



West London Economic Prosperity Board

17 February 2021

Title	Data to inform economic recovery
Report of	David Francis – Director, West London Alliance
Status	Public
Sponsor	Cllr Stephen Cowan, Leader, LB Hammersmith & Fulham and Chair, West London Economic Prosperity Board
Urgent	No
Enclosures	Annex One: Presentation on economic data indicators.
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Summary

This report and the accompanying presentation outlines for the Board's information work underway to develop a data dashboard of economic indicators at the sub-regional level to inform delivery of the Build and Recover plan and understand key areas of focus as the economic impact of the pandemic evolves.

It presents both data which can be collected from published sources - sub-regionally and at borough level - and includes opportunities to draw on new work undertaken at London level by GLA Economics to analyse and present relevant data previously unavailable to or not readily accessible to boroughs.

Recommendations

Leaders are asked to:

1. **Note and comment on** the proposed approach to develop a dashboard of economic indicators to inform delivery of the Build and Recover plan.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 To support delivery of the activity set out in the Build & Recover plan, access to economic data is important. This report sets out emerging thinking on how best to compile a dashboard of economic indicators for the Board to note and comment on.

2. EXISTING AVAILABLE ECONOMIC DATA

- 2.1 The presentation at Annex One details various economic datasets to supplement public health data monitoring the impacts of Covid and the headline numbers covering out of work benefit claimant numbers, unemployment and numbers on furlough in West London.
- 2.2 It also covers economic data being made available at the London level by GLA Economics, mostly at the borough level, to supplement other publicly available data to boroughs including:
 - Google mobility data visualisation showing how movement in London has been affected by Covid-19 restrictions;
 - Detailed TfL network demand data;
 - Various measures of high street busy-ness covering footfall, spend and public perceptions.

3. PRESENTING AND MONITORING ECONOMIC DATA AT THE WEST LONDON LEVEL

- 3.1 Drawing together the various datasets above and exploring other potential, longer term measures, the presentation attached at Annex One sets out a proposed framework for a dashboard collating indicators across the domains of 'people', 'business' and 'place' relating to the themes of the Build and Recover plan.
- 3.2 This Board is asked to note and comment on the dashboard as a framework for understanding the economic impact of the pandemic in West London and to inform delivery of the Build and Recover plan.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 A clear understanding the changing economic impact of the pandemic on West London through use of relevant and timely economic data will help steer and focus the delivery of activity set out in the Build and Recover plan. Compiling a dashboard of indicators is the proposed way of doing that.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

5.1 N/A

6. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 Subject to this Board's view, officers will refine and build a dashboard of economic indicators to inform delivery of the Build and Recover plan.

7. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

7.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- This report supports delivery of activity set out in the agreed Build and Recover plan.

7.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- It is anticipated that work to develop a dashboard of economic indicators to inform delivery of the Build and Recover plan will be undertaken at this point through existing, funded officer time, both within the core West London Alliance team and with relevant officers in West London authorities – supported by GLA Economics.

7.3 Social Value

- There is indirect social value from having timely and relevant economic data to steer delivery of the Build and Recover plan in that many of its aims directly address economic and social benefits to West London's communities.

7.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- This work falls within the following sections of the WLEPB's Functions and Procedure Rules:
 - Representing the participating local authorities in discussions and negotiations with regional bodies, national bodies and central government on matters relating to economic prosperity for the benefit of the local government areas of the participating authorities.
 - Representing the participating authorities in connection with the Greater London Authority, London Councils and the London Enterprise Panel, for the benefit of the local government areas of the participating authorities, in matters relating to the economic prosperity agenda.
 - Representing the participating local authorities in discussions and negotiations in relation to pan-London matters relating to economic prosperity.
- The Joint Committee's role and purpose on behalf of the Participating Boroughs relates to ensuring appropriate, effective and formal governance is in place for the purposes of delivering the West London Vision for Growth and advancing Participating Boroughs' aspirations for greater economic prosperity

in West London, including promoting “the Economic Prosperity Agenda”, in partnership with employers, representatives from regional and central government, and education and skills providers.

- The purpose of the Joint Committee will be collaboration and mutual cooperation and the fact that some functions will be discharged jointly by way of the Joint Committee does not prohibit any of the Participating Boroughs from promoting economic wellbeing in their own areas independently from the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee is not a self-standing legal entity but is part of its constituent authorities. Any legal commitment entered into pursuant of a decision of the Joint Committee must be made by all of the Participating Boroughs.

7.5 Risk Management

- This report will support the West London Economic Prosperity Board to oversee successful delivery of the Build and Recover plan and its aims.

7.6 Equalities and Diversity

- Equalities have been considered and embedded within the proposed set of economic indicators for steering delivery of the Build and Recover plan to help ensure West London’s economic recovery is an inclusive recovery, benefiting those most impacted by the economic impact of the pandemic.

7.7 Consultation and Engagement

- 7.8 The proposed dashboard of economic data indicators is being discussed by the West London Economic Recovery Taskforce at its February meeting and input from that meeting will help to shape it as it develops.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annex One: Presentation on economic data indicators.