

Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership Delivery Plan

Summary and Strategic Objectives 2022/23



Buckinghamshire LEP were one of the trailblazing areas co producing Local Industrial Strategies with government in 2019. The Buckinghamshire strategy has been reviewed and remains framed around the following four main assets that are critical to the Buckinghamshire economy and have both national and international significance:

- **The creative and digital economy with Pinewood Studios at its core:**
Pinewood Studios and the National Film and TV School will be enhanced global centres in the pioneering, development and use of AR, VR and other new technologies in storytelling, to make Buckinghamshire the international leader in immersive content.
- **Medical technologies exploiting the international status of Stoke Mandeville Hospital and its status as birthplace of the Paralympic movement:**

Buckinghamshire will pioneer the development of an innovative, health and social care living lab, which will support the creation of an efficient and effective health and social care model, built on commercial capability.

- **Silverstone's position at the core of a high-performance technology innovation:** Silverstone will be the global location of choice for high tech innovation, developing and manufacturing technologies that will change the world.
- **The role of the Westcott Space Cluster as a key link in the UK space sector supply chain:** businesses in the Westcott Space Cluster will be at the frontier of launch, in-orbit services and satellite technologies.

These place based **assets** are supported by a series of **key drivers** linking the strategy to the other foundations of the Local Industrial Strategy notably:

Skills and inspiration revolution

Buckinghamshire businesses will collaborate more effectively with the whole skills system to ensure the available talent is inspired and equipped with the necessary skills to support the future growth of the economy.

High quality career paths, beginning with inspiring work experience opportunities will provide the workforce of the future with the aspiration and skills to work in Buckinghamshire's leading businesses in creative, space, digital health and high value manufacturing sectors.

Digital infrastructure

Resilient and future-proofed digital infrastructure will support Buckinghamshire businesses to boost productivity.

Advanced investment in a range of different providers and technologies will create a diverse and buoyant telecommunications marketplace. Investment in 'state of the art' infrastructure technologies will support businesses and individuals to adopt and exploit 'cutting edge' digital applications.

Living Labs

Enhanced, deep and long-term R&D collaborations between the public, private, academic & community sectors in Buckinghamshire will underpin a high-quality environment for testing, developing and commercialising innovation.

Living labs will drive commercial innovation at speed and scale in Buckinghamshire advancing the use and development of the latest technologies in the fields of health and social care, clean energy and future mobility.

Commercialising innovation

Buckinghamshire's businesses will top the innovation league as they double their investment in R&D.

An enhanced innovation ecosystem supported by closer collaboration between businesses and universities will enable Buckinghamshire to exceed the national 3%

R&D target leading to major improvements in businesses leadership, the development of new products and markets and their access to talent. The growth of micro, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) will underpin Buckinghamshire's productivity improvements.

Business scale-up and efficiency

Buckinghamshire will benefit from sustained success in enabling businesses with scale-up potential to benefit from targeted support. Successful leadership and growth programmes and improved access to finance will boost the micro-SME firm economy and establish a new generation of growth orientated firms.

For further details on the strategy visit <https://www.buckstvllep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/>

Our **Economic Recovery Plan** published in 2020 builds on this asset and key driver structure and seeks to support a swift recovery for the Buckinghamshire Economy and to capitalise on the new opportunities created by the post Covid working environment.

We will be investing in the development and promotion of business case proposals for initiatives linked to our Local Industrial Strategy and Economic Recovery Plan priorities. Acting as a catalyst to bring together ideas and investors and to develop investable propositions that will not only support our local ambitions but will also advance the national Levelling Up agenda.

During 2022 we will be looking to undertake a detailed review into the Green Economy of Buckinghamshire, to build upon our existing Energy Strategy and to identify where we can target support most effectively for the national plan for growth "Build Back Better".

We will also be adopting a new Digital Innovation Plan to support more efficient use of digital technologies from within our business community, this plan will sit alongside a digital infrastructure plan being developed by our colleagues at Buckinghamshire Council to enhance a more resilient and digital infrastructure.

We will 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 as part of a co-ordinated "Team Bucks" delivery approach to economic growth and regeneration.

A range of indicators, monitoring the progress against the Economic Recovery Plan, will be tracked and reviewed throughout the year and will be assessed for impact by the LEP Board on a quarterly basis over the next two years.

