

Draft Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership Business Plan 2022/25

Vision:
In 2030 and beyond, Buckinghamshire will be a place where:

- entrepreneurial businesses benefit from the strength of our iconic brands and local skills;
- testing, experimentation and commercialisation of new ideas thrive;
- sustained investment in R&D and future technologies drive continuous improvements in productivity.

Mission:
 To provide the conditions that encourage business to invest, grow and thrive in Buckinghamshire.

To deliver on government policy including The Plan for Growth and The Levelling Up White Paper by:-

- Fulfilling a strategic role, providing place-based economic expertise and insight to central and local government and helping secure long-term inclusive growth at the local level.
- Identifying key local sectors and industries, and to design and deliver interventions to make them more competitive, making the most of local opportunities.
- Delivering a programme of joined-up, expert and tailored business advice and support for local businesses through Growth Hub Structures.
- Leading on skills based strategies to better connect with business growth requirements
- Adapting to new local priorities.

- Key Assets**
- Aligned and co-terminus partnership arrangements
 - Experienced, informed and well-connected Board
 - Track record of Programme Delivery
 - 3 Enterprise Zone Sites generating sustainable and growing business rate return
 - Bucks Business First Growth Hub 14,500 opted in business records giving an extensive reach into 40% of the private sector businesses in Buckinghamshire
 - Entrepreneurial and resilient SME Business Base
 - Nationally leading Skills Hub – Ranked Number 1 In England
 - Globally recognised economic assets including Pinewood, Silverstone, Westcott & Stoke Mandeville
 - Strategically critical location well connected to the global gateway at Heathrow.

- We Will ✓**
- be evidence-led;
 - be driven by the needs of businesses;
 - generate momentum through innovation and an enterprising approach;
 - keep asking questions so that we always know what matters most to businesses, our partners and our funders;
 - seek opportunities to capitalise on our own and others' strengths;
 - share knowledge, insight and the latest learning;
 - be honest, straightforward and open with feedback for the benefit of improvement;
 - maintain high standards;
 - encourage collaboration with businesses, our partners and funders so that we grow our collective intellectual capital.

- We Will NOT ✗**
- be afraid to challenge incorrect assumptions.
 - duplicate or compete with the market.
 - commit to doing more than we can deliver.
 - undertake any activities or projects that do not add value to our core purposes.
 - be unclear in our communication.
 - hold back when we see opportunities to bring benefit and unlock potential within the Buckinghamshire business community;
 - over-complicate our structures and practices, which would detract from the clarity of our purposes.

- Key Partners**
- Buckinghamshire Business First, Bucks Business Group Members and National Business Relationship Organisations
 - Buckinghamshire Council
 - Neighbouring LEPs and the LEP Network
 - University of Buckingham and Bucks New University
 - Buckinghamshire Schools & Colleges
 - Buckinghamshire Healthcare Trust
 - Catapult Network, Innovate UK, KTN, UKSA, Screen Skills
 - England's Economic Heartland
 - National Govt – Cities and Local Growth Unit, BEIS, HMCLG, DIT, DCMS, DfT



Buckinghamshire LEPs planned key areas of activities for 2022/25:

Ensure Full Compliance with National LEP Network Assurance Framework including recruitment of new BLEP Chair in 2022/23 and the delivery of Levelling Up White Paper Priorities

Help deliver the National Plan for Growth through strategic alignment with Buckinghamshire strategies in particular the LIS, Economic Recovery Plan & UK Innovation Strategies

Further Develop and refine Business Case Development for National Innovation Projects as part of the County Deal proposals for Buckinghamshire and identify areas for national collaboration supported by these investment proposals.

Continue to support and monitor the performance and impact of our Capital Funding Investments from LGF, GBF Digital and Enterprise Zone Investment Programmes and to convene and support collaboration between funding recipients.

Commence delivery of the 5 year implementation plan for the phase 2 delivery of the Buckinghamshire Enterprise Zone to create 175,000m2 new floorspace in 2022/26 and to provide a sustainable income resource for future economic delivery in Buckinghamshire

Supporting the further development of the Buckinghamshire Growth Board to bring Business Insight into wider place-based debates around transport, health, housing and planning as part of a co-ordinated Team Bucks approach to Economic Development in Buckinghamshire and lobby for critical transport and digital infrastructure.

Provide support and critical challenge for the ambitions Town Centre Regeneration Programmes in Aylesbury, High Wycombe and Chesham.

As part of the Skills Action Plan, support programmes of brokerage to address the mismatch between career openings in high growth sectors and increasing claimant rates in parts of Buckinghamshire

Increase awareness and use of the Buckinghamshire Economic Observatory and complete data audits into the Net Zero economy of Buckinghamshire and into the sector and cluster growth factors.

Develop a Digital Innovation plan to capitalise on the digital infrastructure investment being made through the UK Project Gigabit programme.

Establish a sustainable and independent financial framework to deliver core LEP and programme business objectives which are not reliant on Government funding.

Buckinghamshire LEPs Key Outputs 2022/25

Support and submit external funding applications in excess of £500m for business-critical infrastructure in Buckinghamshire

Deliver 175,000m2 of new Employment Space within Enterprise Zone Sites by 2025

Provide 35,000 business assists annually through the Bucks Business First Growth Hub Service

Maintain top national ranking within the Careers & Enterprise Company Gatsby Benchmarks and provide Enterprise Advisors for all state secondary schools in Buckinghamshire. Support 10,000 young people engagements with Skills Festival and Careers Events per year

Increase by 100% annual participation in 4 Business Barometer Surveys and host a minimum of 12 round-table forums per year with key businesses, MP's and other partners to develop insight into the Buckinghamshire economy.

Undertake 2 business sector audits and development plans per year to increase in-depth knowledge of the business environment.