



HM Government



**Thames
Valley
Berkshire**

LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

BERKSHIRE LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

DELIVERY PLAN FOR 2022 / 2023

Introduction

Berkshire LEP is pleased to enter 2022/23 with a clear path to follow, with government having set out the direction of travel for LEPs. Within Berkshire, we are working closely with the six unitary authorities to understand how the LEP can support the Berkshire Leaders' Group ambition to develop proposals to put to government for a county combined authority in the area. This county deal will have a pan Berkshire approach to driving and securing economic growth and prosperity and is likely to see the Berkshire LEP move closer to the local democratic institutions in Berkshire. Our authorities have already demonstrated their continued commitment to the LEP by agreeing to increase their annual core funding contribution in the 2022/23 financial year. This additional funding is very welcome in light of reductions in many of the government grants and allows us to continue to deliver services and activity which are valued by Berkshire partners and to focus on those priority areas which matter most to our unitary authorities.

Berkshire is fortunate to have excellent governance structures in place through the Berkshire Public Service Network which represents all the unitary authority and other public body Chief Executives, including the Berkshire LEP CEO. The Place Making Board is made up by the six Directors of Place equivalents across Berkshire, chaired by the LEP CEO and with a local authority CEO as vice chair. Berkshire LEP is keen to continue working with our authorities to provide our strong evidence base and expertise to support the Berkshire authorities as they develop their Local Investment Plans for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Multiply.

Our locally agreed Recovery and Renewal Plan, published in February 2021, provides the strategic framework to inform our priorities and we have refreshed the evidence base which underpinned this as Berkshire's economy is recovering, describing trends since the start of the Coronavirus pandemic. Those trends include the unexpectedly strong labour market, which means that instead of the predicted unemployment problem, our local economy now faces a labour/skills shortage problem. Trends also include the growth of the digital economy and the move towards greater working from home. After the shock of Covid-19, the economy now faces a further challenge caused by the effects of the war in Ukraine, the current and predicted further hikes in energy costs and interest rates and the cost-of-living crisis. During 2022/23 the LEP will develop thinking on [Berkshire Economic Futures](#) and will also look to develop strategies to support Innovation Ecosystems and to support Inward Investment in Berkshire. Berkshire LEP recognises the importance of looking beyond GDP when assessing economic success, the need to build resilience to protect our existing economic assets, the need to collectively explore further the idea of place, and the need to sell 'beautiful Berkshire' as a natural capital and economic asset.

The LEP continues to operate through **three main programme groups**:

Infrastructure and Place – we continue to manage the delivery of our fully committed capital programme. We deliver road and rail connectivity by working through the Berkshire Local Transport Body with elected members, local transport officers, the Department for Transport, the rail industry and other public bodies such as Highways England. The Digital Infrastructure Group oversees the delivery of superfast broadband, the LoRaWAN network and full fibre developments. A newly established Net Zero Taskforce is developing its strategy following the publication of a detailed independent research study funded by Berkshire LEP and published in August 2021 into the priority areas to support Berkshire's transition to net zero.

The Place Making Board provides strategic oversight of all of the infrastructure opportunities and ambitions across the six unitary authorities and connects with One Public Estate and Homes England to achieve coherence. Through the Place Making Board we have published two Berkshire Prospectus, setting out development opportunities in the area, with plans to produce a third Prospectus in 2022/23.

We continue to manage the delivery of the final project tails within our Local Growth and Getting Building Fund portfolios and are pleased to see the benefits that these investments are bringing to businesses and residents of Berkshire.

Business Environment – this incorporates the Berkshire Growth Hub, with our newly launched website to provide a one-stop-shop for business advice. Our experienced advisers are on hand to provide additional support to our growing businesses. We also offer access to finance support through the Berkshire Funding Escalator, and additionally benefit from a small number of European Regional Development Fund business support projects which will continue throughout this year.

