



THAMES VALLEY
**CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**
GROUP

2025 **BUSINESS MANIFESTO** 2025

LOCAL ENGAGEMENT

REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

GLOBAL OPPORTUNITY



2025

Business Manifesto Mission

To advance the Thames Valley's global reputation as a business location
of choice and an engine of growth for the United Kingdom

We are the **largest** and most **influential** business membership organisation in the **Thames Valley**.

As the voice of business in the Thames Valley, for micro to multinational organisations, we aim to **drive** better economic conditions and new **opportunities** for members and the wider community.

Through our recognised centre of excellence for **global trade** and **inward investment**, we provide services that promote and create opportunities for the Thames Valley **business community**. We do this whilst **protecting** trade and the local/national economic environment.

We offer **local engagement**, **regional representation** and **global opportunity**.

OXFORDSHIRE

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

SWINDON

LONDON

BERKSHIRE





The AkzoNobel Colour of the Year 2025 is True Joy™ an on-trend yellow shade which radiates positivity.

Every year, for the past 22 years, the colour curators of AkzoNobel host a trend forecast meeting to share insights on how our reactions to the world around us impact our colour choices.

We are proud to showcase this in our 2025 Business Manifesto.

AkzoNobel

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It was a pleasure to be invited to contribute to this, the Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce's (TVCC's), 8th Business Manifesto (BM). I very much like, and compliment TVCC on the repurposed look of the 2025 document, this reflects the ambition, through its action and outputs, to have the BM seen as an instrument for influence and change.

With almost half of the world's population voting in national elections in 2024, we are now beginning to reflect on how this – the year of elections – is reshaping global politics and influencing the way our businesses operate, trade and invest. In participating at TVCC's Windsor Debates on 'Business and Politics' our discussion confirmed that politics really does matter and how government prioritises its action, across a range of themes, impacts on decisions being made in Board rooms across the UK and Thames Valley.

Globally, concerns over the cost of living, green transition, rising global debt, defence and security, and challenges to our democracy prevail. With a mantra of 'change' our new UK government has highlighted restoring economic stability, delivering economic growth, investing in industries for the future, improving productivity levels and ensuring our skills system meets the needs of industry. These are key priorities to 'kickstart growth.'

The Thames Valley region must be in the best possible position to help the government deliver on its ambition.

Looking ahead into 2025, and beyond, the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) is committed to a partnership approach with government to help grow the economy. In so doing, we value the contributions from our Chamber network, including and most notably TVCC. Your Chamber has been a valuable partner and an active contributor to the work of the BCC. This includes representing the 52 Accredited Chambers on the BCC's Business Council initiative and contributing to the Global Britain reports, most especially on 'Accelerating growth: driving trade and investment'.

Through cross-party collaboration and engagement, TVCC continues to be focused on helping the delivery of co-developed solutions that will secure the future economic, social and environmental vitality of the region. Maintaining its pledge to convene, the Thames Valley Assembly is a powerful driver for change, in providing the independent voice of business for the Thames Valley.

Foreword



I wanted to showcase a number of areas in which your Chamber is making a difference.

- Advancing the continued journey to net-zero for companies large to small – sustainability and the green transition matters to Thames Valley businesses as a key driver of growth.
- Advocating for key infrastructure investment - to unleash the potential of the region securing the enabling of critical infrastructure, such as connectivity to London Heathrow (the WRLtH scheme), datacentres, improved power supplies and reform to planning rules.
- Calling for certainty, and a coherent plan around green innovation, skills, trade, investment, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a key driver of growth – we believe billions of pounds worth of private investment is being held back by businesses.
- Championing those sectors that will accelerate our future growth and importantly the Thames Valley is world leading – including advanced engineering, digital technology and health and life sciences.
- Delivering Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) – key to engaging businesses in the co-development of future skills provision fit for the future.
- Lobbying government to bring forward its Invest 2035: the UK's modern industrial strategy – by showcasing the credentials of the Thames Valley and ensure policy makers recognise the region to be an engine growth of the UK.
- Redefining and promoting the value proposition of the Thames Valley as a solution to the strategic challenges that face the UK in its pursuit of growth, productivity and global competitiveness.

