

Berkshire Economic Intelligence

Week Ending 26th January 2020

Jobs

21/01/20 - There are a diverse range of employment opportunities on offer at Slough Borough Council with 19 jobs currently being advertised from social work to housing to looking after parks and cleaning streets, some of which don't require previous experience in their field. - [LINK](#)

21/01/20 - David Wilson Homes are due to build 718 new homes in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Hampshire throughout 2020 and have pledged that by employing local subcontractors they hope to provide 1,436 new jobs for local people this year. - [LINK](#)

23/01/20 - Restaurant chain Handmade Burger Co has collapsed with the immediate loss of all 283 jobs. The casual dining chain has closed its 18 restaurants across the UK including its Berkshire branch in Reading after it failed to secure a last-minute rescue sale said administrators. - [LINK](#)

23/01/20 - Morrisons is to axe around 3,000 managerial roles across its stores as part of a restructure which will see it create more shop floor jobs, the supermarket has confirmed. The supermarket said it will have 4,000 more employees as part of plans which will see the creation of 7,000 new hourly-paid roles. Many of the new jobs will be on Morrisons' Market Street counters; butchers, bakers, fishmongers etc. Morrisons have Berkshire branches in Reading, Bracknell and Wokingham. - [LINK](#)

Brexit

23/01/20 - Boris Johnson has promised Bracknell will be “at the epicentre of free trade” in post-Brexit Britain. The town's new MP asked the PM to “reassure” MPs trade agreements were coming after the UK leaves the EU at the end of January. Tory James Sunderland, who was elected at last month's general election, said: “The Prime Minister will know that the Bracknell constituency is the proud home of over 150 internationally-focused companies. Could you please reassure the house what is being done to develop new, post-Brexit worldwide trade deals for the benefit of everyone in Bracknell, Crowthorne, Finchampstead, Sandhurst and of course right across the UK?” - [LINK](#)

Regeneration

20/01/20 - 400 new homes may replace industrial estates in Wokingham. This comes as 38 new apartments were approved at last week's planning meeting. The Fishponds Road site was previously home to Sorbus House which burnt down in 2011. Maxika Homes Limited are proposing to build a four-storey apartment block on the site, with 32 two-bed flats and six one-bed flats. - [LINK](#)

21/01/20 – The plans for the new Newbury's football stadium have now been approved by western area planning committee at West Berkshire Council. – [LINK](#)

21/01/20 - Reading Borough Council (RBC) has agreed to award a £43 million leisure contract to Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL). The 25-year contract to design, build and operate Reading's leisure service includes building two new swimming pools in Rivermead and Palmer Park. The plans were

backed at the Policy committee, with only Green and Lib Dem councillors opposing the agreement. - [LINK](#)

Other

17/02/20 - Wokingham council bosses plan to spend more than £50 million to combat climate change but have warned that that still might not be enough to make the region carbon-neutral within a decade. Wokingham Borough Council will soon reveal full details of its climate action plan. Budget proposals from 2020 to 2023 show more than £15 million will be spent each year on infrastructure which could help to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. - [LINK](#)

20/01/20 - According to UK Police figures analysed by BerkshireLive's parent company Reach PLC's data unit, the most crimes at a Berkshire train station last year took place at Windsor and Eton Riverside. The figures from the past 12 months to December 2019 show there were 62 crimes recorded at the station by British Transport Police, equivalent to 4.44 crimes for every 100,000 people going into or leaving the station. The second place in Berkshire where passengers were likely to be the victim of a crime was Earley followed by Twyford and Reading West. Across Berkshire, there were 1,007 crimes in total recorded at or near railway stations last year. This was down by 8% on the previous year (1,097). - [LINK](#)

26/01/20 - The latest Thames Valley Business Barometer report, conducted between Oct and Nov 2019, found 54% of business leaders in the Thames Valley feel economic confidence has deteriorated in the last six months, its lowest since the Barometer Survey began. The report has also identified that pipelines are on the downturn with only 72% of respondents stating that their new business pipeline/order book had either remained the same or increased over the last six months. Thames Valley businesses' productivity is out-performing current confidence levels with 65% of businesses scoring their productivity between six and eight out of ten and 24% of businesses scoring themselves eight or above. In Thames Valley 63% of respondents stated that one of either 'internal processes' or 'excessive workload' was the main hindrance to productivity. - [LINK](#)