Skills and People - We are successfully delivering skills capital projects in collaboration with educational providers and employers. We have published the 2022 Skills Report which identifies the priorities for local investment in employment and skills as well as informing curriculum planning. Our European Social Fund programme is continuing to deliver projects aimed at supporting those furthest from the labour market as well as encouraging sustainable links between education and employers. We are expanding our Careers and Enterprise Company to support even more schools in Berkshire this year and the Berkshire Opportunities portal continues to provide resources, careers and employability advice and important information about Berkshire's economy to inform local residents and employers.

Budget Statement

The tables below illustrate the total amount of funds within Thames Valley Berkshire LEP's direction or control at the start and end of the financial year, and the total amounts committed by the LEP to external organisations through grants and risk finance (loans and equity):

Income Stream	2022/23 investment
LEP Core funding	£375,000
Local Authority contributions	£360,000
Local Growth Fund	£379,441
Business Growth Hub	£231,000
Skills Advisory Panel	£55,000
Careers and Enterprise Company	£145,000*
Growing Places Fund	£1,160,762
EU Structural Investment Funds	£1,300,000*

*Estimate based on current forecast

The total amount anticipated to run the LEP in 2021/22 is £1,528,498. This table shows the planned breakdown of expenditure.

Employee costs	£1,057,231
Premises costs	£79,216
General administrative expenses	£149,608
Legal and professional costs	£106,957
Marketing & Communications	£135,486

Headline Indicators

Key indicators	Actual to 31 March 2022 for all funding streams			
	Infrastructure	Skills, Education and Employment	Business Environment	All programmes (total)
Private sector leverage (£m)	£ 77,817,857	£ 2,300,477	£ 375,000	£ 80,493,334
Additional houses	11,464	-	-	11,464
Additional jobs	14,392	618	974	15,984
Businesses assisted*	-	963	2,305	3,268
New learners assisted	-	3,815	-	3,815
Total LEP investment (outturn)	£ 196,111,357	£ 20,028,327	£ 4,712,708	£ 220,852,392
Students engaged		22,745		

Key indicators	Forecast for 2022-23 for all funding streams			
	Infrastructure	Skills, Education and Employment	Business Environment	All programmes (total)
Private sector leverage (£m)	£ -	£ -	£ 3,929,014	£ 3,929,014
Additional houses	6,917	-	-	6,917
Additional jobs	6,815	85	322	7,222
Businesses assisted*	-	166	2,254	2,420
New learners assisted	-	7,731	-	7,731
Total LEP investment (outturn)	£ 9,726,806	£ 1,848,870	£ 4,945,228	£ 16,520,905
Students engaged		4,755		

Key indicators	Total Forecast up to 2025 for all funding streams			
	Infrastructure	Skills, Education and Employment	Business Environment	All programmes (total)
Private sector Leverage (£m)	£ 78,227,857	£ 2,300,477	£ 814,998	£ 81,343,332
Additional houses	£ 30,541	£ -	-	30,541
Additional jobs	£ 32,103	£ 1,463	1,056	34,622
Businesses assisted*	£ -	£ 1,439	2,575	4,014
New learners assisted	£ -	£ 17,684	-	17,684
Total LEP Investment (outturn)	£ 205,838,163	£ 21,877,197	£ 6,976,817	£ 234,692,177
Students engaged		27,500		

Infrastructure and Place

CONNECTIVITY IS KEY

Connectivity helps us grow as an English sub- region. Physical connectivity – by road, rail or air – brings us closer to our collaborators, markets and customers. Fast, reliable digital access streamlines the way we work.

Traditionally, Berkshire has benefitted from its proximity to Heathrow Airport and London and as such has been a global gateway. The many businesses and foreign-owned companies drawn to our favourable location have contributed to our strong economy. Post-pandemic hybrid working patterns are becoming commonplace and companies are reviewing their property requirements in-line with current and perceived future needs.

LINKING UP THE POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

It's vital that our digital services support us to work efficiently whether we are based at home, in a public workspace, or in the office. A traditional 'five-days-a week, 9-5' office routine is unlikely to return for many companies, new hybrid working practices are emerging, becoming the new normal in many business sectors.

Professional life continues to evolve as we commute less and work in increasingly flexible ways. If a significant proportion of networking events, meetings and conferences even post-pandemic continue to be held online, Berkshire's businesses and their people will need increased digital capacity.

