BEDFORDSHIRE GLOBAL BUSINESS & INVESTMENT CONNECT

BGBIC 2026 Agenda

Thursday 26 November 2026 | King's House, Bedford

Registration from 09:00 | Programme 10:00–17:00

09:00–10:00	**Registration, refreshments and exhibition viewing** Arrival, introductions and networking
10:00–10:04	**Civic entrance, welcome and housekeeping** Civic entrance arrangements subject to Lieutenancy Office agreement
10:04–10:11	**Founder's opening address | Elizabeth Nwachukwu** From Bedfordshire to the World
10:11–10:16	**Civic welcome | Cllr Javed Hussain** Mayor of Luton
10:16–10:21	**Special guest remarks | Mohammad Yasin MP** Member of Parliament for Bedford and Kempston
10:21–10:26	**Special guest remarks | Edward Phillips DL** Deputy Lieutenant of Bedfordshire
10:26–10:36	**Opening keynote | Bedfordshire's Business and Investment Opportunity** Jeremiah Nwachukwu, Co-founder of BGBIC
10:36–10:45	**Networking and transition to Panel 1**
10:45–11:30	**Panel 1 | Access to Finance, Funding and Investment** Chris Barker (NatWest) and Josh Robson (ScaleUp Institute)
11:30–11:50	**Refreshments and exhibition viewing**
11:50–12:00	**Beyond Profit: Building a Business That Creates Lasting Value** Pastor Babatunde Akinfisoye
12:00–12:10	**Transition to Panel 2**
12:10–12:55	**Panel 2 | Growing and Scaling SMEs** Professor Mark Hart and Sara Landfors (Normain)
12:55–13:55	**Lunch, exhibition and structured networking**
13:55–14:10	**International Market Spotlight | BGBIC 2027 Roundtables** Elizabeth Nwachukwu, Founder of BGBIC
14:10–14:55	**Panel 3 | International Trade & Market Access** Dr Okechukwu Ejims and Craig Green (UK Export Finance)
14:55–15:50	**Structured B2B and investment matchmaking**
15:50–16:05	**Refreshments and exhibition viewing**
16:05–16:35	**Panel 4 | International Investment and Partnerships** Professor Marina Papanastassiou and Mr Yerbol Bukharbayev (virtual)
16:35–16:50	**Opportunity showcase** Selected business and international opportunities
16:50–17:00	**Next steps and closing remarks**

Opening speaking order and provisional timings are subject to final confirmation.

Complimentary attendance. Registration required.

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