

No. 032.15

25 November 2015

NEWS RELEASE

Bucks secures Enterprise Zone status

Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership (BTVLEP), is delighted to announce it has successfully secured Enterprise Zone status for three strategic sites in the Aylesbury Vale area at **Silverstone, Westcott Venture Park and Arla/Woodlands**.

Announced today by Chancellor George Osborne as part of the spending review, the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone will facilitate the strengthening of infrastructure at the Silverstone, Westcott Venture Park and Arla/Woodlands sites; attract and develop new business investment; speed up the growth and development of local enterprise; and help address the business critical infrastructure needs of the sites. In addition to strengthening the commercial offer of these three strategic employment locations, Enterprise Zone status will support the drive for inward investment projects from abroad.

Richard Harrington, Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership, said: “We are delighted with the news that Aylesbury Vale has been allocated Enterprise Zone status. The Enterprise Zone aligns directly with our [Strategic Economic Plan](#), which identifies Silverstone, Westcott Venture Park and Arla/Woodlands as three key strategic employment locations all of which have greater, untapped potential to add value to the high performance technology/motorsport; space propulsion/environmental engineering; and agri-food/human health sectors.”

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Bucks secures Enterprise Zone status: 2

Richard added: “The scale and specialised nature of the development, the mix of uses and the highly strategic position, at the heart of the ‘Golden Triangle’ and at the centre of the ‘Oxford to Cambridge Arc’ will enable Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone to challenge internationally as a major new employment location over the coming years.”

Councillor Steve Bowles, Vice-Chairman of Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP and the AVDC Cabinet Member for Economic Development was delighted with the announcement: “Today’s news is a fantastic boost for the local economy, we already have world class businesses operating on the three sites and by securing the prestigious Enterprise Zone status we will be able to offer further support for our existing businesses and help attract new investment and high quality jobs to Buckinghamshire and Aylesbury Vale.”

Today’s announcement will enable Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP to establish an Enterprise Zone in a region which is nationally renowned as one of the most entrepreneurial and knowledge based rural economies in the whole of the UK, but has historically suffered because of a lack of high quality transport infrastructure serving to constrain growth and undermine the location as an attractive business location.

In total, Enterprise Zone designation will cover over 96 hectares of commercial land with the potential for the creation of over 8,000 new jobs.

BTVLEP’s overarching commercial direction for the Aylesbury Vale Enterprise Zone is to develop and grow the current high skills base; indigenous industrial/research strengths; natural growth in population and housing numbers; and the number of imminent infrastructure developments in the region to deliver significant growth, jobs creation and productivity improvements in the high performance technology/motorsport; space propulsion/environmental engineering; and agri-food/human health sectors.

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Note to editors

The three Enterprise Zone sites:

Westcott Venture Park ([Westcott Venture Park](#)) is a 265 ha strategic employment site which is located between Aylesbury and Bicester, which has significant potential to develop as a centre of space propulsion and environmental engineering, building on Buckinghamshire's significant strengths in the space sector. The Park comprises a mixed-use development of office space, warehouses, manufacturing buildings and workshops. High-tech research and development in the fields of satellite and future propulsion systems is concentrated at Westcott, with a primary cluster of UK space organisations (including Reaction Engines, Moog, Airborne Engineering, SSTL and The Falcon Project) all using the test facilities that exist on site.

Silverstone Park ([Silverstone Park](#)) is a technology park next to the Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit and at the centre of the UK's high-performance technology and motorsport (HPT&M) cluster. Since 2013 the estate which includes over 60 companies and 250,000 sq. m of development land has been managed by MEPC. Silverstone is an international brand and the home to Formula 1, with eight of the 11 F1 teams in close geographic proximity to the circuit. Around 3,500 companies associated with motorsport are based in the area employing around 40,000 people, including around 80 per cent of the world's high-performance engineers.

Arla/Woodlands ([Arla Aylesbury & Aylesbury Woodlands](#)) has significant potential for stimulating increased employment in the agi-food and human health sectors in the east of Aylesbury, building on links to the Arla super dairy, the wider food science strengths of Buckinghamshire and the work that is going on to create a healthy living new town, as part of the wider Woodlands development. Aylesbury Woodlands could potentially deliver 150,000 sq. m. of employment floor-space and up to 1100 residential dwellings, with commercial leisure supporting retail, sport and recreational facilities set in extensive green infrastructure, and the delivery of the Eastern Link Road South. Given the proximity of the Woodlands development to Arla and the fact that it will be serviced off the same road junction, these two developments present a unique opportunity to establish a nationally significant food science enterprise zone in the UK.

Buckinghamshire is the Entrepreneurial Heart of Britain where, for well over a decade, more businesses have started here than anywhere else in the UK. It is no accident that we are the Birthplace of the Paralympics at Stoke Mandeville, the creative film engine for James Bond and Star Wars at Pinewood Studios, and the joint home of the Silverstone Grand Prix Circuit.

The [Buckinghamshire Thames Valley Local Enterprise Partnership](#) (BTVLEP) 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](#) (BBF), is the Growth Hub for Buckinghamshire and is backed by Buckinghamshire based entrepreneurs, thousands of SMEs and Local Authorities. 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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