Access to transport hubs such as Heathrow may be less vital as companies strive to reduce their carbon footprint. Despite this, social contact will continue to play a role in our professional lives. In this blended approach, better transport links that facilitate face to face meetings will complement more powerful digital services. In the increased drive for Net Zero, the switch to electric vehicles is gathering pace with the commensurate need for a comprehensive, reliable, affordable charging network across Berkshire. When travelling, workers, visitors and residents will demand such a network.

Berkshire will need to successfully adapt to this new post-pandemic commercial landscape, embracing flexible working practices, having commercial buildings suitable for what could be a rapidly changing work environment. Changes to the traditional 5-day, 9-5 work patterns will require our transport network to be more demand responsive. Previous financial models based around mass-commuting may no longer be viable. The corresponding impact on High Street footfall will require our seven major town centres to adapt and renew, developing unique environments to attract visitors to replace the commuting visitor numbers which may be lost.

We see an opportunity to attract companies who wish to relocate from London as a response to trends in flexible working. As some organisations give up their London HQs, we wish to be seen as a viable UK alternative to a move overseas, particularly given the natural capital, educational and skilled people assets we can offer.

Changing travel habits also bring an opportunity to help meet net zero targets. 42% of our infrastructure capital investments to date have supported sustainable and active travel, from railway enhancements to cycling and park and ride facilities. The pandemic has had an impact on the short term use of these facilities, but this essential infrastructure will support Berkshire's net zero delivery in the future.

CHANGE TO FUNDING

With the Government's Levelling Up agenda, there has been significant changes to the infrastructure funding landscape. Previous funds such as Local Growth Fund, Getting Building Fund and Growing Places Fund have now ceased, with the Government now directing a significant proportion of funding

via the Levelling Up Fund to which Berkshire is not in a priority area. Small scale mainly revenue funding has been allocated via the Shared Prosperity Fund to each Local Authority, but this is insufficient to fund the scale of infrastructure projects we have been able to collectively deliver previously through the Local Growth Funds. The Department for Transport will continue to provide baseline maintenance funding, but at present there are no plans for future major infrastructure funding into Berkshire. Transport for the South East continues to develop its Strategic Investment Plan but whether this attracts significant capital funding remains a moot point. We continue to maintain our active engagement with the key infrastructure and transport groups but at a time where investment in the South East and especially former Shire areas such as Berkshire seems unlikely.

Several major infrastructure projects are improving Berkshire’s access.

- The Elizabeth Line (Crossrail) opened in May 2022, delivering what will eventually be a non-stop service from Reading and interim stations through central London and the east. In addition, all Berkshire’s seven Elizabeth Line stations have seen major renovations to provide full accessibility for passengers.
- The development of the £848m Smart M4 motorway is nearing completion with significant sections already fully open across Berkshire.
- We are continuing to support the Western Rail Link London Heathrow (WRLtH), although this project has been significantly delayed due to the Coronavirus pandemic’s impact on Heathrow passenger volumes which has inhibited Heathrow Airport Limited’s ability to provide revenue to finance.
- The Berkshire Infrastructure Group has won £0.5m from Building Digital UK to map and help facilitate better 5G coverage across Berkshire.
- The LEP is also responsible for overseeing Berkshire’s Business Rates Retention Pilot (BRRP) funds, which has to date resulted in £26m of the £36m funds being spent on infrastructure projects to benefit Berkshire.

The following local schemes and projects are due to complete in 2022/23:

Wokingham: Coppid Beech Park and Ride	April 2022
Slough MRT Phase 2*	June 2022
Slough Langley High Street phases 1 and 2	June 2022
Reading Green Park Railway Station	June 2022
Slough Langley High Street phase 3	September 2022
Superfast Berkshire	September 2022
Full Fibre to Communities	September 2022
Thames Valley Berkshire Smart City Cluster	September 2022
Newbury: King’s Road Link Road	September 2022
Slough: Stoke Road Area Regeneration	September 2022
Maidenhead: Town Centre Missing Links	November 2022
Newbury: Railway Station Improvements	November 2022
Windsor: Town Centre Package	December 2022

Reading West Station Upgrade	December 2022
Wokingham Winnersh Triangle Park & Ride	February 2023
Maidenhead: Housing Sites Enabling Works Phase 1	March 2023
Theale Station Park and Rail	October 2023
Slough Energy Hub*	TBC

*This project has been split in two, as the original park and ride that was proposed was no longer viable.

