



BUSINESS ALLIANCE

CONNECTING THE MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS
LEADERS IN THE THAMES VALLEY

The Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce is the independent voice of business for the region. On behalf of micro to multinational organisations, we aim to drive better economic conditions and new opportunities for members and the wider business community.

Business Alliance is our top tier of membership and brings together leaders from the region's biggest employers and global brands. We work together to influence the strategic priorities of the Thames Valley to ensure it remains one of the most consistently high performing and economically successful regions in the UK.

Business Alliance members have access to the full range of activities and services offered by the Chamber, including an exclusive programme of events, the opportunity to take part in our sector and theme based working groups, bespoke support from our policy and international trade teams, and a dedicated account manager to help you to establish connections and build relationships with other members across the Chamber.

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We place enormous value on the opportunity that Business Alliance membership provides, to collaborate and build relationships with leaders from across the region's top industry sectors

Hugh Milward.
Vice President, External Affairs
Microsoft UK



EXCLUSIVE NETWORKING & LEADERSHIP INSIGHTS

Business Alliance membership gives you access to the full Chamber event programme. This includes invitations to our exclusive flagship events held at the region's iconic locations, giving you the opportunity to connect and network with senior leaders from across the region, as well as to hear the latest leadership insights.

WINDSOR DEBATES

The Windsor Debates series is a flagship programme for Business Alliance members. Taking place in the exclusive environment of St George's House, in the grounds of Windsor Castle, the Debates address local, national and global agenda issues. High level networking and discussion are provided under Chatham House rule, and the insights gained are of particular benefit to senior executives positioned to influence the strategies of major companies, as well as informing the strategic priorities of the Chamber. Themes covered in recent years include 'The Future Competitiveness of the Thames Valley,' 'Thames Valley – the UK's Creative Hub', and 'Leadership'.



BUSINESS ALLIANCE LEADERSHIP DINNERS

Our Business Alliance Dinners take place quarterly and are an opportunity for senior business leaders to come together in a relaxed atmosphere to network and hear from speakers on key topics of the day. The dinners take place at prestigious locations across the region and bring together some of the region's largest employers. Our keynote speakers in 2023 included senior representatives from Thames Water, Royal Holloway University, Buckinghamshire New University, and Equinix covering topics such as skills, geopolitics, and AI.

HR FORUM

Launched in 2023, our HR Forum brings together HR practitioners from a range of different sectors to network, share best practice and explore latest trends. The HR Forum meets quarterly to hear from expert speakers and gives HR practitioners the opportunity to connect with their peers.

ACCESS TO TVCC EVENTS

In addition to our exclusive BA events, you are also encouraged to join our wider programme of free events held across the region, including:

- **POLITICAL WORKING LUNCHES**
- **QUARTERLY INFLATION REPORT BRIEFINGS WITH THE BANK OF ENGLAND**
- **QUARTERLY ECONOMIC SURVEY RESULTS BRIEFINGS**
- **BUSINESS LEADERS FORUMS**
- **MEET THE CHAMBER AND BUSINESS NETWORKING**

Business Alliance members also receive a complimentary ticket to our annual International Technology Conference held in May and our Member Christmas Lunch held in December.





DELIVERING REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TOGETHER

As an independent and respected voice of business in the Thames Valley, we aim to deliver regional leadership. Our Business Alliance members play a pivotal role in helping us to achieve this by participating in a series of initiatives designed to showcase the region, engage stakeholders and policymakers, and attract inward investment.

THAMES VALLEY ASSEMBLY (TVA)

The TVA sits in the centre of the Chamber's independent, non-political status and plays a key role in identifying and dealing with issues that matter most to business in the region. It meets three times per year and brings together our Business Alliance members, Chairs of our working groups, selected SMEs, regional representatives, our Board, and in-house senior team.

Working together through the TVA, the Chamber seeks to promote the contribution of our members to the economy and co-develop solutions with civic leaders to address the challenges and develop strategic priorities for our region and the wider economy. This culminates in bespoke events and projects to tackle the issues of the time. Throughout 2023 and 2024 the focus has been to develop closer links between businesses and parliamentarians.



University of Reading (Business Alliance member) with panel members of the TVCC Parliamentary Question Time, Nov 2023

We recognise the value in multi-organisational, cross sectoral and geographical collaboration. At the heart of this statement is an ambition to strengthen relationships between business, academic institutions, and civic leaders and co-develop solutions that will help deliver investment and sustainable growth across the whole of the Thames Valley region. Together we are stronger. Combining the power of government, industry networks, business and community networks can drive change and tackle a growing risk register for the region.

