

**Bracknell Forest
Economic & Skills Development Partnership (ESDP)
2-Year Action Plan: March 2017 to March 2019
'Building on Local Strengths'**

Actions and Objectives Progress Update – 4 July 2017

Action	Status	R/A/G
1. Build on Local Strengths: hold a business workshop to establish local strengths, business needs and expectations.	Meeting Held: 29 March 2017.	Green
2. Set Objectives: reflecting Bracknell's local strengths and the outcome of the workshop, establish a new set of high level objectives.	Objectives Agreed by Partnership Board: 2 May 2017.	Green
3. Deliver Work-streams: making a positive impact on the local business environment.	Employment and Skills Sub-Group: All 6 programmes progressing	Green
	Infrastructure Sub-Group: 5 of 7 programmes progressing (housing and broadband to be started)	Green
4. Enhance Membership: ensuring the Partnership Board and Sub-Group memberships remains representative of local business needs, and that there is continuity of Chair/Vice Chair.	On-going: Several potential new members identified and invited to join.	Amber
5. Identify Funding Opportunities: supporting the work of the ESDP and Bracknell's local businesses.	On-going: supported application for funding A322 improvements under National Productivity Investment Fund.	Amber
6. Provide Support to the BID: programme managing to the early-stage development of the Western and Southern Areas BID.	On-going: BID programme on track and well supported by business.	Green
7. Improve Engagement: identify the potential for collaboration with the Berkshire Thames Valley LEP, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and other business organisations.	On-Going: invited to attend next TV Chamber of Commerce meeting.	Amber
8. Communicate: talking to ESDP members and outside organisations to build on Bracknell's local strengths.	No actions identified to date.	Red

Objectives

Action	Status	R/A/G
Identify Bracknell Forest's 'local strengths' as the basis for understanding Bracknell's collective business needs and lobbying on their behalf.	See Action 1 above. Need to make more use of the local strengths in promoting and lobbying activities.	Green
Through the Partnership's work-programmes provide a co-ordinated voice and support for the local business community, building on Bracknell Forest's local strength.	See Action 2 above.	Green
Be the effective voice of local business in responding to government and local planning consultations. In collaboration with the local authority, aim to build on Bracknell Forest's strengths as a provider of the right environment for businesses to thrive.	On-going. Need to understand where and when the ESDP can do more.	Green
Support Bracknell Forest businesses in seeking funding from government and private sector initiatives in areas such as technology development and cyber security.	See Action 5 above. More opportunities need to be identified.	Amber
Lobby on behalf of Bracknell Forest's businesses to seek funding for first-class communications and transport infrastructure, such as telecoms, road, rail, cycle and walk access.	As above.	Amber
Steer and support the development of first-class programmes and initiatives (e.g. Elevate) for training, apprenticeships and skills development in Bracknell.	On-going. See Employment and Skills Sub-Group Workstream.	Green
Support plans for the provision of appropriate housing and leisure facilities for the business community's employees.	Programme still to be started. See Infrastructure Sub-Group Workstream.	Red
Establish Bracknell's first Business	See Action 6 above.	Green

Improvement District (BID) covering the Western and Southern Business Areas.		
Help establish a vibrant town centre through the promotion of business interest and employment programmes.	No activity identified to date. Need to understand where and when the ESDP can support.	Green
Establish collaborative relationships with the LEP, Chamber of Commerce and other business organisations.	See Action 7 above.	Amber
Increase the membership of the ESDP, ensuring that Bracknell's businesses are appropriately represented.	See Action 4 above.	Amber