

Local Growth Fund – increasing prosperity & growth

Buckinghamshire is a significant wealth generator for the UK economy, contributing over **£1.63 billion** to the UK economy in 2022. Investment of over **£73m** Local Growth Funds has leveraged over **£129m** match funding generating a capital programme value of over **£200m**. These funds have successfully delivered over thirty priority schemes since the start of the programme in 2014 and is continuing to evolve, unleashing ambition and growth in key sectors across the County.

The Local Growth Fund enabled the delivery of new major transport infrastructure in Beaconsfield and Aylesbury, providing greater skills opportunities in partnership with colleges and universities, and driving innovation and investment through a range of industry leading technology hubs, including Westcott, Silverstone, Pinewood and Stoke Mandeville Hospital. The investment has also boosted rural digital connectivity providing over **59,000** premises with access to ultrafast and Gigabit broadband services.

Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund Impact – outcomes from investment:

- **7.5km** of new road links enabling over **10,000** new homes
- Creating over **5,000** jobs and apprenticeships
- **18km** of new cycleways
- Providing over **59,000** premises access to superfast broadband
- Delivering **8,700 sqm** of new education and training facilities benefiting over **14,000** learners
- Over **200,000 sqm** of new commercial, R&D and innovation space

Project summaries:

- **High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan & Southern Quadrant Transport Scheme** - **£8.48m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

The implementation of the High Wycombe Town Centre Masterplan aims to strengthen the role of the Town Centre as the focus for employment, shopping and leisure activities. A key component of the Masterplan is an alternative southern transport route around the town centre, to deliver a more attractive town centre, better connecting old and new developments.

*Outcome: the final stage of the new alternative town centre route was completed in 2019. The aim of the scheme is to deliver over **25,000 sqm** of business, commercial and retail space; over **470** new homes; and generate up to **1,150** new jobs.*

- **A4 Sustainable Travel Scheme - £1.53m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

The A4 Cycle and Bus Route improvement project, also known as the A4 Bath Road Sustainable Travel project, has improved safety and access to Taplow Rail station and Great Western Railway/ Crossrail services. The scheme also incorporates elements of bus infrastructure improvements, to help encourage bus-rail connectivity and to reduce car usage.

*Outcome: benefits of the scheme include improved access to Taplow station and Crossrail services, connecting local residential communities to major retail centres along the A4 Bath Road corridor between Maidenhead bridge and Huntercombe. In total over **380** new homes will benefit from this link. In addition, the scheme links to the Jubilee Path and Dorney Rowing Lake leisure and recreation area.*

- **A413 Sustainable Travel Scheme - £2.21m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

The A413 Sustainable Travel scheme introduced **9km** of new shared cycle and footway corridor that interconnects the towns of Buckingham and Winslow – the site of the new railway station for East West Rail. This scheme also upgraded existing bus stops in Buckingham with real-time passenger information.

*Outcome: construction of this facility was completed in 2017. Over **15,000** cycle journeys were recorded along this route in 2020, with numbers set to increase when the new Station at Winslow is completed as part of the East West Rail scheme.*

- **A355 Improvement Scheme - £6.05m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

The A355 provides the main north-south route in the county, connecting Amersham and the A413 to the north and Beaconsfield and the M40 to the south. The improvements will reduce congestion, mitigate the impact of HS2 HGV traffic, and improve journey times on this key connection to the M40, as well as improving north/ south transport connectivity to promote economic growth across Buckinghamshire.

*Outcome: the final southern section of the new link road scheme was completed by developers Inland Homes in the spring 2022, connecting with the Pyebush roundabout junction on the A40 London Road. In addition, the new road scheme will unlock over **300** new homes that are planned for the development at Wilton Park.*

- **Aylesbury Eastern Link Road (Southern) and Stocklake Link (Rural) –** total of **£13.52m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

The aim of these transport schemes is to manage traffic capacity on the highway network, to enhance public transport provision and advance the wider regeneration of the East of Aylesbury, in order to drive economic growth and development. These schemes also form part of a wider highway network strategy to provide key link roads, which promote both North-South regional connectivity, linking Milton Keynes to the North and the M25 and London in the South, as well as orbital traffic movements around Aylesbury rather than through the town centre.

*Outcome: work on the Stocklake link road was completed in 2017. The Stocklake link supports the Kingsbrook residential development and the delivery of **2,450** new homes. Providing a key section of the outer Aylesbury Ring Road, the Eastern Link Road South scheme will be delivered by Buckinghamshire Council, as part of the proposed Aylesbury Woodlands development, which was granted outline planning approval in January 2022. The site is part of the Buckinghamshire Enterprise Zone, which will deliver **1,100** new homes and over **120,000** sqm of new business space along with leisure, recreation and green facilities.*

- **Transforming Buckinghamshire College Group's Estate - £2.69m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

The Bucks College Group has provided its students with an outstanding learning experience based at the facilities provided at its Amersham and Flackwell Heath campuses, with hundreds of students benefiting from education and training at these facilities since their completion in 2017.