The Thames Valley is one of the UK's most successful, productive, economies. It has so much more opportunity to grow and is best placed to help kickstart growth.



As the BCC's President, Martha Lane-Fox commented last year, I too have been struck, again and again, by the immense determination of TVCC's members to grow their companies and local communities, areas in which business can and does play such a key role.

Challenge, and change, will remain, but by working together, with purpose and leadership, we can do it.

Sarah Howard, MBE
Chair, British Chambers of Commerce

Introduction

The Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce's (TVCC) 2025 Business Manifesto (BM) for investment and growth outlines a business-led vision, **focused on advancing the Thames Valley's global reputation as a business location of choice and an engine of growth for the United Kingdom.**

TVCC is the nationally accredited Chamber of Commerce for the vibrant local economies of the Thames Valley communities of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Swindon. Our BM sets out the opportunities that our business community, anchor institutions and regional leaders want to champion. It outlines the action they have asked TVCC to deliver through a strategy of:



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.

At a national level, we take pride in our role as the representative of the 52 Accredited Chambers on the BCC's Business Council. Providing the region with a direct voice into central government we do this alongside the Chief Executive Officer of the North East England Chamber of Commerce, John McCabe.

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.

Through a sustained programme of business and political engagement, events, inward investment and trade services we gain a valuable insight into what makes the region such an attractive place to do business. We learn more about how companies want their government to best shape public policy and we enable them to invest, grow and prosper. Business continues to endorse the work we do in representing the region and helping ensure the Thames Valley economy reaches its full potential.

As a global, outward looking economy, the Thames Valley needs to respond now to the new international challenges, trading conditions and uncertainties we face.

We also need to be agile to the new dynamic, and priorities of a Labour government. Their mantra, and mission, is focused on 'change' and 'growth.' As a catalyst, we will continue to attest that the Thames Valley is in the best possible position to be mobilised to help the government deliver on its ambition.

The UK is still a great place to invest. We have the rule of law, great skills and innovation driven research and an open economy. We are a destination of choice for international businesses however our turbo engine region needs to be mobilised to deliver the nations growth agenda.

In stating that the Thames Valley is one of the best placed regions to help kickstart economic growth, we maintain that presenting our story and showcasing the region, requires a single, co-ordinated proposition that all stakeholders come behind. This BM presents the case for regional leadership and outlines actions across six themes - **Ambitious, Competitive, Connected, Global, Influential** and **Working** Thames Valley - these will shape the region not just for months and years – but for decades.

The Thames Valley has a tremendous story to tell. How it is told, and by whom, matters. Business has a role and a responsibility to lead and show leadership. We will maintain our call on our members to showcase good practice. We work with them to demonstrate impact and identify how these actions are delivering economic growth. Through partnership and leadership, we want to help ensure we fulfil our ambition for a more prosperous, healthier, greener Thames Valley.

“

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



**We have a
tremendous story
to tell.**

We are in a position to be a leader of growth and drive the UK economy forward, helping ensure we fulfil our ambition for a greener, healthier and more prosperous Thames Valley.

Why Thames Valley

The Thames Valley Chamber community covers Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Swindon and is one of the most competitive locations in the UK; it is a global hub for Inward Investment and International Trade with world leading industrial clusters that drive investment and growth.

We are an engine of growth, and the region that consistently delivers good quality jobs, high productivity levels, export and trade performance, and volume, and value, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

One of the best-globally connected regions in Europe, and at the heart of award-winning innovation in public transport, we have a dynamic, forward thinking, internationally focused economy. We have high representation of businesses in all eight growth driving sectors that the government has identified.

We already host an established, curated supply chain, designed in partnership, and led by business. TVCC are bringing together businesses large and small local civic leaders, MP's and anchor institutions such as Universities, Colleges and health care providers. They are targeted to action, and co-developed solutions, to help ensure the highest growth opportunity for the economy and business. We host an ever - expanding locus of innovative achievement that endlessly seeks and strives to improve life for all.

Through our action and partnership, we are well placed to help work with local, regional, and national civic leaders to drive business forward.



