there are currently exciting investment and development opportunities across all of our sites.



## Silverstone

- Phase 1 Development 11,665m<sup>2</sup> floorspace completed and 100% occupied (12 companies) by January 2019;
- Phase 2 Development 23,990m<sup>2</sup> floorspace under construction - completion due Q3 2020/21;
- Phase 3 Development 24,632m<sup>2</sup> floorspace - detailed planning application submitted April 2020;
- Unit 1129 (Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub) supported by £2m LGF - opened February 2019;
- EZ Multi Utility Infrastructure Project - £5m funding support from AVEZ - completed January 2020 - providing utilities to enable Phase 2 / Phase 3 and future Silverstone EZ Phases.



## Westcott

- 5G Step out Centre (£0.6m LGF) and Business Incubation Centre (£0.5m ERDF) completed 2018 - supporting 15+ start-up businesses;
- Westcott Site Access Improvements including new A41 roundabout (£1.7m EZ funding support) under construction - completion Q3 2020/21;
- 1,200m<sup>2</sup> Innovation Centre, constructed by Satellite Applications Catapult (£3.2m LGF / EZ Funding) - completion Q3 2020/21;
- National Space Propulsion Test Facility (£4m UKSA funding) - planning application submitted April 2020 - completion by Q4 2020/21.



## Woodlands

- Green Energy Plant (6,500m<sup>2</sup> floorspace) completed by Olleco Ltd (November 2017);
- Phase 1 Symmetry Park (23,100m<sup>2</sup> floorspace) 3 units completed Q4 2019/20 - unit 1 occupied by Global Infusions in 2019 / planning application for film production facility submitted for unit 3 in February 2020;
- Phase 2 Symmetry Park - detailed planning consent for up to 34,930m<sup>2</sup> floorspace;
- Woodlands - resolution to grant Outline Planning Consent (October 2017) for 102,400m<sup>2</sup> employment floorspace in EZ and 1,00 homes - planning consent anticipated Q3 2020/21.

To find out about the latest information on the activities of the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone please go to our new website at: [www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk](http://www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk)



## Minister witnesses the future at Westcott Enterprise Zone

Government Transport Minister Baroness Vere of Norbiton, caught a glimpse of the future when she visited Westcott Enterprise Zone to see a showcase of new technologies that could help revolutionise our lives. During the visit the Minister witnessed the 5G test centre, which is advancing the development of unmanned automated vehicles and their ability to transmit data over a 5G network, and learned about the incubation programme supporting businesses in satellite applications, propulsion systems and drone technologies. At the heart of Bucks LEP's Local Industrial Strategy is the long-term investment plan for Westcott Space Cluster to develop new research and development facilities and a base for manufacturing excellence in space propulsion and in-orbit maintenance. As Baroness Vere said: "Technology will revolutionise the way we live and travel, and it was fantastic to see some of the innovative solutions on offer in Buckinghamshire."



## Silverstone Enterprise Zone a major driving force

Silverstone Park is at the forefront of showing how effective well managed Enterprise Zones can be. In just 18 months all industrial units on the 11,665m<sup>2</sup> Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone site have been let to businesses operating in cutting edge technologies from electric vehicle design to telecommunications to advancements in sports engineering such as aerodynamics. Bucks LEP was instrumental in securing Enterprise Zone status for the Silverstone site, which now is developing a further 23,990m<sup>2</sup> of commercial space to cement its position.

# // Ensuring businesses have the right skilled workforce //

*“This year, from 9 to 13 November, the Bucks Skills Show goes online by live-streaming employers into classrooms across the county. They will bring lessons to life by showing how curriculum subjects can be applied in the workplace. Will my right hon. Friend welcome this initiative and the work of Buckinghamshire Business First, as well as the Bucks careers hub, which was named the top performer in the country? Does he agree that their support for young people facing increasing challenges to kickstart their career post-virus shows what can be achieved by a successful partnership between business, the Bucks local enterprise partnership, the council and the Careers and Enterprise Company?”*

Dame Cheryl Gillan MP (Chesham and Amersham)

The Bucks Skills Hub, by working with local schools and colleges, is connecting young people with business to develop a dynamic programme of employer engagement. An effective ecosystem of skills development and careers inspiration is evolving. While the careers inspiration work is broad, there is a focus on our identified growth sectors ensuring that young people’s ambitions are aligned to where they will be needed most.

Skills development is central to creating the conditions for sustained innovation, excellence and growth for our Buckinghamshire businesses, particularly in priority sectors as described in our Local Industrial Strategy.

Some recent highlights include: the development of the Bucks Skills Show as the essential event to inform young people about career opportunities; becoming only the second area in the country to have Enterprise Adviser coverage in all secondary schools; development of an extensive apprenticeship support programme - all leading to the Buckinghamshire Careers Hub being recognised as the highest achieving in the country by the Careers and Enterprise Company for the second year in a row!