Outcome: the facilities supported by Local Growth Funding, included a media suite and online training facilities at the Amersham site, a new motor vehicle engineering and construction trades facility at the Flackwell Heath campus, and new multi-surface sports pitches.

- **National Film and Television School Digital Content Hub - £1.5m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

The National Film and Television School (NFTS) in Beaconsfield is globally recognised as the best film and TV school in the world with its graduates regularly featuring on the Oscar and Bafta awards lists. £1.5m of Local Growth Funding was used to build a new Digital Content Production Training Studio which is now one of the most advanced dedicated training facilities in the UK and has the ability to shoot, record and stream live content in high definition 4k.

Outcome: the new facilities were opened in 2017 and hundreds of full and part time students have benefited from a range of MA, Diploma and NVQ courses.

- **Futures Network Development Centre (5G Step Out) - £600k** allocation of Local Growth Funding

£600k of Local Growth Funding was used to develop a 5G testbed (Future Networks Development Centre) at the Westcott Venture Park site to provide a test site for the development of 5G mobile network applications, including healthcare, aviation, connected autonomous vehicle technology, agri-tech robotics and other applications.

Outcome: since completion in 2017, the Satellite Applications Catapult has secured several £ multi-million commercial contracts with a growing number of clients, including the European Space Agency and the National Health Service. The facility provides open access to businesses and is linked to other Space Cluster facilities, including the Incubation Centre, Westcott Innovation Centre, Drone Test Development Centre, Living Lab and the In-Orbit Servicing and Manufacturing facility.

- **Satellite Applications Innovation Centre - £3.2m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

The Local Growth Funded Westcott Innovation Centre provides commercial space, workshops, training and conferencing facilities for a growing number of businesses, involved in research, development and testing of upstream space, satellite technology, communications and propulsion systems, including AVS, URA Thrusters, Benchmark, Protolaunch and One Web.

Outcome: the Satellite Applications Innovation Centre was completed in 2020, delivering 1,200 sqm of dedicated flexible space for commercial testing research and development of satellite systems and technologies.

In partnership with the Westcott site owners Patrizia and Buckinghamshire Council Highway Authority, Buckinghamshire LEP also part funded (£800k) the highway access improvements to the Westcott site from the A41 Bicester Road. The highway improvements were completed in time for the occupation of the Innovation Centre. The scheme has ensured future capacity to support growth and expansion of the Enterprise Zone, Space Cluster and wider business park.

- **Aylesbury Training Group Technical Skills Project - £93k** allocation of Local Growth Funding

£93,500 Local Growth Funding was used to enable the Aylesbury Training Group to purchase specialist new engineering equipment to develop its programme of training services for its nationally renowned cycle training programme from its Aylesbury base.

Outcome: the funding helped the group establish the UK's first technicians course for e-bike maintenance, support the digital design curriculum, and to

support recruitment campaigns to increase take up of existing courses and extend the range offered. The scheme has subsequently been relocated out of the area after two years of successful operation, and the grant repaid and reinvested into the Local Growth Fund programme.

- **Bucks Lifescience & Innovation Centre – £1.3m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

This innovative scheme was a collaboration between the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust and Buckinghamshire New University, to establish two new business incubation and innovation hubs, one at Wycombe University campus and one at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, linking business to clinical research and healthcare services.

Outcome: work on the Stoke Mandeville Health Research and Innovation Centre was completed in September 2021. The new facility brings together the best of clinical healthcare and the innovators in the med-tech industry, to develop pioneering treatments and care for patients, creating investment opportunities and jobs in specialist healthcare sectors. The Wycombe University project was completed in summer 2019, and managed through Oxford Innovation, is supporting business startups with the development of commercial products and services, in medical science and innovation. The University is planning to relocate the space to the newly refurbished 'Brunel Shed' at High Wycombe Station.

- **Marlow/Maidenhead Rail – £1.7m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

Rail improvement scheme to upgrade the Maidenhead to Marlow branch line and Great Western Rail service, providing a twice hourly frequency rail service during peak travel times. A collaborative project with Great Western Rail, Network Rail, and Local Transport Authorities to improve north south rail connectivity and journey times and eliminating the need to change trains at Bourne End Station. In addition, the scheme will provide more regular public transport links to Globe Business Park, reducing the need to travel by car and impact on the congested A404 Strategic Road corridor between M4 and M40.

Outcome: Following extensive design and feasibility work, the scheme was unable to meet Network Rail departure from standards approval and the scheme was reluctantly withdrawn from programme in 2020.

- **Connected Counties Project - £2.4m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

Local Growth Fund investment in the Connected Counties Broadband programme in Buckinghamshire was £1.7m in Contract 1 and £700k in Contract 2. The scheme has been delivered through the Government match funded national BDUK contract framework, in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council, Buckinghamshire Council, BT Openreach and the

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS).