Growth is the challenge investment and trade the solution.
We need to pick winning, growth driving sectors for which the Thames Valley is richly represented.

Windsor Debates, September 2024

The BM sets out the opportunities our membership, and wider business community wants us to champion, and actions they want TVCC to deliver. They want TVCC to lead and work in partnership, to shape the priorities that will enable stakeholders to get behind one regional proposition, amplifying the message as to why the Thames Valley is a destination of choice and a great place to do business.

We want to demonstrate the impact of working across sectors and traditional geographical boundaries and promote 'why the Thames Valley' is the UK's true turbo economy.

There is rapid change in the global economy with new government placing growth as its number one mission. It is looking for organisations, partnerships, and regions, who can deliver growth, and the Thames Valley is well placed to be at the heart of this ambition.

Through our systems leadership approach we stand committed to work with government, and all partners, to mobilise our collective power, to improve lives and secure a thriving, greener, healthier future for the Thames Valley.

“Through the integration of our UK data centres with nLighten's pan-European capacity, we are establishing the leading platform for regional edge data centres in Europe including our base in Swindon. We are encouraged by the spotlight on the datacentre sector in the new 2035 industrial strategy, however, to unlock the further investment of Swindon, and wider Thames Valley, we would benefit from a clearer sector strategy, from local and national policy makers

Justin Nesbitt
UK Sales Director, nLighten





Ambitious

THAMES VALLEY

The Thames Valley is one of the UK's most competitive locations, the best-globally connected region in Europe and a global hub for Inward Investment and trade.

Home to many famous brands, world leading and IP-rich companies, we have an amazing concentration of the future and established industry clusters and a world class ecosystem. These assets and qualities are driving economic and productivity growth and delivering the government's ambitions to be a science and technology superpower.

Our ambitions include highlighting our region's strengths and capabilities, and through a commitment to partnership, help to coordinate and amplify the one regional voice that can best present the Thames Valley to the world.

“

The Chamber of Commerce has been a highly effective convenor of businesses and local stakeholders, and I'm looking forward to working in partnership with them. I'm inspired by the Chamber's enthusiasm for working with so many from our local area, including political representatives like me.

Windsor Debates, September 2024



Changing the narrative

Our members are fully behind our objective to change the key messaging behind 'What' the Thames Valley should be best known for, 'Why' invest in the Thames Valley, to 'Whom' we should most effectively engage and, 'How' we will most effectively collaborate and come together in partnership to co-develop solutions that will accelerate growth, use resources most effectively and deliver impact.

Advance the region's pathway to net-zero

While politicians and our government in Whitehall may be cooling on the idea, businesses across the region remain – very much so – focused on climate change, decarbonisation, and sustainability.

Through our [Sustainability Working Group](#), we will continue to support all business but most importantly, SMEs, on what is required to support their own journey to net-zero. We will do this by continuing to provide information, access to resources, thought leadership (see our [#TalkingSustainabilitywithSWG](#) series) and sharing knowledge and good practice where appropriate. Most especially, we will continue to showcase the findings of our [State of the Region report on sustainability](#).

Through our own Sustainability Working Group, we will work with key stakeholders, including the Heathrow Sustainable Economic Growth Taskforce, to deliver their ambitions around connectivity, growth, and sustainability (including our vision for sustainable aviation and airport growth).

We will support proposals to make Britain a clean energy superpower, which create green jobs, advance net-zero technologies and deliver cross-sectoral innovation. This includes how we can support the 'greening' of health and life sciences supply chains, and lobbying government to continue their positive support on Sustainable Aviation Fuel and airspace modernisation.

Providing local engagement, regional representation and global opportunity

The Thames Valley Assembly (TVA) is a Chamber initiative to help bring a step change in representing the voice of business across the Thames Valley and help future proof the competitive edge of our business community at a time of significant political and technological change.

We will continue to advance the work of the BCC's [Future of the Economy](#); represent [the independent voice of business](#) in the wide ranging [policy consultations](#) and maintain our support, and challenge, to our local government partners in their ambitions to grow the Thames Valley economy and deliver sustainable, inclusive, growth.

