

#### About the Thames Valley and Oxfordshire Local Chamber Advisory Group (LCAG)

The Thames Valley is a true turbo-economy - the 'Silicon Valley' of Europe and one of the UK's most productive regions. Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (TVCC) is the independent voice of business in the region.

Home to the world's No. 1 University for the sixth consecutive year, and world leading IP-rich business community, Oxfordshire is consistently one of the UK's most productive, top-performing locations, attracting high volumes of foreign direct investment.

The Oxfordshire Chamber represents businesses of all sizes across an array of sectors, including advanced engineering, creative industries, life sciences, robotics, space, and technology.

#### Aim and Objective

This policy statement summarises the core local policy priorities this Chamber will support throughout 2022. Like the strategic priorities set out in the [Business Manifesto 2022](#), they reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and how we deal with the continued challenges of the EU transition.

The objective is to help ensure that our region's decision makers and key stakeholders hear a clear voice from businesses as to what we consider important and decision makers understand what to focus on delivering. It is also an invitation to those partners to engage with businesses and the LCAG 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 Oxfordshire LCAG has identified the following local policy priorities:

- Be the independent voice of local business, providing decision makers and key stakeholders with informed input that promotes the value of community engagement and business reputation.
- Preserve our active partnerships with relevant partners to achieve our wider policy aims and objectives across the economic geography of the County and wider Thames Valley.
- Promote initiatives that support a green recovery, and proposals that are helping to build a local economy centred around net-zero, sustainability principles and social purpose.

[www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk)



- Encourage proposals that can help secure the appropriate mix of development and the highest standard of urban design, planning, and infrastructure provision across Oxfordshire.
- Work with industry and key stakeholders in the education and training sector to support initiatives that will help secure skills development and training.
- Support appropriate local transport initiatives that strengthen confidence in travelling by public transport and lead to its sustained recovery and reviewing the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.
- Support proposals that strength public transport connections to Heathrow airport.
- Foster stronger business-focused relationships with all levels of education, to build a greater understanding of the world of work and the skills and knowledge required of business for its future workforce.
- Lobby Government for the delivery of the Local Skills Improvement Plan.
- Maintain support to existing exporters and help new businesses grow their trade activity.
- Support initiatives that re-imagine the County towns, encourage appropriate levels of investment and active town centre management that will help secure their future vitality, vibrancy, and employment opportunities.
- Promote the sectors where Oxfordshire has evidential strengths and locations that support foreign direct investment (FDI), supporting new investors to deliver sustained levels of activity that secures higher volumes and value FDI projects.
- As appropriate and relevant to our business community, support proposals that deliver Oxfordshire LEP's Local Economic Recovery Plan and support the Inclusive Economy work being led by Oxford City Council.
- In recognition of the Government's ambition for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, play our part in its development and delivery.
- Work with Government to try and progress the recommendations of the DMO review.
- Work with partners and key stakeholders to feed into the LEP Review, Oxford City Centre Action Plan Consultation and Oxford's Economic Strategy Consultation where appropriate.
- Review the outcomes of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 Consultation which will be key to the future of Oxfordshire land use planning.

[www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk)



## Strategic Policy Background

Our LCAG priorities form an integral part of the wider TVCC regional programme detailed in the three main priorities set out in the Business Manifesto 2022. Together, they form policies and actions behind which the whole Chamber network will focus:

- 1. Helping secure investment in resilient infrastructure, utility, and sustainable networks:** promoting the need for investment to deliver resilient digital and transportation networks across the Thames Valley that will support the region's future sustainable economic growth, showcase innovation and green technologies, and which support our move to a net-zero economy.
- 2. Ensuring trade and inward investment continues to flow in a post-EU transition environment:** providing Thames Valley businesses with the relevant, direct, and practical information and support they require to 'build back better', trade overseas more efficiently and improve UK plc's inward investment and trade figures; Lobby Government to ensure we have frictionless trade, freedom of movement for the workforce and investment in appropriate skills.
- 3. Regional leadership and showcasing the region as a key contributor to levelling-up:** supporting initiatives that invest in the success of the region's sustainable economic growth and productivity; Showcase the contributions investing in the Thames Valley can make to the levelling-up agenda.



**Phil Southall**

President, Oxfordshire  
Chamber of Commerce



**Paul Britton**

Chief Executive, TVCC



[www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk)

