

“The Thames Valley economy supports the Levelling Up agenda”

Thames Valley Forum supports the Government’s plans to ‘Level Up’ the UK by focusing on increased infrastructure and skills investment in areas with low levels of productivity and high levels of deprivation.

The Thames Valley economy supports this agenda in a very real sense by creating jobs, growth and tax take across the UK.

The Thames Valley economy achieves this due to its place-based centres of world class excellence in key growth sectors, which creates home grown successful companies and acts as a magnet for Inward Investment.

This is evidenced by the accompanying presentation ‘the National Role of the Thames Valley Economy’ including how the region helps the UK lead the way in Green, Net Zero, Tech, and high value industries.

The region contains areas that could be considered ‘left behind’

The region’s high economic performance indicators do not tell the full story. There are parts of the region, including both urban and rural, which have many challenges and have not felt the benefit of the region’s economic growth in recent decades.

The Thames Valley includes areas of deprivation in both urban and rural settings.

The region is keen to address these challenges by working on areas such as skills, housing, transport and digital connectivity to ensure a more inclusive economy in the future. These plans are evident in the recovery plans created by the region’s Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships.

Allowing the region to flourish in support of the wider UK

The ambitions and actions in the recovery plans focus on areas such as skills and enhancing our world class clusters in sectors and services which match UK Government priorities for example Environmental and Life Sciences.

The Thames Valley wishes to continue to play a role in helping the UK as a whole and the parts of the region which are in need of Levelling Up themselves.