 

No. 007.21 5 March 2021

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

**Buckinghamshire LEP look back on a year of achievements**

[Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) celebrated their achievements of the past 12 months and previewed 2021’s plans at their virtual Annual General Meeting this week, presented for the first time from Pinewood Studios.

The event provided a great opportunity to learn more about the delivery of the [Buckinghamshire Local Industrial Strategy](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/) and [Economic Recovery Plan](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/buckinghamshire-economic-recovery-strategy-consultation/), how Bucks LEP secured investment is helping support [economic growth](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-projects/local-growth-fund-projects/) across Buckinghamshire and how business can work more closely with Bucks LEP and its Skills, Growth Hub, Funding and Enterprise Zone teams.

Andrew M. Smith, Chair of Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, in his final AGM with the LEP said: “We were delighted to welcome attendees to hear more about our achievements over the past 12 months and our ambitious future plans. In particular, to reflect on the delivery of projects and programmes which have contributed to the delivery of our Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan, to help drive the Buckinghamshire economy to further increase innovation, support international trade and improve connectivity to help all businesses deliver their full economic potential.”

Andrew added: “We recognise that businesses have faced many challenges over the past year, not least the fallout from the Covid-19 crisis, but our primary objective has remained very simple, helping companies to grow and secure customers in local, national and international markets.”

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Echoing similar sentiments, attendee Steve Baker MP praised Bucks LEP and its Growth Hub, Buckinghamshire Business First, for their sterling work in supporting local business during the pandemic and the tools to ensure their recovery post Covid.

In this most exceptional of years Bucks LEP investment has supported a £2m Recovery and Resilience Fund for Buckinghamshire businesses and our [Local Growth Fund](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-projects/local-growth-fund-projects/) investment has helped support the development of the Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub; the Satellite Applications Catapult Innovation Centre at Westcott; new educational facilities including at the world-leading National Film and Television School and deliver new broadband connections for many rural businesses; along with investment in infrastructure projects such as the High Wycombe Town Centre link road. Bucks LEP continues to set the standard for others to follow!

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.

A key highlight of the AGM was the launch of the brand-new Bucks Skills Hub website ([www.bucksskillshub.org](http://www.bucksskillshub.org)), which provides a one stop shop for all career and skill needs, including support for career development and pathways and crucially at this time, redundancy support, along with latest opportunities in Buckinghamshire with 1,000s of live jobs available!

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Keynote speakers at the AGM, included political commentator and broadcaster (including The Times, Daily Mail and LBC) **Andrew Pierce,** who gave his views on the current political landscape, the changes he sees emerging in the year ahead and the implications and opportunities for business leaders; and **John Yarham**, Chief Executive the Careers & Enterprise Company, who talked about inspiring and preparing young people for the world of work, and praised the Bucks Skills Hub for their achievements over the past year and leading nationally on the skills agenda.

In particular, John praised Bucks Skills Hub on its dynamic programme of employer engagement, the development of the Bucks Skills Show as the essential event to inform young people about career opportunities in Bucks, becoming only the second area in the country to have Enterprise Adviser coverage in all secondary schools, and the development of an extensive apprenticeship support programme. John highlighted that on the strength of this performance, the Careers and Enterprise Company recognises Buckinghamshire as the highest achieving in the country.

To find out more about Bucks LEP’s impressive achievements over the past year, please read our Annual Report at: [www.buckstvlep.co.uk/useful-information/publications-reports/](http://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/useful-information/publications-reports/)

Bucks LEP is a business led Local Enterprise Partnership which promotes economic growth and prosperity across Buckinghamshire. Bucks is a significant wealth generator for the UK economy, and the commitment of over £73m in Local Growth Funds is unleashing ambition and creativity in the county. This funding is enabling

the delivery of new road and rail infrastructure, better skills and business opportunities and enhancing digital connectivity to support sustainable economic growth in Bucks.

**Ends**

**Note to editors**

The [**Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership**](http://buckstvlep.co.uk/) (Bucks LEP) is a business-led ‘partnership of equals’ between local government and the private sector, building the conditions for sustainable economic growth in the County.

[**Buckinghamshire Business First**](http://www.bbf.uk.com/) (BBF) is the Growth Hub for the county and is backed by Buckinghamshire-based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs, the Buckinghamshire LEP and Buckinghamshire Council. BBF provides the link between public policy and the business community in Buckinghamshire and works with partners to create a dynamic business environment in the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain.

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