Local Growth Fund

Buckinghamshire LEP has in the past secured an *exceptional* rating in relation to the delivery of its Local Growth Fund programme. Full programme expenditure has been both committed and defrayed. The focus has correspondingly turned towards maximising the economic outputs from this investment.

Throughout the year ahead we will continue to monitor the impact of the Local Growth Fund supported projects and in particular will ensure that land disposal is satisfactorily concluded and construction progresses on the Eastern Link Road, commencing with the Woodlands roundabout, now that the planning approval has been secured. This LEP sponsored scheme currently represents one of the largest consented mixed use employment sites within the South East of England.

A summary of Local Growth Fund project progress can be found via the attached link: <https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-projects/local-growth-fund-projects/>

Getting Building Fund

Buckinghamshire LEP secured £7.7m for the delivery of 10 projects from the Getting Building Fund and by 31st March 2022 100% of financial expenditure had been made to the delivery of the schemes. Practical completion of the GBF construction projects is scheduled over the first half of 2022/23 and we will be working alongside the scheme promoters to arrange opening and showcase events following fit out of the new facilities.

The most notable of these events will be the Westcott Space Expo being held on July 28th where we will be working alongside the Satellite Applications Catapult and the space sector businesses based at Westcott to showcase the new facilities, including a DISC at Plot 4000, to potential investors and other stakeholders.

The projects supported are:-

Project Sponsor	Project Name	GBF Reallocated	Total Value
Satellite Applications Catapult	DISC Phase 1 at Westcott	£1,200,000	£5,500,000
Buckinghamshire Council	Bucks Rural Broadband Project	£710,000	£2,872,408
Buckinghamshire Council	Bucks Rural Broadband Voucher Top Up	£300,000	£300,000

Satellite Applications Catapult	Innovation Ecosystem at Westcott	£2,609,530	£5,219,065
URA Thrusters	TESTA – Novel Test Facility at Westcott	£250,000	£544,341
Flannery Plant Hire	Bucks Operator Skills Hub	£750,000	£3,000,000
European Astrotech Ltd	Centre of Excellence for Rocket Engine and Flow Tests Facility	£740,000	£1,588,558
England's Economic Heartland	East West Rail-Fibre Provision Upgrade	£643,000	£1,610,000
LUNAZ Group	LUNAZ Applied Technologies - Silverstone	£250,000	£500,000
D2H Group	Advanced Braking Facility	£247,470	£800,000
	Total	£7,700,000	£21,965,140

European Programme

We will continue to work alongside the Managing Authorities for the European Structural Fund allocations within Buckinghamshire to monitor and review European funded projects within Buckinghamshire as the current funding regime comes to its natural conclusion and will support the transition to new domestic funding programmes such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Buckinghamshire LEP and Growth Hub will be helping utilise our programme management experience to support Buckinghamshire Council to establish the framework for the Shared Prosperity Programme in Buckinghamshire and submit the prospectus proposals ahead of the August 1st 2022 deadline. We will act as an active participant within the new advisory group for the Buckinghamshire funding allocation.

Growth Hub Programme

BLEP will ensure that the Buckinghamshire Growth Hub managed by BBF will comply with the new KPIs agreed with BEIS. This compliance will be managed through the BLEP Executive Team meetings, at the Finance and Audit Sub Group and at the bi-monthly LEP board meetings.

The Growth Hub will deliver the following services:-

- To act as a First Stop Shop for any business looking for support and / or guidance
- To increase local economic growth and employment
- To support the growth of existing businesses
- To encourage the start-up of new businesses
- To increase the Gross Value Added in the region
- To create jobs that are accessible by the local community
- To decrease the number of skills gaps in the county
- To increase the number of companies engaged with the Growth Hub and its key partners.
- To act as a catalyst for businesses to network, provide mutual support and to gain more business

The Key Performance Indicators 2022/23

The KPIs for the Growth Hub have been set as follows:

Light Assists (to include unique web users and all engagement lasting less than an hour)	17,500
Medium Assists (Engagement with a business of 1hr plus)	500
Intensive Assists broken down into.....	235
Grants - £1,000 plus	175
12 hours of support	60
Tonnes of CO2e reduced	500
Decarbonisation Plans created	80
Projected jobs creation	250
No of new products / services supported	20
People supported to start own business	40
No of businesses supported with workforce skills	200
No of apprenticeship / T Level opportunities identified	150
No of individuals supported with skills	1200

The growth hub will also continue to support the gathering of data intelligence and will support the quarterly business barometer survey throughout 2022/23 and a full Buckinghamshire business insight survey in Q3.