OUR 3 KEY PRIORITIES





Competitive

THAMES VALLEY

Representing every sector, of every size across the region, TVCC is the largest and most diverse business representative organisation in the Thames Valley.

We lead by example providing the independent voice of business for the region, representing the interests, not just for our members but, of the Thames Valley economy in a competitive global marketplace.

There is rapid change in the global economy. The new government has placed growth as its number one mission and, through the Industrial Strategy, outlined a 10-year plan to deliver the certainty and stability businesses need to invest. It is looking for organisations, partnerships, and regions, who can deliver growth.

The Thames Valley is very well placed to be at the heart of this ambition for growth. Leading by example, TVCC is already bringing together a partnership of business, local government, experts, institutions and other stakeholders, through our established, well-respected, curated supply chains, working groups, business-led, regional clusters and a wider sector-led approach, in key growth sectors.

Regional Leadership is not easy. It requires leading across traditional public administrative and industry sector boundaries, building behaviours of systems leadership, partnerships, connections, and the relationships that together solve some of the complex economic social and environmental challenges that we are facing.

We stand committed to work with local government to directly shape and deliver regional sector and local growth plans that can secure the thriving, green, healthier future we want for a truly competitive Thames Valley.



Creating the best possible conditions for growth

Government must provide a stable framework for business investment and growth. We believe it is appropriate, and the Accredited Chamber network is best placed to work with and alongside us to boost home grown business and attract investment to accelerate growth. Investment decisions rely heavily on education, culture, language, diversity, quality of life, and many other – less tangible – factors. The Thames Valley is remarkably strong in all these areas, and we must do more to present them consistently, to the audiences we are engaging with.

Advance our curated supply chains

The region is home to many world-leading industry clusters, including health and life sciences and technology. We are also seeing rapid growth in future industry clusters, e.g. AI, creative industries, fusion energy, quantum computing and pioneering green technologies to support our pathway to net-zero.

Further, we have the innovation, research and development capability and entrepreneurship that can help decarbonise UK industry, e.g., fuel switching, energy efficiency, electrification and carbon capture, usage, and storage (CCUS), to unlock additional investment. Consistent with our sector approach, we will continue to convene these industry clusters, notably in health and life sciences and technology, to foster collaboration and drive cross-sectorial innovation.

Developing investable commercial opportunities

Our agenda for growth includes working with partners to co-develop and promote those turnkey – innovation driving - projects, that will help unleash the greatest potential, for our high-potential clusters, and deliver return on investment for the Thames Valley. These projects might currently include:

Building Berkshire Together – delivering a new hospital for the region under the new hospital programme.

East West Rail – this scheme will re-establish a rail link between Oxford, through Buckinghamshire to Cambridge.

Heathrow Strategic Economic Growth Plan - support the delivery of surface access, skills and employment, decarbonisation, and development.

Syngenta's Jealott's Hill International Research Centre - progressing medium term development plan for the campus.

Western Rail Link to London Heathrow (WRLth) – securing the timely delivery, and funding, of this scheme which will connect over 20 million people within one inter-change for the airport.

OUR 3 KEY PRIORITIES





Connected

THAMES VALLEY

Economic stability depends on regular and reliable trading routes. We must ensure we are well-connected and that our transport hubs serve as critical and reliable links between the UK and global supply chains, facilitating the import and export of goods and services between the UK and the rest of the world.

Described as “the globally connected growth hub for the UK” and having “unrivalled local, regional and international connectivity” the Thames Valley business community value being connected through Heathrow to the world's market. By facilitating international connectivity through the flow of people and cargo, Heathrow plays a unique and critical role in the success of the Thames Valley and as the nation's hub airport.

Heathrow is more than just a critical airport and multi-modal transport hub. As the UK's only hub airport, Heathrow plays a crucial role in supporting businesses across the Thames Valley, facilitating global trade and inward investment, international tourism and unlocking connectivity.

Continue to promote for greater connectivity to the UK's only hub airport

The Thames Valley is the best connected region in Europe and home to one of the world's most connected airports – London Heathrow. A key project remains helping to provide a business solution to secure delivery of the Western Rail Link to London Heathrow.

