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11<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Submitted via email to: [planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:planningpolicyteam.bc@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

To whom it may concern,

### **The Local Plan for Buckinghamshire**

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 have, today, submitted our online representation on behalf of TVCC's regional [Buckinghamshire Chamber](#) and our broader membership (ref: ANON-54U7-EF5P-5).

Our comments have been prepared in consultation with selected members, including those from the Buckinghamshire Local Chamber Advisory Group (LCAG). We also wish to reference the LCAG's [Local Policy Priority Statement for Buckinghamshire](#)<sup>1</sup> which 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 [2022 Business Manifesto](#).

In general terms we broadly support 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. For example, in the questionnaire under Place – there is no reference to business/employment land? We do need to be supporting businesses, meeting the future needs of companies already located in the County (to expand and growth) and provide for those who see Buckinghamshire as a great place to do business<sup>2</sup>, who wish to re-invest and invest (i.e., including new foreign owned companies). These are core components in ensuring the County, its towns and employment areas, remain successful and help generate the wealth to sustain the vibrancy and vitality of our community.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.thamesvalleychamber.co.uk/local-chamber-policy-priorities/>

<sup>2</sup> By way of example we refer you to document such as the [Buckinghamshire LEP's delivery plan](#) and earlier [Local Industrial Strategy](#).

In regard your call for Brownfield sites we do not wish to make any specific recommendations, leaving this up to our individual members to make appropriate representations. However, what we will say is that through the Unitary Authority and this Local Plan there is a unique opportunity to remediate some of the longstanding issues and challenges, 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 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**  
**Local President**  
**Buckinghamshire Chamber of Commerce**

### **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
- £1,692,474,094– the value of international trade enabled in 2018
- Average 150 new trade customers each year
- 178 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.