Skills Programme and Skills Advisory Panel

The aim of the Bucks Skills Hub is to promote and optimise links between employers and educators, in order to help young people to become more work ready, that their ambitions are informed and aligned to identified local priority growth sectors.

The Bucks Skills Hub delivery infrastructure includes the following targets:

- To maintain current Gatsby Benchmark achievement

- 150 Apprenticeship opportunities supported
- 200 medium assists supporting businesses with workforce skills
- To extend Workforce Skills to include full a full brokerage
- Creation of a single portal for Work Readiness programmes
- To deliver the Annual Skills Show March for up to 5000 young people
- To run another STEM event in July 2022
- To hold annual Headteacher/SLT/Careers Leader/Enterprise Adviser/Employer event in July 2022

Skills Action Plan – over the 2022/23 financial year Buckinghamshire LEP will

The Buckinghamshire Local Skills Report provides a framework for skills activity across the County. It is intended to inform investment decisions, collaborative activity and curriculum planning of post-16 education and training providers.

Progress towards the activities set out in the Skills Action Plan element of the report will be monitored by the Buckinghamshire SAP on a regular basis. Throughout the year we will also commence the transition to the Local Skills Improvement Plan and will work alongside skills partners to secure core funding through the Strategic Development Fund.

Theme Priorities

1. The Future Workforce.

- Programmes to support young people, career seekers and career changers
- Support to help individuals navigate the current and future job market.
- Ensure those seeking work have access to comprehensive, up-to date, high-quality information about the opportunities available in Buckinghamshire.
- Improve the work-readiness of students leaving education.
- Increase local take up of pathways leading to in demand occupations.

2. A Skilled and Productive Workforce.

- Programmes to support employers and the existing workforce
- Ensure businesses have access to the information they need to manage their workforces effectively.
- Strengthen the talent pipeline for strategic growth sectors and key skills shortage occupations.
- Provide workforce development support for SMEs, start-ups and the self-employed.

3. An Inclusive Workforce. Cross-cutting themes to support the entire population

- Ensure residents have access to the information they need to gain access to opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills for both work and life.
- Mobilise potential of current population.
- Attract and retain talent.

- Promote skills for green growth.

4. An Informed Approach.

- Maintaining up to date information on skills needs through research and employer networks
- Maximise the impact of national skills policy on the local economy.
- Produce and disseminate high quality LMI and research.
- Maintain sector sub groups to inform policy, strategy and actions plans and share good practice.
- Update the Buckinghamshire Skills Strategy.

5. A Digitally Able Population.

- Ensuring access to digital programmes for the whole population for work and life
- Ensure residents are able to develop their digital literacy so they can access the services they need to meet their basic health and well-being needs.
- Ensure residents have access to education and training programmes enabling them to develop their digital skills and take up emerging digital careers.
- Champion the adoption of new technology and development of employee skills amongst SMEs as a lever of growth.

The full report can be accessed via the attached link [Buckinghamshire Local Skills Report](#)

Careers and Enterprise Company Target KPI's 2022/23 Academic Year

Performance	Target
Coverage	At least 46 schools and colleges in the LEP signed up to the Enterprise Advisors Network (EAN)
EA Recruitment	An Enterprise Adviser to be recruited for every school or college in your EAN/Hub
EA Matching	Number of establishments in the EAN matched to an EA at least once: 98% of schools / colleges in EAN/Hub to be matched with an EA All schools and colleges across the Network and Hubs should be offered an EA
Benchmark Performance % Achieved	All EAN schools/colleges to achieve at least 2 Gatsby Benchmarks (BMs) All Hub schools/colleges to achieve at least 3 BMs
Stakeholder Satisfaction	70% or higher stakeholder satisfaction (EAs, Cornerstone Employers)

Buckinghamshire Enterprise Zone

During 2021/22 the initial Memorandum of Understanding (2016/21) and implementation plan for the development of the Enterprise Zone was updated to set out the delivery targets for the next 5 year period up to 2026.