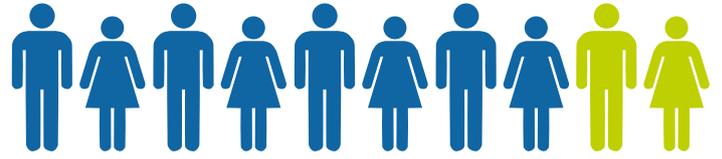


## **Bucks exporting world-class careers education**

A group of officials from Spain visited Buckinghamshire to see first-hand how the county excels in careers provision. The trip included a visit to The Misbourne secondary school - one of the top performing schools in the country for careers education. Since the launch of the Bucks Skills Hub, Bucks LEP have been facilitating the coordination of careers provision across Bucks to improve opportunities for young people and are delighted to be able share this success with colleagues at an international level. Indeed, the Careers and Enterprise Company has placed Bucks LEP (twice!) as the top performing area for careers provision by achieving the highest average number of Gatsby benchmarks.



**7TH HIGHEST QUALIFIED RESIDENTS, WITH A DEGREE-LEVEL QUALIFICATION OR HIGHER, OF 38 LEP AREAS**



**59% OF THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WORKFORCE WORK FOR SMES, MUCH HIGHER THAN THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF 46%**

Underpinning the skills programme is robust research which proves that exposing young people to at least four encounters with employers during their school career reduces their chances of leaving education or training without a job and increases their earning potential.

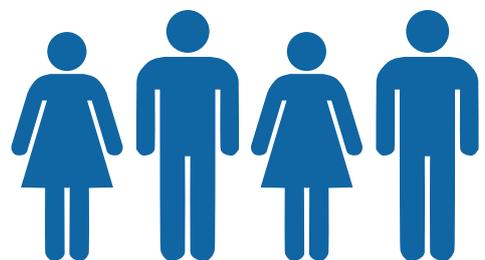
**2ND HIGHEST PROPORTION OF WORKERS WHO ARE SELF-EMPLOYED OF ALL 38 LEP AREAS**



**Bercow sees careers excellence in action**

(Former) Speaker of the House of Commons, Rt Hon John Bercow MP visited The Cottesloe School in Bucks to see first-hand what excellent careers education really looks like. The visit was an opportunity to showcase the fantastic work of Bucks LEP's Skills Hub, which is making excellent progress in Bucks to improve careers awareness and skills development in all our secondary schools. The Skills Hub and its Enterprise Adviser Network supported over 70,000 employer-student encounters in Bucks last year and is home to one of only 20 pilot Careers Hubs in England.

**19% EMPLOYMENT IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR THE 5TH LOWEST IN THE COUNTRY**



# Innovation and collaboration go hand in hand

(by Eman Martin-Vignerte, Head of External Affairs, Government and Political Relations at Bosch)

Robert Bosch, our founder, was an innovator. His driving passion was to improve people's quality of life, and he quickly realised that the best way to do this was through technology. Bosch's first major innovation, the spark plug, made the internal combustion engine possible and transformed the way we travel.

Bosch realised that innovation doesn't happen in isolation; his other great skill was in bringing people together. He collaborated with other businesses, developed and nurtured a talented team, and was the first major businessman to think globally, operating on five continents half a century before many of his competitors.

Just as 120 years ago, we are on the verge of a technological revolution; this time it is the advent of universal connectivity. The Internet of Things will drive vast improvements to our quality of life through safety, sustainability, energy efficiency, convenience and timesaving. The benefits will be enormous, but they can only be realised by working together.

Innovation and collaboration go hand in hand. This is why we set up the Innovation Hub at our headquarters in Denham. The Innovation Hub showcases Bosch technology across all areas of life, from the consumer goods for which we are best known, through to the industrial applications and mobility solutions on which much of modern life depends. It is also a space for collaboration across the business community.

If Robert Bosch were around today, he would recognise different challenges to the problems of his time, but his goals and methods would be unchanged. The best way to innovate is to work together. Why not come to visit us in Denham to explore how? For more information on Bosch please visit: [www.bosch.co.uk/](http://www.bosch.co.uk/)



1 BILLION

# // Looking to a brighter future for Bucks! //

## What's next for Bucks LEP in 2020/21 and beyond?

*“The Department is committed to providing targeted support for young people including those who are still claiming Job Seeker’s Allowance. And I would say, to the noble Lord (Farmer), that there is immense work going on with different businesses, and I know my Secretary of State and the Minister for Employment are going to Pinewood Studios to launch from aviation into the creative industries. The Buckinghamshire LEP have done a great job and we’re hoping that there will be issues and opportunities similar to that all over the country.”*

Baroness Stedman-Scott, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Work and Pensions)



### Growing our priority sectors

We are very excited about developing further collaboration and research capacity within our priority sectors. The iconic locations of Pinewood and Silverstone are now the focus for new business collaboration, along with our vibrant clusters in the fields of high-performance technology and film and creative industries.