*Outcome: the first phase of this programme, Contract 1, was completed in 2017 and achieved one of the highest levels of service take up of all UK contracts, providing over **45,000** homes and businesses in Buckinghamshire with access to ultrafast and gigabit capable broadband services. The programme was extended in Contract 2, which was completed in 2022, and has provided services to over **12,000** additional premises. The original target, which was to reach 95% superfast broadband coverage county-wide by December 2019, was achieved 16 months early, and by December 2019 the county had over **96%** superfast coverage, with take-up of Contract 1 connections being amongst the highest in the UK.*

- **Vinson Centre for Liberal Economics, Innovation and Entrepreneurship - £3m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

Local Growth Funding of £3m was invested in this iconic project to create a centre where business and education can interact and build on the University's internationally recognised reputation in pioneering the techniques of entrepreneurship learning.

*Outcome: construction of the University of Buckingham's new Vinson Centre was completed in 2018. The new centre benefits from over **865 sqm** of high-quality learning space, including a library, book shop and café, benefitting thousands of University Students. In addition, the centre has created **11** new jobs and provides shared space for businesses and start-ups in the Enterprise Hub.*

- **Stoke Mandeville Relief Road (South East Aylesbury Link Road) – £13.5m** allocation of Local Growth Funding – Department for Transport 'Retained Scheme'.

Local Growth Funding of £13.5m was allocated to this strategic road link, which is being delivered by Buckinghamshire Council and managed by the Department for Transport as a retained scheme. The estimated scheme cost of £147m is being part funded by HS2 and Homes England Housing Infrastructure Fund.

*Outcome: the scheme is an integral part of the Aylesbury outer link road and supports the Aylesbury Garden Town development plan and is due to be completed by 2025/6. The new route will support delivery of Local Plan development sites, providing thousands of new homes and employment space in the south east of Aylesbury, improving north south connectivity and mitigating the impact of the HS2 rail scheme. The scheme will connect A4010 / Lower Road to the A413 Wendover Road, supporting delivery of up to **4,735** homes and **29,000** sqm of business space in the local area.*

- **Silverstone Innovation Centre – £2m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

Local Growth Funding of £2m was invested in a new Innovation Centre at Silverstone to advance the development of the High-Performance Technology Cluster, by creating a unique innovation incubator for companies in sports engineering and services.

*Outcome: opened in 2019, the Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub includes a unique wind tunnel test facility, small business units and R&D space for advanced cycling sports innovation, and fabrics manufacturing centre. The facilities are housed in a new **2,415 sqm** building, as part of a wider **11,612 sqm** speculative development by Silverstone Park developer MEPC, within the Buckinghamshire Enterprise Zone. The initial Buckinghamshire LEP investment has enabled Total Sim Ltd to secure an additional **£5m** investment from Sport England and Buckinghamshire Enterprise Zone, to deliver a globally unique swimming flume, adding to the world class R&D facilities in the Silverstone Sports Engineering Hub.*

- **Buckinghamshire New University Digital Innovation Lab – £1.32m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

Local Growth Funding of £1.32m was invested in the Buckinghamshire New University Digital Innovation Lab to enable the refit of the ground floor of the University.

Outcome: work was completed in 2019, with fully refurbished business incubation space for digital start-ups and SME's, a Cyber Resilience Centre for University students, a CAD and Virtual Reality Suite, mobile outreach facility and a café.

- **Bucks Creates at Pinewood – £1.64m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

Local Growth Funding of £1.64m was invested in the creation of a new bespoke education centre at Pinewood Studios, hosted by Creative Media Skills and Buckinghamshire New University, providing a range of industry recognised undergraduate and post graduate training and academic programmes, in film and creative media related studies.

*Outcome: a partnership between Buckinghamshire New University, Creative Media Skills and Buckinghamshire LEP – the first of its kind in the in the UK – saw over **200** students in the past two years with applications increasing. An additional **1,400 sq ft** has been acquired by Buckinghamshire New University in a nearby building to cater for growing industry demands and to expand the degree and masters graduate programmes being offered at this world renowned film studio.*

- **National Centre for Immersive Storytelling - £228k** allocation of Local Growth Funding

The National Centre for Immersive Storytelling at The National Film and Television School in Beaconsfield received £228k Local Growth Funding for this scheme, which was completed in Autumn 2019.

Outcome: this unique facility is first of its kind in the UK to support innovative student commissions and help train industry specialists in the potential of immersive creative and screen content. The major new investors in creative content, the FANG Group (Facebook, Amazon, Netflix and Google), are all seeking to invest in immersive content and the optimal development of this facility will assist the school in opening commercial dialogue with these new partners. The new facility is also helping strengthen existing corporate partnerships that the school is developing with the likes of Disney and Channel 4.

- **Centre for AI & Innovation – £1.6m** allocation of Local Growth Funding

Local Growth Funding of £1.6m was invested into the University of Buckingham's School of Computing and centre for Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Innovation. This investment has fully refurbished the Franciscan building, providing new learning space and advanced computing facilities, to address the gap in the academic application and ethical research into the use of AI.

Outcome: the opportunities provided by the application of AI is of growing importance to Buckinghamshire businesses and this investment is supporting the University in helping work collaboratively in this field with entrepreneurial businesses, and particularly with those located at the rapidly growing Enterprise Zone sites at Silverstone and Wescott.