

ECONOMIC & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

INFRASTRUCTURE SUB-GROUP

WORK STREAM – UPDATE September 2018



Economic & Skills Development Partnership

Programme 1:	Lead/Review Date
Provide direction and input to the Local Plan and associated policy documents on the Bracknell Forest business community's infrastructure needs.	SC
Update:	Date:
Local Plan: The ESDP will consider commenting on the draft Plan in the Autumn. Heathrow Expansion: The ESDP responded to the consultation in March stressing the need for a new Southern Rail Access between Heathrow Airport and the Bracknell Forest area, linking to trains using the Reading and Waterloo Line. Heathrow has offered to update the ESDP on the proposed expansion at a future meeting. Transforming Cities Fund: The ESDP wrote I support of the Reading, Bracknell, Wokingham joint bid for funding road capacity improvements to the A33/A329 corridors	17/8/18 BC
Programme 2:	Lead:
Explore the viability of creating a Business Improvement District (BID) within Bracknell Forest, forming a Steering Group to assess and report on potential options.	BC
Update:	Date:
In August, the Steering Group's BID management company Partnerships for Better Businesses (PFBB) completed a Feasibility Survey of businesses on the Southern and Western Business Areas to gauge the level of interest in the proposed BID. Following the favourable outcome, a Stakeholder Meeting will now be held on 20 September 2018 at Fujitsu.	17/9/18
Programme 3:	
Working with the LEP, provide business-led advice to Train Operating Companies and Network Rail on delivering improved rail services to and from Bracknell.	SJ
Update:	Date:
Following lobbying from organisations, including the ESDP, SWR had decided to implement the 'December 2018 Timetable' which would have increased peak hour services to and from Waterloo and retain the current service levels at Martins Heron. Since then, however, SWT and DfT have decided to delay the implementation of any new timetable. ESDP will continue to monitor the situation.	17/9/18
Programme 4:	Lead
Provide business-led advice on future development needs for Superfast Broadband in Bracknell.	TB
Update:	Date:
City Fibre and Exponential-e spoke on topics covering Full Fibre and other advanced communications at the ESDP Breakfast Forum on 12 April. This topic will be further explored at our proposed Autumn Event.	17/9/18
Programme 5:	Lead:
Provide support to the LEP and local authority in seeking funds to improve Bracknell's Strategic road corridors to increase capacity and provide reliable journey times	SJ
Update:	Date:
BFC officers continue to update the ESDP on progress with improvement schemes.	17/9/18

Programme 6	Lead:
Continue to improve and promote the sustainable transport network that provides a high level of accessibility to key services including employment, education, healthcare, shopping and leisure.	SJ
Update:	Date:
City Fibre, Exponential-e and Morgan Lovell spoke on topics covering flexible working and changes to workplace environments at the ESDP Breakfast Forum on 12 April. This topic will be further explored at our proposed Autumn Event.	17/9/18
Programme 7	Lead:
Provide advice and direction on improving the availability of rented and graduate accommodation to meet increasing demand from Bracknell's business employers.	JT ML
Update:	Date:
The ESDP will review the value of continuing to explore this topic.	17/4/18
Photographic Competition	Lead:
The Sub-Group took on an additional task of supporting a joint photographic competition with BFC Parks and Countryside Dept. based on their existing annual competition.	JT ML
Update:	Date:
The joint BFC/ESDP photographic competition based on the theme 'Bracknell Forest – a Great Place to Grow' was launched in May. The competition closes in October. We still seek sponsors for some of the prizes.	17/9/18 SF BC
Workstream Review	Lead:
Review the value and progress of the Workstream	BC
Update:	Date:
The Sub-Group Reviewed the Workstream in May 2018. It was agreed that, whilst most programmes should be retained, the outcomes from the forthcoming Autumn Event will provide guidance on how to take forward Programmes 4 and 6. For programme 6, it was also proposed that the Sub-Group should identify emerging transport topics that need business support if they are to be fully implemented, in the Borough, e.g. electric charging of vehicles.	17/9/18

BC/17/9/18