For example, Bucks LEP were delighted to announce £4 million in funding to support three new initiatives – ‘The National Centre for Immersive Storytelling’, ‘School of Computing and Centre for AI’ and ‘Bucks Creates @ Pinewood’ – to strengthen and build Buckinghamshire’s creative sector, a key growth driver of the local economy. “Buckinghamshire is a hotbed for the creative industries and it’s fantastic to see even more investment being made in the area to grow and nurture new talent.” Margot James MP, Digital and Creative Industries Minister.

We are also working alongside the UK Space Agency to develop the National Space Propulsion Test centre facility in Buckinghamshire and developing integrated healthcare solutions to reduce the burden on our national health service with Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, Bucks New University and leading technology and life-science companies.



### Bucks the centre of innovation

Developing entrepreneurship is core to Bucks LEP’s DNA and the new Innovation Centre at our Westcott Enterprise Zone is a vital hub for new innovation and local growth. The Bucks LEP funded Innovation Centre, launched at the globally recognised Westcott Space Cluster, will complement the new 5G Step-Out Centre and the Westcott Business Incubation Centre.

The new 1,114m<sup>2</sup> office and engineering training facility, situated on our Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone site, will dramatically improve the facilities at Westcott for innovative space companies, providing ‘grow-on’ space to fuel their next stage of expansion and develop into a dynamic community of space organisations. This Local Growth Fund investment links closely with the aims of our Local Industrial Strategy, to act as a catalyst for working our economic assets harder with a view to creating more opportunity, more collaboration between sectors and more productivity.

# Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy

A Partner in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc

July 2019

## Building the Bucks Local Industrial Strategy

The Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy was published in July 2019. Based on a detailed evidence base, the strategy sets out the framework for productivity growth in Buckinghamshire mobilising our key economic assets, including the creative & digital industries with their heart at Pinewood Studios, high performance engineering and the Silverstone Technology Cluster, the potential of a new space cluster at Westcott, and digital health technologies building on the global reputation of Stoke Mandeville, the birthplace of the Paralympic movement. The opportunities provided by these assets were supplemented by the main economic drivers within Buckinghamshire including digital connectivity and capacity, the skills and education landscape, commercialising innovation and providing high quality business support and presenting Buckinghamshire as a testbed for innovation.

Buckinghamshire LEP have been working alongside a steering group to see how these foundations of the Industrial Strategy are still relevant, to see which areas now need developing into more detailed action plans, and how the new landscape will help shape new actions, particularly in relation to job creation and the development of a green economy to ensure that the county builds back better from the shock of Covid-19.

Whilst the need to grow productivity will continue to be of importance in the medium to long term, the immediate focus of recovery will be on job retention and new job growth. An evidence led approach to a practical action plan to address the impact and opportunities for the Buckinghamshire economy from Covid-19 and the Climate Change Agenda, will look at three phases of recovery: Response - using our evidence to survey the damage and spot new opportunities; Renew – providing a rapid framework to mitigate the challenges and to capitalise swiftly to new opportunities; Rebound – to use this opportunity to develop new thinking to ensure that the Buckinghamshire economy builds back stronger, more resilient and innovative.

## Bucks gets building

We were delighted to announce in August, following approval from the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, the allocation of £7.7m of the Government's Getting Building Fund to four key projects to support economic growth in Buckinghamshire.

The four projects to benefit from this funding, which were approved by the Bucks LEP Board in July, are: the Westcott Disruptive Innovative Space Centre (£2m funding); National Film & TV School site expansion (£2.99m funding); the Centre for Artificial Intelligence and iHub Incubation and Innovation at the University of Buckingham (£2m funding); and the Rural Broadband Programme - Remote Access Rapid Expansion (£710k funding).

Lord David Puttnam, the President of the National Film and TV School (NFTS), welcomed the investment which will help secure its long-term growth ambitions at its Beaconsfield site, and said: "This investment will be essential in helping the world leading National Film and TV School grow and support the next generation of iconic film-makers and creative talent.

"The NFTS is one of our genuinely world-class creative sector organisations, and the proposed expansion will ensure it continues to provide an unrivalled film education to students from all around the world, and enhance the UK's reputation for filmmaking from our Buckinghamshire headquarters."



## Infrastructure for growth

Infrastructure investment is essential for the continued delivery of economic growth in Buckinghamshire. That is why Bucks LEP is investing in major transport infrastructure, including the A355 improvement scheme, Aylesbury Eastern Link Road, High Wycombe Southern Transport Scheme, and Stoke Mandeville Relief Road, fixing utility constraints that prevent commercial site developments and unblocking major commercial property investments which support the needs of business.