Advocating for improved infrastructure networks and sustainable energy supplies

Limitations on, for example, electrical power and water supplies is restricting the capability of business to invest and the capacity of the region to deliver growth. We will continue to lobby for national and regional action that delivers timely solutions, and a move away from the sequential approach of the past.

Champion for improved integrated, intra-transport networks

We will continue to encourage and support decisions that will enhance the value of the region's infrastructure to kickstart economic growth and deliver greater connectivity. This includes championing predictable journey times and sustainable, accessible, integrated, multi-modal travel systems across the Thames Valley.

OUR
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GLOBAL THAMES VALLEY

We welcome the renewed focus on investment and a pro-growth policy environment, outlined in the Industrial Strategy. We believe establishing a clear long-term plan for the UK is of crucial importance as an increasingly competitive global market for investment, skills and supply chains is evident.

We face increasing competition with countries where governments are taking a more active role in supporting investment, trade, and the private sector. Positioning the UK, and Thames Valley, as globally competitive, brings the best of the region to the world by backing the winners (locations, markets, and sectors) and delivers growth that returns well on investment, has the greatest impact, and achieves our wider ambitions for the economy.

With a world class ecosystem of business, academic institutions, local government and other key stakeholders, the Thames Valley is key and investing in the UK's true turbo economy is part of the solution.

For over 10 years, TVCC has had a close working partnership with the OCCl in the Kansai Region, the 2nd largest economy in Japan. This strong relationship culminated in a MOU of trade & investment co-operation, resulting in trade delegations, visits, and new business opportunities.

TVCC is promoting the World Expo (2025) across the UK to our members and wider business community, through the network of Accredited Chambers of Commerce in the UK. Acting as a hub, we are highlighting the many opportunities available, enabling businesses across the region and beyond, to understand more about Osaka 2025.

Working with the Japanese Embassy, META and the OCCl, through a calendar of local and regional events and activities, we will be highlighting the benefits of networking and promotion in the months leading to the World Expo in 2025.



Champion the Thames Valley as an international trade hub and investment location of choice

We will continue to invest in our centres of excellence for International Trade and Inward Investment. This includes highlighting the Thames Valley through the region's only dedicated inward investment digital assets; providing international trade services, including our Japan and Romania desks; and maintaining important memorandum of understanding's (MOU) that foster economic, trade, social and cultural links.

Drive higher value Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into the region

TVCC has been directly supporting foreign owned companies (FOCs) with their investment decisions for over 10-years.

During this time, we have helped secure many billions of pounds worth of FDI into the Thames Valley, creating many thousands of new jobs, and securing many hundreds of existing jobs. Through our sector and market-led approach, TVCC is a proven delivery vehicle and trusted partner of government, a destination of choice for FOCs and one of the UK's most successful regions for attracting high-value, impactful, inward investment.

Supported by the private sector, we will continue to provide inward investment services for the Thames Valley and maintain our lobbying of local government to work closely with us and fund our proven delivery model.

Showcasing UK's true turbo economy

In everything we do and represent – TVCC will remain focused on promoting the Thames Valley region, our global assets and centres of excellence and the world class ecosystem that makes the region successful.

We will continue to promote the businesses that make us one of the best regions in the UK, and why we need to remain an important stepping stone for many FOCs, especially those from North America, into Europe, looking to invest.

OUR
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PRIORTIES





INFLUENTIAL THAMES VALLEY

An important aspect of our influence is to talk politics, without being political. With fifteen new Thames Valley MPs elected at the 2024 general election, change certainly happened providing a clear indication of a desire for a renewed focus on the issues that matter. We have been a long-standing advocate in the value of engaging business and maintaining positive dialogue with our local and central government politicians, to enable our MPs to best represent the Thames Valley in Whitehall.

What we are finding is shaping our policy and priorities, informing our research and project work, and influencing the structure of our programmes, examples include:

Celebrating Champions – through our annual business awards and sharing news, in Business Voice.

Global Opportunity – showcasing the region internationally through our digital presence, our Japan and Romania Trade desks, leading the promotion of the World Expo in Osaka and our trade and inward investment centres of excellence. Harrington Review - hosting topic specific forum, on this occasion with Lord Richard Harrington highlighting the best-practice, and impact, TVCC is delivering across inward investment.