THE PROJECTS IN DETAIL

Wokingham: Coppid Beech Park and Ride

This is a new park and ride site to serve both Wokingham and Bracknell Town Centres as well as a potential bus route for Twyford Station.

Wokingham Borough Council | £2,400,000 LGF | April 2022

Slough MRT Phase 2

The A4 forms the spine of a 12km strategic public transport corridor that links Maidenhead, Slough and Heathrow and plays an important role in providing surface access to the airport. Phase 2 will extend the Slough Mass Rapid Transit (SMaRT) project from its current end point at Langley and take it onto the Heathrow service road. Bus lanes and other priority measures will be provided in the new section between Langley and eastwards beyond Junction 5 of the M4 and onto Heathrow.

Slough Borough Council | £8,300,000 BRRP | June 2022

Jobs: 400 | Houses: 2160*

*This project has been split in two and outputs have yet to be revised. See Slough Energy Hub below.

Slough Langley High Street phase 1

Reducing traffic delay at the High Street / Meadfield Road Junction, in anticipation of increased traffic to be redirected through Langley as a result of the closure of Hollow Hill Lane, required by the construction of Western Rail Link to Heathrow.

Slough Borough Council | £1,324,000 LGF | June 2022

Slough Langley High Street phase 2

Widening of Langley High Street north and south of the junction with Meadfield Road, in anticipation of increased traffic to be redirected through Langley as a result of the closure of Hollow Hill Lane, required by the construction of Western Rail Link to Heathrow.

Slough Borough Council | £1,033,000 LGF | June 2022

Reading Green Park Railway Station

The scheme will develop a new category C railway station on the Reading – Basingstoke line.

Reading Borough Council | £9,700,000 LGF | June 2022 (construction complete, opening to the public in September 2022)

Jobs: 2844 | Houses: 3207

Slough Langley High Street phase 3

This scheme is an extension to the Langley High Street phases 1 and 2 schemes and is primarily in response to the expected re-distribution of traffic from Hollow Hill Lane to High Street, as a result of Hollow Hill lane being permanently closed. The scheme extension is therefore designed to increase capacity, reduce additional congestion and delay through Langley that would otherwise be caused. As a result the widening will continue to support the both large and small business through the area such as the Langley Business Centre who are awaiting planning approval.

Slough Borough Council | £1,643,000 GBF | September 2022

Superfast Berkshire

Superfast Berkshire is a collaboration between the 6 Berkshire unitary authorities and TVB LEP and is part of the UK Government's national scheme to expand high speed broadband across the country. LGF fund to support delivery of phase 2 Lot 7 and 5 and phase 3 Wokingham to deliver high speed broadband infrastructure and increase superfast broadband coverage bringing Berkshire to in excess of 95% before the end of 2017.

West Berkshire Council | £546,920 BRRP | September 2022

Full Fibre to Communities

This project will seek to bring Full Fibre to schools across Berkshire of particular benefit to rural areas. This will in turn benefit local communities as it will also provide them with access to full fibre, including schools to open their facilities for adult learning and reskilling. Communities adjacent to connected schools will also be able to access gigabit connectivity via the digital infrastructure. This project will assist schools in enabling classes to use the internet as part of lessons as well as online training, cloud services and educational tools. This will also significantly improve speeds and reliability.

West Berkshire Council | £1,702,540 GBF | September 2022

Superfast broadband connections: 1620

Thames Valley Berkshire Smart City Cluster

This scheme is to develop the towns across Berkshire as a smart city cluster, benefiting residents, employees and encouraging economic development.

Reading Borough Council | £2,017,274 LGF & BRRP | September 2022

Jobs: 63

Newbury: Kings Road Link Road

The scheme is the delivery of the Kings Road Link Road in Newbury. It is a new direct link between the Hambridge Road industrial area and the A339 to support housing delivery and significantly improve access to a key employment area.

