

About the Thames Valley and Reading and Wokingham Chamber Council

Thames Valley is the UK's true turbo-economy; the most successful economic region outside of London for attracting inward investment and a significant origin of export-orientated trading companies. Reading and Wokingham Chamber represents businesses of all sizes across an array of sectors, including significant clusters of financial and professional services, life sciences and technology companies.

Aim and Objective

Endorsed by the region's only accredited Chamber, the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce, this statement summarises the core local policy priorities the Reading and Wokingham Chamber will support throughout 2019. The objective is to ensure that politicians, public policymakers and other key stakeholders understand what the business community in the area consider important and decision makers should focus on delivering. 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

The Chamber Council has identified several local policy priorities:

- Engage business to make sure Government is aware of their ambient and future needs pre and post leaving the European Union; to lobby for a 'business-friendly' BREXIT.
- Advocate for the strengthening of regional infrastructure networks, specifically:
 - Communicating the benefits of Western Rail Link to Heathrow (WRLtH);
 - Maintaining support for the timely expansion of Heathrow Airport;
 - Securing the expeditious delivery of the Elizabeth Line, M4 smart motorway and Reading Green Park station;
 - Providing greater business input into the East Reading Mass Rapid Transit project;
 - Sustaining momentum for a third River Thames crossing;
 - Raising awareness of the 'last mile problem' – the challenge of moving people between transportation hubs and their final destinations.
- Ensure that Reading and Wokingham town centres continue to have the appropriate financial injection and operational leadership to manage, maintain and improve services and associated infrastructure.
- Promote the area as an investment destination of choice for UK and foreign-owned companies; to challenge the relevant public authorities to actively engage in foreign direct investment activity.
- Maintain support to existing exporters and help new businesses grow their trade activity.
- Foster stronger business-focused relationships with all levels of education, including Bracknell and Wokingham College, University College of Estate Management, University of Reading and UTC Reading.



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