

## MONITORING 2001/02

Much was achieved during the year and most targets met.

- The Buckinghamshire Economic Partnership appointed Tony Edwards as its first Chief Executive.
- Successful seminars were jointly organised which brought business and education together to identify ways of addressing skills shortages and CEAC organised four workshops and seminars to help businesses adopt energy saving practices and environmentally friendly methods of 'doing business' in Bucks.
- The Business Excellence Awards gave the Council the opportunity to reward success and celebrate achievement. Barduct in Aylesbury winning the Export Award and Top Cat the Business Leader of the Year Award at the Wycombe event.
- The Business, Property and Sites Database was successfully launched and the Commercial and Industrial Space Register went on line enabling businesses to interrogate the site and identify new suitable premises for their companies.
- Monthly issues of the Labour Market Bulletin were produced on time, the website was established and a quarterly Newsletter published on the web.
- Mary Berry successfully launched The Food Group's first directory at Waddesden Manor and a well supported Farmer's Market was held at County Hall for Council employees.
- Relationships with the Economic Partnerships, SEEDA, GOSE, Business Link Solutions and the Learning and Skills Council have enabled the County to raise the profile of Buckinghamshire regionally and locally and lobby for strategic developments.

There were one or two disappointments where projects didn't go exactly to plan:

- The development of an Innovation Centre where we had planned to co-locate business support agencies and provide managed workshops was extended due to the difficulty of securing suitable premises, however, funding is being carried forward to progress the initiative.
- The LEADER + bid to support rural communities was placed on a reserve list, however, the partnership which emerged which will act as a Rural Sounding Board to raise the profile of rural issues and lobby for action in Buckinghamshire
- The Tourism Officer left the organisation to take on new challenges which meant that tourism projects have been extended and will be delivered in the current year.