West Berkshire Council | £2,335,000 LGF | September 2022

Jobs: 150

Slough: Stoke Road Area Regeneration

Sustainable transport infrastructure and highway works to support regeneration of six major brownfield sites at Stoke Road and improved interchange and parking at Slough station.

Slough Borough Council | £7,650,000 LGF | September 2022

Maidenhead: Town Centre Missing Links

This scheme will improve connectivity between the planned major development areas in and around Maidenhead and the town centre, surrounding residential areas and local facilities. A new 'inner-ring' is proposed for pedestrians and cyclists, which will be tied into new/enhanced crossings over the A4, including a pedestrian/cycle bridge.

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead | £2,241,788 LGF | November 2022

Jobs: 144 | Houses: 322

Newbury: Railway Station Improvements

The Newbury Railway Station scheme plans to enhance and upgrade the station buildings to cope with the anticipated increases in passengers and demand for travel and car parking from the Market Street and Sandford Park developments. The scheme will deliver start-up incubator business units within rail land to the south of Newbury Railway Station, two new retail outlets on the station, new and enhanced cycle facilities, ticket hall and waiting areas, along with a new multi-storey car park, station forecourt, and pedestrian/cycle link to the town centre.

West Berkshire Council | £6,691,000 LGF | November 2022

Windsor: Town Centre Package

This project consists of a package of measures to support the visitor economy in Windsor by: improving pedestrian priority and the streetscape around Windsor Castle to improve security and visitor facilities, and support expansion of outdoor seating for restaurants, cafes and pubs; improvements to visitor reception / coach / bus / taxi interchange facilities and better linkage of the coach park to the town centre, with improvements for disabled access; enabling the roll-out of a demand-responsive bus service to improve public transport access within the Royal Borough and to Heathrow Airport to encourage more staying visitors; and expansion of parking to better cater for the growing demand from day visitors

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead | £1,562,500 LGF | December 2022

Jobs: 7

Reading West Station Upgrade

The Reading West Station scheme will deliver an improved passenger experience and multi-modal interchange, including a new station building, highway changes and improvements to platform facilities and the Tilehurst Road entrance.

Reading Borough Council | £3,100,000 LGF | December 2022

Jobs: 7 | Houses: 65

Wokingham Winnersh Triangle Park & Ride

The purpose of this scheme is to redevelop the transport links at Winnersh Triangle. The redevelopment will include double decking the new park and ride site to add at least 250 car parking spaces, improvement of the station building including the surrounding area and reorganising the highways layout.

Wokingham Borough Council | £4,240,444 LGF | February 2023

Maidenhead: Housing Sites Enabling Works Phase 1

Junction improvements and new highway infrastructure required to deliver major housing developments and town centre regeneration in Maidenhead.

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead | £5,281,000 LGF & BRRP | March 2023

Jobs: 2000 | Houses: 2492

Theale Station Park and Rail

The scheme is a joint scheme between GWR and West Berkshire Council and will deliver station enhancements at Theale to improve sustainable transport interchange, increase parking capacity and enhance customer facilities. Specifically, the scheme will seek to deliver: a new cycle hub for up to 100 bicycles, enhanced multi-modal interchange, increased parking capacity, installation of Electric Vehicle charging points, opening of the new ticket office with fully accessible ticket desk, passenger retail provision, new Ticket Vending Machines, new waiting shelters all alongside aiming to be a carbon neutral station.

West Berkshire Council | £4,000,000 LGF | October 2023

Jobs: 503

Slough Energy Hub

A new electric vehicle and hydrogen refuelling hub close to the M4, linked via the new mass rapid transit project to Slough town centre. The site will utilise energy from waste from the nearby waste and recycling depot. A full review of options will be carried out in summer 2022, with a new business case being developed later in 2022.

Slough Borough Council | £5,000,000 BRRP | TBC

Business Environment

Despite early signs of recovery from the pandemic in the Berkshire economy around the start of 2022, SMEs continue to experience challenges as a result of the war in Ukraine, increased energy prices, rising inflation and ongoing issues relating to recruitment and supply chains. To support SME growth, the LEP is continuing to invest in the delivery of number of business support activities.