In addition, our involvement in the Greater South East Energy Hub is delivering local energy projects to aid the UK's transition to a low carbon economy, through the provision of renewable energy infrastructure and application of new technologies.



## The future is digital

Digital connectivity has never been more critical to businesses and residents alike. As the full impact of COVID-19 is starting to be felt, businesses have changed operating models to keep serving their customers, and ensure their employees are able to continue working wherever possible, largely through digital means; whilst residents continue to socialise, work and communicate online.

Buckinghamshire LEP is proud to state that its support of the Connected Counties programme has currently delivered over 51,000 superfast broadband connections in Buckinghamshire since 2013; whilst our teams have supported nearly 600 rural premises to access central government subsidies for bespoke digital connections, worth £1.1 million. All of this is bolstered by the high demand of our residents and businesses for better digital infrastructure, as the take-up for our deployed services remains one of the highest levels in the UK.

The next financial year will see the progression of the Digital Strategy for Buckinghamshire, exploring the vision, aims and tasks of the LEP for the county's digital skills and infrastructure, as well as how it will encourage and support business innovation and growth through the fourth industrial revolution. This will all be underpinned by the continued improvement of digital connectivity in the area, as the Buckinghamshire Rural Business Broadband Project launches to focus on improving digital infrastructure for our most rural businesses.

# // Board of Directors //

The Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership board comprises 9 local business leaders, one of whom is Chair, and 5 senior elected members from Buckinghamshire Council, and the LEP Chief Executive.

The board provides clear direction and defines priorities for economic development interventions in Buckinghamshire.



## **Andrew M Smith - Chair**

Corporate Affairs Director at Pinewood Studios & Chair of LEP Network Creative Industries Network  
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Email: AndrewM.Smith@pinewoodgroup.com



## **Cllr Martin Tett**

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council.  
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Email: mtett@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



## **Adrian Brown - Vice Chair**

Managing Director Berkeley Strategic, Chair of Buckinghamshire Advantage.  
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## **Cllr Isobel Darby**

Cabinet Member for Communities, Buckinghamshire Council.  
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## **Eman Martin-Vignerte – Diversity Champion**

Head of External Affairs, Government and Political Relations at Bosch  
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## **Cllr Steve Bowles**

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## **Cllr Steven Broadbent**

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## **Richard Harrington**

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## **Clare Pelham**

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## **Martina Porter**

Director, All Spring Media  
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Email: martina@allspringmedia.co.uk



## **Nick Naylor**

Cabinet Member for Transport, Buckinghamshire Council  
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Email: Nick.Naylor@buckinghamshire.gov.uk



## **Professor James Tooley**

Vice-chancellor of the University of Buckingham  
Tel: 07976 403113

# // Financial Position //

Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership receives funding for its day to day core activity from National Government and local partners. The Buckinghamshire LEP Board manages these funding streams and Buckinghamshire Council acts as the Accountable Body for the LEP.

The Financial Statements for the year 2019/20 ended on 31st March 2020, are submitted for external audit scrutiny and, subject to satisfactory completion of the audit, are presented to the Board for sign off. The Financial Statements are below:

## BUCKS LEP INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 2019-20

Income	2019/20	Local Government Contributions	2019/20
Local Government Contributions	£171,652	Other Grants - LEP Management	0
National Government Contributions	£1,179,343	Contributions from Outside Bodies - LEP Management	£171,652
Other Income	£181,524	Other Income - LEP Management	£171,282
Brought Forward	£0	Other Income - Skills Management	£10,242
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£1,532,519</b>		
Expenditure	2019/20	National Government Contributions	2019/20
Staffing Costs**	£758,672	LEP Capacity and Other Grants	£178,000
Board Support & Office Costs***	£175,906	Local Growth Fund Grant for LEP	£375,941
Other Costs (including external research, marketing and communications, meetings, exhibitions and conferences)	£624,848	LEP Core Revenue Funding Grant	£500,000
Net Recharges*	£44,789	LEP Skills Grant	£125,402
Carry Forward	£0	<b>Total Contribution Income</b>	<b>£1,532,519</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£1,514,637</b>		
Net Transfers to Reserves	£17,882		

\* Recharges include net charges comprising other contributions, ICT, HR, Finance, other internal receipts and other contributions

\*\*Staffing costs include salaries, NI, pension, bonus, salary recharges and staff travelling costs.

\*\*\*Board Support & Office costs include course fees, printing & stationery, rents, wayleaves & hire of premises, computer software license & purchase, telephones, subscriptions to national bodies, other professional & consultancy fees, legal fees, general office expenses, website development costs and miscellaneous other expenses.

# CONTACT US



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[www.buckslep.co.uk](http://www.buckslep.co.uk)



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Buckinghamshire  
Council



HM Government