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Alex Pratt OBE
Chairman

**Economic and Learning Partnership
&
Economy and Environment Thematic Partnership
@
Buckinghamshire Strategic Partnership**
16 Sept 2008



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Briefly Cover.....

- Economic Strategy Headline
- 3 Key Issues
- Early Responses to Issues



The Buckinghamshire Economic Development Strategy (BEDS)

- Drafted by BELP- “The Right Minds”
- Out for Consultation- “The Right Voices”
- PURPOSE- More Cohesion- “A Better Way”
- Integrates at the **E&E Thematic Partnership** with-
 - Waste
 - Housing
 - Infrastructure
 - Transport
 - Environment
- Plugs into Bucks **Community Strategy** at BSP



Lifelong Enterprise



Buckinghamshire..
The Enterprise
Heart of Britain



Top Issues

- 21st Century Skills
- Local Employment Balance
- Our Capacity to Deliver Either



21st Century Skills- Issues

- Bucks near top for 14-19yr Achievement
- High Variances- School-Ethnic-Lone Parent
- 65k+ Adults Without Level 2* Qualification
- Learning Supply is Fragmented
- **Businesses are from Mars, Colleges from Venus**

* In “Old Money”- Level 2 (O-Levels)



21st Century Skills- Response

- Significant Investments by Providers
 - BNU
 - Colleges
 - ATG
- Repositioning for Business Focus
- Home to NEW National Academy for Enterprise
- Bring Business to Skills Tables- Language.....
 - Apprenticeships
 - Presence in Schools- EBP- YE etc...
- From Institutional Targets to Shared Outcomes?



Local Employment Balance

- +20k Homes in North
- Dormitory Town Fears
- Daily Migration Fears
- Growing Pressure on Jobs
- Local Priorities NEED Integrated Plans
- ED Capacity is Fragmented





Employment Balance- Response

- Growing / Retaining Current Businesses-
 - SEEDA Innovation Team Bid- First Round
 - Employment and Skills Boards
 - Business Link Contract
- Incubation and Business Premises
 - SEEDA- Princes Risborough
- Attract New Business – Inward Investment Hunter
- Know Our Patch- Data with Interpretation
- “Wireless Bucks”



Capacity for Economic Development

- United We Stand. Divided we are IGNORED.
- Maximise Resource Wins for Bucks-
 - Unifying Elevator Pitch- “Bucks Story”
 - Building Shared Bidding Approach
 - Get more Resource to ED Coalface
- Build Shared Capacity-
 - Inward Investment Team?
 - Market Data and Intelligence at Fingertips?
 - Overcome Tier Tensions!



Why Is BELP Gaining Traction?

- Driven by **LOCAL VISIONS**- LSPs and LELPs
- Focus on a combined **Countywide STRATEGY**
- Funding from District, County, SEEDA, & Business
- Equal Partnership with Business Community
- Building a Critical Mass in combined ED Capacity
- Strong Focus on Integration of Others' Efforts
- Make sure LABGI Invested in Golden Goose
- Build Business Case for Uniform Business Rate
- Loyal to Each Tier- Wedded to Man in the Street Outcomes
- Ensure Economic Devtpt at core of ALL Community Plans



Conclusion



Blessed are the..... **WEALTH CREATORS...**

.....for they shall inherit the **BILL !**



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