



The **Science Vale UK Partnership** comprises a number of public and private sector bodies who have agreed to work together to help develop south central Oxfordshire in pursuit of an agreed Vision that...

Science Vale UK should be a global hot spot for enterprise and innovation in science, high technology and the application of knowledge.

Science Vale UK is the name that the partners have adopted for the southern Oxfordshire area (Annex 1) to help describe and promote the area and galvanise collaborative action. The area runs from Wantage/Grove in the west to Culham Science Centre in the east and embraces the two largest employment centres - Harwell Science and Innovation Campus and Milton Park - and the main town of Didcot.

Building on the very significant existing strengths of the area in science, technology and innovation, **Science Vale UK** has the potential to make an even greater contribution to the South East's and the United Kingdom's competitiveness in the face of intensifying international competition.

In employment terms alone Science Vale UK accounts for about 4% of R&D employment in England and 13% in the South East Region

Specifically, the **Science Vale UK Partnership** has come together to help:

- Attract inward investment so there are more jobs, more customers, etc in Science Vale UK and the local economy is strengthened;
- Enable resident businesses to prosper and grow so there are more jobs, more customers, etc, in Science Vale UK, the local economy is strengthened and that Science Vale UK is synonymous with business success;
- Attract more investment into infrastructure so Science Vale UK is better place in which to do business and live;
- Make Science Vale UK more a more successful and attractive place in which to live and work than would be possible if the partners did not collaborate.

Economic development is a key objective but, recognising the importance other factors which contribute to that, the Partnership's interests extend across a wide range of issues from housing to skills development.

The Science Vale UK Partnership Board has recently agreed the following four themes for the work of the Partnership:

- ① Promoting SVUK
- ② Providing appropriate skills
- ③ Attracting necessary infrastructure and investment
- ④ Developing SVUK as an attractive and thriving place

... and that there should be an underlying activity of:

- ⑤ Strengthening the SVUK Partnership and improving its effectiveness

The Science Vale UK Partnership Board currently comprises Directors from the partner organisations, which are:

Harwell Science and Innovation Campus
MEPC (owner of Milton Park)
Oxfordshire County Council
South Oxfordshire District Council
Science and Technology Facilities Council
South East England Development Agency
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority
Vale of White Horse District Council

All the partners provide funding which enable the Partnership to undertake activities in support of its objectives.

The Board is also attended by Oxfordshire Economic Partnership and the Government Office for the South East.

Steven Y Moss
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Annex 1: Science Vale UK

