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Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group

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Submitted via email to: planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

To whom it may concern,

The Local Plan for Buckinghamshire & The Local Transport Plan 5

On behalf of the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (TVCC), we thank you for the opportunity to provide the following comments on the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire consultation.

We previously submitted our online representation on behalf of TVCC's regional [Buckinghamshire Local Area Assembly](#) and our broader membership (ref: ANON-54U7-EF5P-5) On 11/02/2022, we expressed our broad support that the Local Plan aims to deliver sustainable development that meets the socio-economic and environmental needs of Buckinghamshire residents and importantly businesses; A Local Plan focused on planning for economic development and meeting the ambitions of our businesses to operate, grow and expand. In general terms we believe your Plan needs to enhance its narrative and policies towards maintaining the County's strong economy.

Our comments have been prepared in consultation with selected members, including those from the Buckinghamshire Local Area Assembly. We also wish to reference the [Thames Valley Buckinghamshire Local Priority Statement](#) this has been developed and agreed with our wider membership. We refer you to this document as part of our representation along with our Strategic policy statement – the [2023 Business Manifesto](#).

Following our previous comments from February, under 'Objective 7: Economy and Jobs' - we welcome the inclusion of the designation of employment spaces that support a diverse range of commercial activity; We need to ensure that businesses are supported, meeting the future needs of companies already located in the County of Buckinghamshire (to expand and grow) ensuring that Buckinghamshire is seen as a great place to do business, by drawing in businesses that wish to re-invest and invest (I.e. encouraging foreign direct investment)¹. We as the Chamber, believe that these are core components in ensuring that the County, towns, and areas of employment, remains successful and help generate the wealth to sustain the vibrancy and vitality of our community.

In regard your call for comment on the Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP5) vision and objectives, we do not wish to make any specific recommendations and we have encouraged our members to make appropriate recommendations. We would like to draw your attention to our previous submission. Through a Unitary Authority there is a new opportunity to remediate some of the longstanding issues and challenges, which have been raised by our membership, linked to the [Cressex Industrial Estate](#) in High Wycombe. These will be well-known to the Council and its planning team, but we are very happy to engage directly on this specific matter. This is an employment site, I am sure we would agree, needs



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some attention to ensure its potential is maximised and one 'fit for purpose' and delivering again your Local Plan aims.

We look forward to an opportunity of discussing these representations with you and your professional colleagues in more detail in due course.



Paul Britton
Chief Executive
Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group



Richard Collins
President
Buckinghamshire Local Area Assembly

About the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce

The Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (TVCC) is one of the largest accredited Chambers within the UK and the only accredited Chamber of Commerce for the Thames Valley region. The Chamber is a proven centre of excellence for trade and inward investment services.

Representing over 4,000 companies in membership, with an economy estimated in size to be more than £83,848m (2015), it is home to over 115,000 businesses, including: 11 of the world's top 15 tech companies; the No.1 University in the world (Oxford); fastest growing city (Reading) in the UK (EY); once again, the two highest performing cities (Oxford and Reading) according to PwC; the second largest trading city in the UK (Slough); the most productive city per capita (Slough) (Centre for Cities) and the No.1 region, outside of London, for attracting inward investment. In addition, the Thames Valley Chamber credits a range of impressive statistics:

- 295,000 combined number of staff employed by members
- 5000+ number of active trade customers
- £3,847,682,487 – the value of Chamber facilitated exports during 2022
- Average 150 new trade customers each year
- 183 countries trading with our customers
- 83 sectors represented by members and international trade customers
- Consistently one of the UK's most attractive locations for attracting inward investment
- 65% of international companies setting up or expanding in the Thames Valley have been supported by TVCC.