



About the Thames Valley and Swindon Chamber Council

The Thames Valley is one of the UK's most successful economic regions; the real power-house of the UK economy; a proven destination for inward investment and a significant origin of export orientated trading companies. The Swindon Chamber represents a broad range of businesses, with a workforce that made it the manufacturing centre for the Great Western Railway- and set the standard for excellence in engineering. Swindon is also home to global brands such as Nationwide, Intel and the UK manufacturing hub for Honda and BMW (Mini).

Purpose

This 'statement' summarises the key local policy priorities of the Swindon Chamber Council and is endorsed by the region's only accredited Chamber, the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Aim and Objective

The aim of this statement is to provide a clear summary of the core policy priorities the Swindon Chamber is focused on and unified in supporting. The objective is to help ensure politicians, public policy makers and other key stakeholders are clear about what the business community in the area feel are important and decision makers should concentrate on delivering and influencing. It is also an invitation to those partners to engage with business and the local Chamber Council to help shape, frame and deliver solutions that will secure the economic prosperity of the local area and wider Thames Valley and South West regions.

Local Policy Priorities

Our membership has identified several local policy priorities:

- To engage business to make sure Government is listening to and is working towards ensuring the delivery of a 'business friendly' (rather than a 'hard' or 'soft') BREXIT
- To call for improvement in regional and local infrastructure, specifically:
 - To call for investment along the Great Western line to free capacity to London and help bring Swindon within 'the golden hour' of London
 - To ensure the timely implementation of London Heathrow's Third Runway
 - To secure the commitment to deliver several key local infrastructure elements (including improvements to the M4 Junction 16A; a new western link road (to link with the A419 north of the town/south of Cricklade); along with the extension of Thames Drive to link with the town centre
- To make certain that Swindon town centre continues to have the appropriate financial injection to manage, maintain and improve the centre and its supporting infrastructure so that it attracts more inward investment
- To call for a '2050 Vision' that maximises the potential to align economic and land-use planning to- most effectively- shape and frame Swindon's future
- To maintain support to existing exporters, helping new businesses to grow their trade activity
- To encourage stronger business focused relationships at all levels including education and business to business



Kevin Gwilliam

President, Swindon Chamber Council



Paul Britton

Chief Executive, TVCC