BPD Briefing; 08-07-2025

1. First the big news – you may have heard this week's government announcement regarding **Peak Cluster** – they have confirmed a £28.6 million investment in Peak Cluster, a flagship project securing a sustainable future for the UK's cement and lime industry. The BPD Board will be meeting the CEO of Peak Cluster Ltd next Tuesday to explore the implications of this announcement. We will update BPD members in our next e-newsletter.
2. BPD has been inputting from a business perspective into the **Peak District National Park Authority's Local Plan.**
3. We have met with senior representatives of the University of Derby following the announcement that their Leek-based operation to the Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group. The purpose of the meeting was to seek assurances about the **University's long-term commitment to Buxton and the Peak District**. These were secured and a plan of action for addressing priorities within BPD's Concordat were agreed. We will next be arranging to meet the senior team with responsibility for the Leek operation of the Newcastle & Stafford Colleges Group.
4. We are in dialogue with the East Midlands Combined County Authority regarding their **skills-agenda** and both Craig Moffatt, their Head of Adult Learning Programmes and Liam Jackson, their Strategic Careers Hub Lead, together with Sarah Charles from the University of Derby Buxton, will be bringing forward an engagement plan for our members to our annual conference, which has been provisionally scheduled for November 11th.
5. Consideration is being given to:
    - BPD working with East Midlands Chamber to deliver a joint badged event for Peak District businesses interested in **exporting** – it may take the form of a virtual networking event with Chamber members elsewhere in the world.
    - **BPD's spring networking event** is being planned – interested to know whether members would be interested in it being exclusively focused on sustainability i.e. the Peak District's 2nd Annual Sustainability Summit OR reducing operating costs, with sustainability being a sub-component?
    - BPD is considering launching an **Annual Peak District Business Community Risk Register**. With this in mind, we have devised an exercise in which we will be asking you to identify the opportunities and challenges you have and do face …. But first we have **Andy Bunn** from East Midlands Chamber and **Marc Wootton** of High Peak Borough Council & Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, to provide details on the current business support offer in the Peak District.

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BPD Chair, 08-07-2025
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