

**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 – 26 October 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.	Action Complete
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.	Action Complete
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: 6 of 7 programmes progressing	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: Seven new members have joined in recent months. James Taylor of Bracknell and Wokingham College is now Vice-Chair	Green
5. Identify Funding Opportunities: supporting the work of the ESDP and Bracknell's local businesses.	On-going: application supported by ESDP for funding A322 improvements under National Productivity Investment Fund has been successful.	Green
6. Provide Support to the BID: programme managing to the early-stage development of the Western and Southern Areas BID.	On-going: Specialist BID management company Partnerships for Better Businesses (PFBB) appointed to assist in progressing towards ballot. Ambition Creative will provide Website design services for free.	Green
7. Improve Engagement: identify the potential for collaboration with the Berkshire Thames Valley LEP, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and other business organisations.	TV Bracknell Chamber of Commerce meeting attended. TVCC has attended ESDP meeting to present their programmes for Education, Skills and Talent.	Green
8. Communicate: talking to ESDP members and outside organisations to build on Bracknell's local	'Bob's Blog' now regularly circulated. Next issue to be in May.	Green

<p>strengths.</p>	<p>Other initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A breakfast meeting at Wellington College on 'High Performing Workplaces of the Future' - complete • a campaign based on Bracknell's strengths – ideas may come from the above • a joint photography competition with Bracknell Forest Council – to commence in May 2018 • a joint event with the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce – to be progressed 	
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Objectives

Action	Status	R/A/G
<p>Identify Bracknell Forest's 'local strengths' as the basis for understanding Bracknell's collective business needs and lobbying on their behalf.</p>	<p>The April Breakfast Meeting on High Performing Workplaces will be used to help define future initiatives.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>ESDP influence growing through its activities, including the development of the proposed Bracknell BID.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>On-going. Lobbying has included the Heathrow Consultation, South Western Railways service improvements, the government's Industrial Strategy and funding for improvements on the A322/A329.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Support Bracknell Forest businesses in seeking funding from government and private sector initiatives in areas such as technology development and cyber security.</p>	<p>See above for government initiatives.</p>	<p>Amber</p>
<p>Lobby on behalf of Bracknell Forest's businesses to seek funding for first-class communications and transport infrastructure, such as telecoms,</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>Green</p>

road, rail, cycle and walk access.		
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.	Infrastructure Sub-Group unable to identify a role for the ESDP.	Red
Establish Bracknell's first Business Improvement District (BID) covering the Western and Southern Business Areas.	See Action 6 above.	Green
Help establish a vibrant town centre through the promotion of business interest and employment programmes.	No activity identified to date. Lexicon open and successful. 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.	Green
Increase the membership of the ESDP, ensuring that Bracknell's businesses are appropriately represented.	See Action 4 above.	Green