No. 003.22 4 March 2022

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

**Report highlights Bucks’ skills priorities and progress**

[Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership](https://www.buckslep.co.uk/)(Bucks LEP) and [Buckinghamshire Business First](file:///C:/Users/LynseyDunn/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Windows/INetCache/Content.Outlook/BMHC4D09/bbf.uk.com) are delighted to partner with [Bucks Skills Hub](https://bucksskillshub.org/) to launch the second annual [Buckinghamshire Local Skills Report](https://bucksskillshub.org/educator/resources/buckinghamshire-local-skills-report).

The ‘go-to’ document for everything skills-related within the county, [Buckinghamshire Local Skills Report 2022](https://bucksskillshub.org/educator/resources/buckinghamshire-local-skills-report) brings together evidence, strategy, information on current and planned skills initiatives and great examples of local employer-education collaboration.

The first report, published in March 2021, was the first of its kind, providing an analysis of Buckinghamshire’s skills and employment needs, identifying the priorities for public investment, and setting out an action plan for skills development in the county. The 2022 Local Skills Report updates the research and charts the progress that has been made since its publication.

The report is based on research undertaken by the Bucks LEP, Buckinghamshire Business First and Bucks Skills Hub on behalf of the Buckinghamshire Skills Advisory Panel (SAP).

Professor Gavin Brooks, Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Buckinghamshire New University, and Chair of the Buckinghamshire Skills Advisory Panel (SAP), said: “I am delighted to introduce the Buckinghamshire Local Skills Report 2022. The report provides a detailed analysis of our county’s skills and employment strengths and challenges and sets out the actions we believe need to be taken forward to ensure our businesses can find the skills they need to grow and compete, and our people are able to secure the jobs and careers to which they aspire. I hope the report will be used by all organisations involved with the local skills agenda to help inform their decision making.” **more…**

**Report highlights Bucks’ skills priorities and progress: 2**

The report highlights key Buckinghamshire skills strengths which include: a strong collaborative culture (between education institutions, and between employers and educators); further and higher education institutions with a strong history of business engagement and a focus on applied learning and employability; significant job growth underway in the construction and film and TV sectors; higher than average levels 2 and 3 attainment by young people aged 19 and high levels of qualifications amongst residents; world-class talent in industries such as high-performance engineering, film and TV, space and med-tech and clear long-term economic growth aspirations set out in Bucks LEP’s [Local Industrial Strategy](https://www.buckslep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/).

Current challenges include: the need to address recruitment difficulties causing problems for employers in many sectors and hampering economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic; initiatives to deal with the growing mismatch between the demand for skills and labour within the local economy and the skills and jobs sought by local residents; the need to ensure strong local talent pipelines for growing sectors and the need to ensure a strong talent pipeline of green skills; and digital and engineering skills to enable both a shift towards a net zero economy and business growth in our key sectors. The report also highlights the need to continue improving and expanding initiatives to prepare young people for work and increase the number of apprenticeships available in the county.

To read the full Buckinghamshire Local Skills Report 2022 please visit: [www.bucksskillshub.org/educator/resources/buckinghamshire-local-skills-report](http://www.bucksskillshub.org/educator/resources/buckinghamshire-local-skills-report)

**Ends**

**Note to editors**

**Key facts/did you know?**

* There are high levels of self-employment within Buckinghamshire, particularly within the county’s creative and construction sectors. 1 in every 7 people working in the Buckinghamshire economy is self-employed.
* A key feature of the Buckinghamshire economy is the predominance of small businesses. 42% of the workforce work for micro firms (employing fewer than 10 people) compared to 32% nationally.
* There are twice as many creative industry jobs within the Buckinghamshire economy than the national average, many of which are in the film and TV sector.
* For every 10 people working in the life sciencessector in England there are 13 people working in the sector in Buckinghamshire.
* The Silverstone Technology Cluster, a world leading local cluster of high-tech businesses, has grown significantly in recent years. Over 4,000 companies operating in precision engineering alone are located within a one-hour radius of Silverstone.
* Those graduating from Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Buckinghamshire are more likely to enter employment than the national average.

**Skills Advisory Panels** (SAPs) operate across the whole of England. They were established by the Department for Education in 2019 and are co-ordinated by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs). They bring together employers, colleges, universities, schools, apprenticeship training providers, employment agencies and other local stakeholders to understand current and future skills needs so that local skills provision better matches local employment opportunities and employers’ needs.

The Buckinghamshire SAP is co-ordinated by the Buckinghamshire Skills Hub, which was established by Buckinghamshire LEP, in partnership with Buckinghamshire Business First, to promote and optimises links between the local business community and education/training providers.

The [**Buckinghamshire Skills Hub**](https://bucksskillshub.org/) promotes and optimises links between the business community and education/training providers to enable young people and adults to gain valuable insight into career opportunities, and helps them develop the skills and qualifications they need to progress in the workplace at whatever stage of their career they are at.

The Bucks Skills Hub is managed by Buckinghamshire Business First and supported by Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, Buckinghamshire Council and the Careers Enterprise Company.

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. Formed in January 2012, the partnership balances a uniquely strong collective business voice with a cohesive elected local leadership. Coming together to engineer the conditions needed to drive forward business prosperity in the county and beyond, Bucks LEP recognises that an important part of this is to support education and skills providers and employers to ensure our young people have the right skills to meet the needs of the economy, including the growth sectors such as life-sciences, space, creative industries and advanced engineering. Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership funded the new [Bucks Skills Hub website](http://www.bucksskillshub.org/) as part of its Covid Recovery Programme.

[**Buckinghamshire Business First**](http://www.bbf.uk.com/) (BBF) is the Growth Hub for Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire-based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs and 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.

For further information please contact:

Richard Burton MCIPR, MPRCA

Communications Manager

T: 01494 927160

M: 07866 492292

E: [richard.burton@buckslep.co.uk](mailto:richard.burton@buckslep.co.uk)