Local Engagement – campaigning for business growth we undertake a range of consultation responses, present our local policy priorities and help shape the evolving 'Prosperity Boards' and public private sector work across the Thames Valley.

Political Working Lunch programme - allowing companies to gain an understanding of the structure and workings of Westminster and how the political landscape can help with issues that are affecting their business.

Parliamentary Question Time – a unique forum bringing our senior membership, and students, together with selected Parliamentarians.

Regional Representation – ensuring the Thames Valley business voice is heard on BCC's expert panels and policy groups; delivering regional programmes, aimed at a business-led approach to shaping the future workforce through our Thames Valley Skills Unit and the LSIPs for Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

Thames Valley Assembly - bringing a step-change in representing the voice of business across the Thames Valley and helping future proof the competitive edge of our business community.

Thought Leadership – showcasing real-world examples of the impact Thames Valley businesses, across various key growth sectors, are delivering. Bringing business together for sector driven conferences and working groups.

Whitehall Briefings - providing our new cohort of MPs with sector, and topic specific briefings to inform their research, speeches in Parliament and wider understanding of business confidence (e.g., Quarterly Economic Survey results) and international trade conditions.

Unlocking the investment potential of the Thames Valley to help kickstart economic growth

We remain active in articulating the business voice through consultation responses, local policy priority statements, representation on national expert panels and policy groups, and lobbying, including TVCC's 'Manifesto for investment, health and growth in the Thames Valley' and our State of the Region report on sustainability. Maintaining the call for a range of fiscal reforms, to enable business to invest more and deliver economic growth we call for:

- A review of the cost pressures facing the aviation industry, helping to join up fiscal policy on the sector underwriting UK trade and exporting powers.
- Delivery of the long-term reform to business rates, including challenging the Valuation Office Agency's (VOA) intention to quadruple the rateable value of airports and maintaining the pressure to reverse all recent tax rises on film studios.
- Implementation of the Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) Scheme to ensure the UK can retain, and grow, current levels of connectivity.
- Ministers to commit to fund the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIPs) beyond the current 2025 cut off point to at least 2028.
- Swift action to reform planning in England, to help stimulate business investment and unlock growth.
- Reducing the burden of tax as evidence suggests, including comments drawn from our Quarterly Economic Survey results, that the effect is stark.
- Maintaining calls for the introduction of a new internationally competitive tax-free shopping scheme.

Local engagement, regional representation, global opportunity

We want government to create a pro-business environment and in so doing we want them to fully understand what this genuinely means, across people and skills, innovation, energy and infrastructure, regulatory and legislative environment, driving greater inward investment and agreeing international partnership and trade agreements. With a government stated ambition to place private business, entrepreneurship, and innovation at the heart of its growth agenda, we will:

- Convene and use forums, such as the Thames Valley Assembly, Windsor Debates and working groups to inform our work on behalf on the local economy.
- Emphasise the importance for government and business to draw together with a cohesive plan to build inclusive business growth and achieve a greener, healthier and more prosperous Thames Valley.
- Investigate opportunities for pan-regional and national partnership to support our ambitions for the Thames Valley economy.
- Shape the devolution discussion to help our local government stakeholders understand what business expects from their political structures, giving them the tools they need to grow and ensure we realise the full potential of our region.

Accredited Chamber Network

We are proud to be part of the BCC's Accredited Chamber Network and to represent colleagues on the BCC's Business Council. The unique structure of the UK and international Chamber network, which represents all sizes of business and provides an independent voice of business means we can engage government on the important foundations business needs to be successful, e.g., certainty, taxation, planning and a skilled workforce, and appeals to investors to accelerate growth.

OUR
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PRIORITIES





Working

THAMES VALLEY

TVCC is working for the Thames Valley economy. We work to represent the needs and ambitions of all businesses, and the local economy. We are supported by our members and customers across the region and convene those who are best placed to shape the future of our Thames Valley region for the better.