During the next 12 months our focus will be to advance the delivery of new commercial floorspace in line with the implementation plan. Our principal areas of focus for each EZ site will be:

Silverstone:

- Work with TotalSim, MEPC and University of Buckingham to progress the Sports Innovation Campus.
- To support MEPC in the development and promotion of the final phase of development of the Existing Enterprise Zone site opposite the circuit entrance.
- To work with the British Racing Drivers Club to support the expansion of the trackside employment space and potential Enterprise Zone expansion as part of a net zero innovation and testing hub.

Westcott:

- Develop programme of funding support for 10-year development plan for Westcott Venture Park.
- Complete Construction and Operational Use of the Drone Port Testing Facility.
- Work alongside Patrizia to develop the masterplan and commercial investment strategy for the Westcott site.
- Work alongside the UK Space Agency, Satellite Applications Catapult, commercial and academic partners to establish a permanent training and research hub on site.

Woodlands:

- Following the securing of the outline planning consent; seek to progress and conclude landowner contractual obligations; procure planning/design work on EZ access, principally the Woodlands roundabout but to include internal spine roads to accelerate the provision of employment floorspace within the planning consent framework.
- Develop agree and launch the marketing and sale prospectus to secure an investment partner.

International Trade & Investment Activity

We will support international trade and investment activity by supporting the provision of local business intelligence, grant funding and levelling-up focused projects, on behalf of the Department for International Trade.

We will seek to secure a minimum of 20 new international investments into Buckinghamshire of which over 50% will be considered to be high value by the Department of International Trade.

We will work in collaboration with neighbouring LEP areas to develop High Potential Opportunities (HPO) for the region to be promoted via international posts and will support the hosting of a minimum of 3 international trade delegations to the region.

Strategic Activity

Economic Data & Business Insight

All of the strategic activity delivered by the LEP will be underpinned by relevant, up to date business intelligence and insight. We will look to further develop the Buckinghamshire Economic Observatory to support collaboration across the research community and to provide a one stop shop for business intelligence relevant to the Buckinghamshire Economy.

We will also utilise the convening power of the LEP and our Growth Hub partners to arrange a minimum of 6 business roundtable discussions and events throughout the year, hosting Buckinghamshire MP's, business representative organisations and public bodies to support the development of our strategic activity informed through insight.

Strategic Partnership Working

Buckinghamshire LEP will also provide support for the development of a new County Deal investment proposition for Buckinghamshire to support the Levelling Up and devolution ambitions of Government and Buckinghamshire and help deliver the Vision for Growth for Buckinghamshire. Buckinghamshire LEP, incorporating both growth hub and skills hub, will help convene the business community to work closely with Buckinghamshire Council, education and health sector partners to ensure that the needs of local business are understood and met and that the role that the business community can play in delivering an ambitious new deal for Buckinghamshire is clearly heard and incorporated into the emerging proposals.

We will also be working collaboratively with key partners in the following areas of strategic development :

Buckinghamshire

- Buckinghamshire Cultural Strategy, Energy Strategy, NEP Biodiversity Strategy and Natural Capital Plan, Housing Infrastructure Funds, Bucks Planning Policy, Aylesbury Garden Town, RAF Halton.
- Local Community Board Development and Integration
- Support Devolution proposals for Buckinghamshire through the evolving Buckinghamshire Growth Board structure
- Sector Action Groups linked to Local Industrial Strategy Delivery – Space, Creative Industries, Health and Social Care, High Performance Technologies and Digital.

Regional

- Cross LEP collaboration in support of the key sector growth and international trade.
- Heathrow Airport & Thames Valley Major Projects.
- South East England - Regional Energy Hub.
- Buckinghamshire Business First Growth Hub Support beyond Buckinghamshire.

National

- LEP Review and Integration Plan Working Programme.
- UKRI National Strategy, National Innovation Strategy and supporting the delivery of the Space, Hydrogen and Digital Innovation Strategies launched in 2021.
- LEP Network –Creative Industries Sector Group & National Indicators Group.
- Sector Growth Deal Development – Space Sector, Creative Industries.