Across the Thames Valley, and with a mandate from business to lead we:

- Demonstrate the capability and potential of our key sectors and place.
- Communicate the strength of impactful partnership and the value of systems leadership.
- Broadcast why the Thames Valley is the UK's true turbo economy.
- Present how the Thames Valley has the solutions that can help address the nations. challenges and deliver economic growth.



WORKING GROUPS

Our sector and theme-based working groups showcase the strength of the Thames Valley's capability, championing the region as a global leader and a destination of choice for foreign investment and trade. Business Alliance members are encouraged to engage in these working groups which attract like-minded, purpose-driven business leaders, to help drive these sectors and themes forward for the benefit of the wider Thames Valley business community.

Healthcare & Life Sciences

The business-led Health and Life Sciences Working Group (HLSWG) is the only region-wide group for the sector, bringing together industry leaders from global corporates, SME's, spinouts and recently established inward investors to ensure that the Thames Valley Health and Life Sciences Community is heard and represented into UK Government's Life Sciences Vision.

Sustainability

The Sustainability Working Group (SWG) brings together businesses and thought leaders to help shape a Thames Valley response to the challenges presented by sustainability, climate change and the race to net zero. SWG members work together to provide practical advice and establish consistent and comparable metrics for any organisation on their journey to net zero.

Outputs from the SWG so far have included a business checklist which helps businesses of all sizes take a practical approach to the climate change issues affecting them, and the State of the Region Report 2023 which considers a region-wide perspective on the Thames Valley's pathway to net zero and aims to become a comprehensive annual report based on a consistent set of indicators.

Infrastructure

The Western Rail Link to Heathrow (WRLtH) is a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project, which seeks to build a new 6.5km rail link between the Great Western Main Line and London Heathrow Airport. Our WRLtH Working Group brings together businesses from across the region to advocate for the timely delivery of this project, which will:

- Improve access to Heathrow for 14 million people and bring Swindon and Oxford within 60 minutes travel time.
- Reduce traffic and congestion on main roads and motorways around Heathrow Airport
- Offer additional resilience to the rail network
- Act as a catalyst or the recovery of business confidence, inward investment, international trade and inbound tourism across the benefitting areas



INWARD INVESTMENT – PROMOTING THE MERIT OF OUR GLOBAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

Our Centre of Excellence for Inward Investment is committed to ensuring that the Thames Valley remains competitive and attractive to foreign direct investment from companies across the world. In addition to providing practical support to international businesses looking to establish or grow their base in the region, we also highlight the ambitions and achievements of our leading businesses. Business Alliance members are invited to support and contribute to our work to showcase the credential of the region and the businesses located here.

THAMES VALLEY INSIGHTS

Throughout 2024, we will be producing a series of publications highlighting key trends and best practice in inward investment, artificial intelligence and international trade. Business Alliance members will be invited to contribute and help to identify themes for future publications.



STRATEGIC SUPPORT

Our teams across the Chamber work with Business Alliance members to help you achieve your aims from your membership of the Chamber.

STRATEGIC ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

Each Business Alliance member has a dedicated Business Alliance Manager who is there to support you to get the most from your membership.

They will work with you to identify your business priorities as a member of the Chamber and how you can engage in our various workstreams and events. They will also help to connect you with other members of the Chamber and any opportunities that arise through our network.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Business Alliance members are invited to explore opportunities for collaboration with the Chamber and its programmes of work to help build your profile and increase your exposure in the region. Opportunities can include strategic partnerships and sponsorship. Your account manager will help to identify these opportunities and work with you to take them forward.



INTERNATIONAL TRADE SERVICES

With over 60% of Chamber members exporting, our International Trade Services team works with colleagues across the Chamber network to promote the merit of bilateral trade and reduce barriers to trade. As well as providing practical services to support companies trading internationally, our centre of Excellence for International Trade works closely with members to ensure their voices are heard in the latest trade discussions. Our International Trade Team also provides skills development training for importers and exporters.

Business Alliance members are invited to work with our policy and trade teams to identify challenges and opportunities when trading internationally, providing case studies and feedback to UK Government with the support of the Chamber.

In addition, Business Alliance members have access to a complimentary package of trade services, including:

- Five hours of trade consultancy time with our in-house trade experts
- Access to our dedicated trade desks for Japan and Romania
- Invitations to trade-focused events and roundtables
- Discounts on our trade documentation services
- Discounts on our trade training workshops
- Complimentary place at our International Trade Conference



OUR BUSINESS ALLIANCE MEMBERS





**BUSINESS
ALLIANCE**



THAMES VALLEY
**CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**
GROUP