



# Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership

## **Enterprise Zone brings massive jobs boost**

More than 8,000 new jobs are heading for Oxfordshire's Science Vale area in the south-west of our county after the Government named it as one of eleven new Enterprise Zones across the UK.

The successful bid made by the Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) envisages 200,000 square metres of development delivered by the private sector by 2015.

This is expected to bring in around 8,400 high-tech, high-value-adding jobs and generate up to £10.5m of additional business rates a year. These funds can be directly reinvested into the Oxfordshire economy.

The zone will consist of two of the UK's biggest science and research business parks - Harwell Oxford and Milton Park - with the single ambition of being globally competitive to the benefit of Oxfordshire and the UK.

## **Great location, great facilities**

Located at the heart of the country, close to pioneering Oxford and with excellent transport links to London, the north and international destinations, the new development is well connected.

Combined with the internationally-recognised science, research and business facilities at Harwell Oxford and Milton Park, Science Vale UK is an incredibly attractive investment proposal with a global reputation that can only grow.

New businesses will benefit from over £1bn of business rate discounts over five years, simplified planning procedures and access to super-fast broadband.

The Directors of Harwell Oxford and Milton Park believe their unique partnership contributed to the success of the bid. Harwell Oxford Director, Dr Sally Ann Forsyth, said: "This is just the boost that Science Vale UK needs to continue its legacy as one of the world's leading locations for research and the commercialisation of science. It's the perfect place to be for space research, bio-technology, cryogenics and advanced manufacturing".

James Dipple, Managing Director of Milton Park, said, "We have a great track record here; the synergy created by our science research and manufacturing clusters gives us a strong competitive edge. An Enterprise Zone will boost the region's economic growth and ensure it remains internationally competitive."

## **Making the most of Oxfordshire's potential**

Celebrating the result, Dr Martin Dare-Edwards, Chairman of the Local Enterprise Partnership said: "I am so proud that Oxfordshire has been recognised for the compelling vision we created for a clearly focused enterprise opportunity building from our clusters of excellence. Our Enterprise Partnership Board will look to harness the value created by the Government's Enterprise Zone incentives to bring benefit for the Oxfordshire economy as a whole. I look forward to all of Oxfordshire's district councils rapidly progressing their simplified planning regimes to accelerate further economic development and capitalise on this county's world-beating potential."

These key business leaders will work with the Chair of the Science Vale UK Board Professor Steve Cowley, Government, Oxfordshire County Council and the Vale of the White Horse District Council to make the development a reality.

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