



About the Thames Valley and Reading and Wokingham 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 Reading & Wokingham Chamber represents businesses across all sectors, many of which are Professional Services and Technology companies. Reading has two main business parks – Green Park, home to Bayer and Pepsico, and Thames Valley Park where Microsoft have their campus.

Purpose

This 'statement' summarises the key local policy priorities of the Reading & Wokingham Chamber Council and is endorsed by the regions 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 Reading & Wokingham Chamber is focused behind 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 region.

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 lobby for improvement in our regional infrastructure, specifically:
 - To secure the funding for and the delivery of the Western Rail Link to Heathrow (WRLtH)
 - To ensure the timely implementation of London Heathrow's Third Runway
 - To expedite the delivery of the M4 smart motorway programme between junctions 3-12 against the current timetable
 - To support proposals to secure the delivery of the Reading Green Park station
 - To maintain momentum for the delivery of a third River Thames crossing
- To ensure that Wokingham and Reading town centres continue to have the appropriate financial injection to manage, maintain and improve services and associated infrastructure so that the area remains an investment destination of choice for UK and foreign-owned companies
- To encourage stronger business focused relationships with all levels of education
- To maintain support to existing exporters, helping new businesses to grow their trade activity



Andy Cowie

President, Reading & Wokingham Chamber Council



Paul Britton

Chief Executive, TVCC