

**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 – 7 October 2019

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. Plan continued into 2019.	Action Complete
3. Deliver Work-streams: making a positive impact on the local business environment.	Employment and Skills Sub-Group: New Chair appointed. Programme revised. Membership increased.	Green
	Infrastructure Sub-Group. Programme revised. Membership increased.	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: membership remains strong with several new members joining in 2019. Vice-Chair required following James Taylor moving job location.	Green
5. Identify Funding Opportunities: supporting the work of the ESDP and Bracknell's local businesses.	BFC applications for funding under National Productivity Investment, Transforming Cities Funds and Future High Streets Fund supported by ESDP.	Green
6. Provide Support to the BID: programme managing to the early-stage development of the Western and Southern Areas BID.	Steering Group membership supportive under chair of Maria Sabey (Fujitsu). Specialist BID management company Partnerships for Better Businesses (PFBB) successful. BID at ballot stage following thorough consultation process.	Green
7. Improve Engagement: identify the potential for collaboration with the Berkshire Thames Valley LEP, Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and other business organisations.	Liaison with TVCC continues with goal of seeking a joint event.	Amber

<p>8. Communicate: talking to ESDP members and outside organisations to build on Bracknell’s local strengths.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Bob’s Blog’ now at Issue Number 7. • 3 Spring/Autumn ESDP Events held • Joint photography competition with BFC in second year. 	<p>Green</p>
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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 used to help define future initiatives. Subsequent events covered Agile working and workplace welfare.</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 continues to support the proposed Bracknell BID and provided a business view under Heathrow 3rd Runway and the BLIS consultations.</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>Lobbying has included the Heathrow Consultation, South Western Railways service improvements, the BLIS and funding for improvements on the A322/A329 (BFC) and A329/A33 (LEP).</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 and support of BFC and the LEP. ESDP own initiatives developing in area of workplace welfare and agile working.</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, road, rail, cycle and walk access.</p>	<p>As above. A successful BID will provide opportunities to initiate schemes that could be adopted across Bracknell Forest.</p>	<p>Green</p>
<p>Steer and support the development of first-class programmes and initiatives (e.g. Elevate) for training, apprenticeships and skills development in Bracknell.</p>	<p>On-going. See Employment and Skills Sub-Group Workstream.</p>	<p>Green</p>

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. Topic removed from Workstream.	Amber
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. Need to understand where and when the ESDP can support.	Amber
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