

Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce Group

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

29<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Dear Department for Science, Innovation and Technology,

**RE: TVCC Letter of support - 5G Innovation Regions (5GIRs)**  
**Promoting the development and scaled adoption of 5G**

Following the announcement from HMG on a new £40m fund to create new 5G Innovation Regions to support regions in the United Kingdom to boost economic growth through world class digital infrastructure, I am writing to you on behalf of the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce (TVCC) in support of the regional bid for local authorities across the Thames Valley Region (West Berkshire, Reading, Slough, Bracknell Forest, Windsor and Maidenhead, Oxfordshire, Wokingham, and Buckinghamshire).

More detail can be found on the merits of 5G and the existing credentials of the Thames Valley on the TVCCs inward investment portal: [www.thamesvalley.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.co.uk).

- The Thames Valley's is home to one of, if not the strongest and biggest data centre cluster, which can support the rising demands of 5G and the consequent exponential growth in data transmission.
- The Westcott 5G Step-Out Centre is a 5G facility to test and develop new services and products by accessing the latest wireless applications service equipment and satellite data without the need to invest in expensive infrastructure. This facility will be key to unlocking 5G's potential for the UK economy.
- The Thames Valley is consistently the location of choice for 5G investment, the European Space Agency's 5G/6G Hub in Oxfordshire received Government-backing.

The Thames Valley, frequently referred to as the 'Silicon Valley of Europe' contributes roughly £10 billion in annual turnover to the British tech economy which is valued to be at £161 billion. Financial Times analysis highlights that the Reading and Bracknell digital cluster ranks highest for employee productivity, with a gross value added for each worker of approximately £158,000. There are numerous business parks and industrial sites across the Thames Valley ensuring that the region holds its unique position in the global market. With more than 8,000 technology-led companies based in the region, the Thames Valley has long been a technology hub and a proven location for both established global brands and innovative start-ups to grow.

High-performing technology towns in the Thames Valley, such as Reading and the surrounding area shines, according to a new Local Business Pulse Index (LBPI) report from KPMG UK and the university of Nottingham (see: [KPMG Report](#)). The report offers a picture of the current and expected economic profiles of local areas across Britain and uses AI technologies to pinpoint trends. The aim is to enable businesses and local government to prioritise what type of investment is needed and where.

Berkshire is recognised as an internationally renowned [Digital Tech Cluster](#); home to many large-scale technology businesses and an ever-expanding number of high-growth start-ups. Around 20% of Reading's economic activity – a Berkshire town – is associated with the ICT sector, with companies such as Oracle, Microsoft and Cisco headquartered in the region making the region home to the largest cluster outside of London.

Thames Valley's strong tech sector is shown with the South East cementing its position as one of the UK's leading tech hubs with \$1,274.74m investment into the region, £91bn in turnover, and a value of \$585bn in the UK tech start-ups and scaleup ecosystem – In 2021, Oxford received \$532bn in investment and Reading received \$15.3bn; the cities also ranked 2nd and 15th respectively as UK Tech Leaders.

The UK is a significant market opportunity for inward investors and at its heart – the Thames Valley – is one of its most important clusters of innovative, high-growth, IP-rich companies across the full range of tech sub-sectors.

The adoption of 5G connectivity and services in the Thames Valley will provide substantial economic benefits, with substantial productivity gains.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours Sincerely,



Paul Britton  
Chief Executive

## About the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce

Representing over 4,000 members and trading customers, the TVCC is the only accredited Chamber for the Thames Valley, and part of the wider British Chambers of Commerce network.

Our employer relationships in Berkshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Swindon built up over 73 years, are substantial, trusted, and productive through member and non-member services.

We have a significant presence, beyond membership, with over 17,000 unique users of our website every month and over 13,000 social media followers and the management of the Thames Valley portal. Our virtual events are the highest ranked (market reach), in BCC Accredited Network.

Our event programme and business engagement are extensive. In 2021 we delivered 111 events attracting 3,052 attendees. In 2022 we held 52 in-person events and 35 webinars, attracting 5114 attendees.



Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
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