The Berkshire Growth Hub and Funding Escalator, in operation since 2013 and 2014 respectively, provide core business support and finance to Berkshire based businesses and are ongoing. £72k of Local Growth Funds were invested in a new [Berkshire Growth Hub website](#) in 2021/22 providing significantly enhanced business support and a better customer journey.

The LEP launched its first Berkshire Business Capital Grant Fund in late 2021 and awarded capital funding to 6 Berkshire based scale-up businesses. These capital grants will continue to deliver through to September 2022, to support our ambitious scaling businesses to grow.

Using Local Authority Business Rates Retention Pilot monies, the LEP is developing a Berkshire Innovation Ecosystems Strategy to make the ecosystem more dynamic. The aim is to develop and nurture key clusters and sectors to enable Berkshire to seize opportunities for high value and 'additional' growth to equip it to compete internationally as well as nationally. The LEP is also investing Local Authority Business Rates Retention Pilot monies to improve the Berkshire inward investment offer and support the development of sector clusters.

Berkshire Business Growth Hub

A first stop-shop for business support to enhance and accelerate business performance, help more businesses to take advantage of national and local support programmes, increase jobs and raise levels of exporting. The Growth Hub provides information, resources and tailored support for eligible SMEs seeking to start up, run or grow and scale their business.

Investment to end March 2022: £4,714,228 RGF/ BEIS/SEEDA legacy/ERDF | £3,929,014 3rd party match funding

LEP investment in 2022/23: £231,000 | BEIS | Businesses to be assisted in 22/23: 900

Additional LEP financial reserves will be used to maintain a level of service above the BEIS funded contract.

Thames Valley Berkshire Funding Escalator

Providing ongoing finance to SMEs through a series of repayable loans of between £25,000 and £300,000 since 2014. The Growth Fund invests in high growth SMEs and can provide up to £250,000 of equity. Restructured to an evergreen model in 2019.

The FSE Group | £11,300,000 GPF | LEP investment in 22/23: £1,160,762 | Businesses to be supported in 22/23: 18

Berkshire Business Grants Fund

A capital grants fund for scale-up businesses to support investment projects that will enable them to capitalise on expansion opportunities or address barriers to their growth. The focus is on business expansion that will facilitate increased productivity, employment generation and greener, cleaner growth.

Investment to March 2022: £53,017 GBF | LEP investment in 2022/23: £162,637 GBF / £48,559 LGF

Jobs created in 22/23: 25 | Commercial floorspace redeveloped in 22/23: 96sq.m

There remain two projects utilising European Regional Development Funds to support Berkshire businesses this year:

South Internationalisation Fund

One of four projects within England to provide a co-funding support for SMEs across the South targeted at High Growth Potential businesses. The funding is provided through DIT's Internationalisation Fund Programme, supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

Department of International Trade | £1m ERDF (Berkshire allocation of total project budget) | additional jobs to June 2023: 57 | 189 SMEs supported in Thames Valley Berkshire to June 2023

Low Carbon Work Spaces

Project to deliver a low carbon support service providing grants to assist SMEs make energy efficiency changes and cost reduction to their business premises or processes.

Low Carbon Workspaces offers small and medium-sized businesses in Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire and Milton Keynes grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 to cover up to a third of the cost of making energy improvements.

The programme is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and managed by Ngage Solutions, a not-for-profit company that specialises in the design and delivery of grant schemes and business support programmes.

Ngage | £375,000 ERDF | Enterprises to be awarded grant funding in 22/23: 10 | Grant funding to be delivered in 22/23: 221,010 | December 2022 (a project change request has been submitted to extend project to June 2023 and is awaiting confirmation).

Skills, Education and Employment

Through our Skills Advisory Panel we have published our second Local Skills Report which builds on our annual Skills Priority Statement. It identifies our priorities for investment in employment and skills, initiatives that will maintain the competitiveness of Berkshire's economy, raise productivity and improve the wellbeing of the local population.

