

Thames Valley Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership: Autumn Statement Response From Chairman Steve Lamb

Submitted by: C8 Consulting

Monday, 10 December 2012

10th December 2012 - Developing and improving the skills and education of individuals in the Thames Valley has always been a central priority for TVB LEP and we are therefore delighted at George Osborne's Autumn Statement, which provides extra funding for further education colleges and schools. The Chancellor's plans to continue to invest in education sends a positive message about the important role that education plays in seeding future economic growth and global competitiveness.

TVB LEP is also pleased that the Chancellor has recognised the overall importance of LEPs in the Autumn Statement and the value that we add to the country as a whole and we welcome Michael Heseltine's focus on additional devolution to LEPs. We support Mr Osborne's commitment to extend our powers and allocate further funding allowing us to further improve transport, infrastructure and skills and education in the area. We are disappointed that we continue to struggle to secure funds and control through avenues such as Growth & Innovation and Regional Growth Funds. That said, TVB LEP is ready and organised to take on more when devolved from Government, though we will need to build further capacity as our current model remains lean and swift of foot.

Despite the extended austerity measures it is essential that businesses in the Thames Valley continue to focus on growth and this additional funding will help LEPs to have a positive impact on the region.

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