We will continue to promote a region-wide approach to co-developing solutions on merit that will support business and help address the cross-cutting challenges that may limit future inclusive growth (e.g., planning reform, power, decarbonisation, transport, SME trade support, workforce development, and inward investment).

Our representation work is informed by our role in delivering a comprehensive range of international trade training courses covering all technical areas of export and import.

The co-development, through partnership, is an approach we have been consistently calling for. This will require a new form of enhanced, ongoing, and evolving collaboration and the further building of trust and understanding, involving politicians, policy makers, thought leaders, academics and their institutions, community leaders, business, and others. TVCC stands ready to work with government and with all to achieve our common objectives.



Extending our reach and building the strongest possible representative voice

As a membership organisation, and the only nationally Accredited Chamber in the Thames Valley, we will actively reach-out into those areas (by place, policy and sector) and develop the digital platforms that can lower the barriers to business engagement and involvement.

We serve our members, and wider Thames Valley economy and we will continue to shape our membership offer, refresh our value proposition and ensure the depth, range and strategic programme of work provides for all our members and businesses alike.

Business-informed skills development and training

Through our two LSIPs, for Berkshire and Oxfordshire, we continue to work on behalf of local employers, to help ensure education and training providers are delivering skills and training that will improve the local economy and productivity. We will continue to call on reform to the Apprenticeship Levy and deliver a programme that genuinely meets the needs of business.



We want government to recognise the central role that skills development plays in a productive economy. We want government to understand that it makes a lot of sense to support our future workforce while they are studying, but also to help them on their first, crucial, steps into the world of work.

One of the reasons we work with TVCC is that we really want our organisation to be truly the best connected it can be with the Thames Valley's business community, creating the important pathways to our students first place of employment.

Facilitating business and economic growth

By maintaining a diverse range of business awards, case studies, conferences, events, forums, international trade workshops, networking activities, sector-focused working groups, thought leadership and the iconic Windsor Debates, we will continue to provide opportunities for sharing knowledge as well as showcasing business excellence, investment, innovation, International trade services and trade activities. We are grateful for the support of our inward investment partners, including Heathrow, IBB Law, James Cowper Kreston and the University of Reading, to support foreign owned companies with their market entry and growth into the Thames Valley as part of the 'soft-landing' service TVCC provides.

OUR 3 KEY PRIORITIES



Our Business Alliance Members





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Systems Leadership can be applied to the Thames Valley.

We want to secure a thriving, green and healthy Thames Valley for the long-term future. This requires new ways of co-developing solutions and to present the Thames Valley in a single, coherent, clear, regional proposition that equals more than the sum of its parts.

We are using systems leadership to enable changes that will help deliver the future prosperity, and growth, of the Thames Valley.

Read more about the partnership between the University of Reading and TVCC on our website.

Professor Robert Van de Noort

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading

“

The partnership between TVCC and Heathrow Airport is a symbiotic relationship that benefits both organisations, and the Thames Valley region, in numerous ways. In an ever-changing world, where competition is fierce and borders are becoming more fluid, it's vital to recognise the unique strengths of the Thames Valley region.

The proximity and health of major cities like London, Oxford, and Reading makes this region a true powerhouse. The region's enviable history and heritage, world-class universities, IP-rich business community and strong representation across many of our new Government's key growth sectors, positions the Thames Valley as a magnet for investment, talent, and innovation – a region that can kickstart growth across the UK.

Nigel Milton

Chief of Staff, Heathrow

“

Lonza, one of the world's largest healthcare manufacturing organizations, is developing plans to relocate and expand its Centre of Excellence for biologic molecules in the UK over the next decade.

“Lonza's proposed development at Thames Valley Park is excellent news for the constituency and constituents, the Thames Valley and the UK's health and life sciences sector. It is the culmination of a lot of work involving many, notably Lonza, Wokingham Borough Council, TVCC, and key government departments including the Department for Business and Trade. I have had the opportunity to meet senior Lonza representatives to understand the scale of their plans and ambitions for the new site. I look forward to supporting these exciting plans, which set out a clear and strong ambition for Lonza's plans in Wokingham and the UK”.

Clive Jones

MP for Wokingham





2025 BUSINESS MANIFESTO

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