During 2022/23 we will continue to invest in Skills Capital projects, ESF activity and the Careers and Enterprise Company programme which is delivered in our local schools and colleges. Our Skills and Employment Portal [Berkshire Opportunities](#) will be refreshed to ensure that as Berkshire recovers from the Coronavirus pandemic, the LEP and its partners are taking actions and decisions to lead in a local economic recovery and get the area back on track.

More information on the Skills and Education projects and programmes we have supported is available in our [Skills Report](#).

Seven **European Social Funds (ESF)** projects continue into 2022/23:

- Better Opportunity Partnership (Slough Borough Council, with match funding provided by the National Lottery Community Fund)
- Skills support for the workforce delivered by Martinex Ltd (Burleigh College)
- Skills support for the unemployed delivered by Martinex Ltd (Burleigh College)
- Supporting NEETs delivered by Adviza
- Community Grants delivered by Groundwork London and Groundwork South
- Industry Specialist Teaching and Knowledge Exchange Programme (Activate Learning lead)
- Berkshire Education Employer Partnership (Adviza lead)

Skills Capital Funding

The LEP has funded 27 skills capital projects from the Getting Building Fund and Local Growth Funds, awarding £7,769,434 of investment. All of these projects except those outlined below have completed their physical builds and are in the monitoring and evaluation stage. The LEP has recently released a skills capital prospectus to reallocate a small amount of returned Local Growth Funds, with work being completed by 31 March 2023.

Activate Creative Industries Skills Centre - This project will create an industry standard Creative Industries Skills Centre at Reading College to support our growing creative sector. The project is directly aligned to the introduction of the new T Level in Media, Broadcast and Production being launched nationally and at Reading College in September 2023.

Activate Learning | £480,000 GBF | September 2022

New learners: 197

Supported Employment Café - A new café in Reading that will not only create jobs and development opportunities for individuals with Special Educational needs and disabilities but also demonstrate what real diversity in the workforce looks like, and challenge perceptions.

New Directions with Ways into Work | £133,100 GBF | September 2022

New learners: 61

Langley College Green Skills Academy - This project will provide dedicated facilities including demonstration models and equipment to offer industry standard training in new environmental technologies including renewable energy and sustainable construction. This will build on the existing plumbing, electrical, general construction and carpentry training and apprenticeships already offered at the College.

Windsor Forest Colleges Group | £480,000 GBF | September 2022

New learners: 55

Berkshire Enterprise Advisor Network (EAN)

The Berkshire EAN connects educational establishments with employers to improve careers and enterprise provision for young people. The Careers Hub provides intensive support for 20 networked schools across Berkshire. Additional impact will be delivered via a SEND awareness community of practice group to support SEND and mainstream schools in the Hub. In 2021/22 the LEP received £80,000 to run a Hub Incubation Pilot, providing local secondary school teachers with valuable industry placements to enrich the careers advice within their schools. This project will deliver within the current academic year.

The LEP has been successful in bidding for an additional £20,000 from the CEC to deliver transitional support for school leavers and personal guidance for those in years 10 to 13.

Thames Valley Berkshire LEP and Careers & Enterprise Company (CEC) | £142,500 CEC (forecast) | August 2022 | Outputs: 58 schools matched with an Enterprise Adviser, of which 20 receive intensive support as part of the Thames Valley Berkshire Careers Hub.

Monitoring & evaluation

Understanding the impact of what we do is crucial. A strong evidence base helps us ensure we are directing our activities where they will be most effective in driving economic growth and productivity and enable improvements in programme and project design and implementation.

The LEP is responsible for allocating capital funds, in line with our Assurance Framework. Prior to approval of a project a full business plan is developed and independently assessed. This creates a baseline, outlining the outputs and outcomes of what the project will deliver and justifies why the project is needed. Once the project is approved, the Programme Management Office (PMO), along with the relevant staff lead monitor the progress of the build phase with the delivery partner. Ongoing monitoring is then required until all project outcomes have been achieved. The PMO use this data to prepare quarterly reports to the LEP Board and government. These are scrutinised by the LEP Board and the Section 151 Officer within the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, the LEP's Accountable Body, and also by a scrutiny body, the LEP Forum, so that risk is managed appropriately.

All Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Fund infrastructure projects are required to carry out an evaluation one year after practical completion, and again at five years for infrastructure projects. These evaluations are independently assessed. The Berkshire Business Growth Hub is monitored and evaluated annually in line with BEIS guidelines.

The LEP developed a detailed Monitoring and Evaluation plan alongside the Strategic Economic Plan, that was revised in November 2019, in agreement with government. Several of the infrastructure projects outlined for evaluation are still in development. An overall LGF programme evaluation will be carried out in 2022/23, along with work by delivery partners to collage monitoring data to report back to government.

GLOSSARY

BEIS Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

BLIS Berkshire Local Industrial Strategy

BRRP Business Rates Retention Pilot

CEC Careers & Enterprise Company

DfT Department for Transport

DfE Department for Education

EAN Enterprise Advisor Network

ERDF European Regional Development Fund

ESF European Social Funds

ESIF European Structural & Investment Funds

GBF Getting Building Fund

GPF Growing Places Fund

HSPG Heathrow Strategic Planning Group

LEP Local Enterprise Partnership

LGF Local Growth Funds

MOU Memorandum of Understanding

SEP Strategic Economic Plan

Appendix A

Risk ratings for live projects (correct at 31 May 2022)

Infrastructure and Place

Project	RAG	Risk rating
Newbury: King's Road Link Road	AG	Worked stopped until planning issues are resolved.
Reading Green Park Railway Station	AG	Completion delayed to June, expected September 22 public opening
Newbury: Railway Station	A	Works progressing well on all elements of the project
Wokingham: Winnersh Triangle Park & Ride	A	Resolved issue of identified water main along proposed foundations for carpark caused delays. Awaiting revised programme of works.
Slough: Stoke Road Area Regeneration	AG	Works on going but delayed due to project complexity
Slough MRT Phase 2	AG	Project split in 2: MRT to complete Apr 22. See Slough EV Hub.
Slough EV Hub	R	Project split from Slough MRT. Options appraisal needed ahead of new business case development.
Reading: Reading West Station Upgrade	A	Contract has been signed off for GWR contract. Work underway with utilities for highways.
Theale Station Upgrade	AR	New contractor appointed for footbridge, delayed start to work. Water main issue delayed procurement of car park contractor.
Windsor: Town Centre Package	AR	Main contractor re-tender ongoing due to increased costs.
Slough Langley High Street phase 3	AG	Work underway but subject to slight design changes
Full Fibre to Communities	AG	Work is underway following retender. £300k to be reallocated by DIG
Maidenhead: Housing Sites Enabling Work Ph. 1	A	Braywick roundabout remaining, de-scoping exercise carried out; completion delayed due to redesigned. See BRRP below
Maidenhead Town Centre: Missing Links	AG	Bridge installation remaining-contractor engaged and designs complete

Skills, Education and Employment

Project	RAG	Risk rating
Berkshire Enterprise Advisor Network	G	Project underway
Better Opportunity Partnership (E	G	Contract managed by ESFA

Berks)		
Industry Specialist Teaching and Knowledge Exchange Programme	G	Contract managed by ESFA
Berkshire Education Employer Partnership	G	Contract managed by ESFA
Skills Support for the Workforce / Employee Support in Skills	AG	Contract managed by ESFA
Skills Support for the Unemployed or Economically Inactive People	G	Contract managed by ESFA
Support for those at risk of NEET	G	Contract managed by ESFA
Community grants	A	Contract managed by ESFA
Activate Creative Industry Skills Centre	G	Project underway
Supported Employment Café	AG	Timings reprofiled following approval of conditions
Langley College Green Skills Academy	A	Project underway

Business Environment

Project	RAG	Risk rating
Economic Growth / Berks Business Grant Fund	AG	Projects delivering but risk associated with new programme
Berkshire Growth Hub	G	Project underway
Funding Escalator	G	Project underway
South Internationalisation Fund Export Grant Scheme	R	Project underway
Low Carbon Workspaces	G	Project underway

Contact

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