



West London Economic Prosperity Board

17 February 2021

Title	West London Build and Recover plan progress update
Report of	David Pack – Head of Economy & Skills (interim), 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: Build and Recover progress report (detailed theme updates)
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Summary

This report provides an update on delivery of activity set out in the West London Build and Recover plan for economic recovery published in September 2020.

Recommendations

Leaders are asked to:

1. **Note** the progress update in connection with the West London Build and Recover plan.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This Board agreed the outline of the Build and Recover plan as an economic recovery strategy for West London ahead of its publication in September 2020. This report provides the Board with an update on progress made to the end of January 2020 in delivering the plan.

2. OVERVIEW OF BUILD AND RECOVER PLAN OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The Build and Recover plan provides a framework for addressing economic recovery from the pandemic at the sub-regional level in West London, supplementing and complementing activity undertaken at the individual borough level.
- 2.2 The plan is framed as a way of making the most of the opportunity to ‘build back better’ by taking a place-based approach and working with the public sector across West London and London, including further and higher education, the NHS, central government, the private sector and our communities to:
- Protect and create thousands of good jobs
 - Secure better alignment of existing public sector funds and attracting new private and public sector investment
 - Understand and address inequalities
 - Provide timely and good quality employment support and skills provision
 - Drive innovation and embed a green recovery
 - Revive the UK economy as part of London’s overall contribution

3. HEADLINE OUTCOMES SOUGHT

- 3.1 The headline outcomes sought through delivery of proposals outlined in the plan include:
- 9,000 people to be supported on the extended Work & Health Programme (Job Entry: Targeted Support - JETS), integrated into existing employment support provision across boroughs, further education and skills providers to benefit participants and business.
 - Alignment of employment support and skills system at a sub-regional level with a specific focus on BAME equality
 - Retrofitting of up to 800 homes with BEIS grant; and pursue further Green Homes Grant and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund monies leading to reduction in carbon emissions from buildings.
 - Development of a strategic and place-based West London plan - with buy-in from business, skills providers, universities and the NHS in support of:
 - Growth sectors
 - Innovation clusters
 - Anchor institutions
 - Micro businesses/entrepreneurs
 - Town Centres
 - A Green Recovery roadmap linked to the London Recovery Board’s ‘Green New Deal’ mission
 - Plan in place for improved digital and transport connectivity which reflects new home working patterns and business needs.
 - Case made to Government for additional investment to support skills development and infrastructure including specifically in relation to aviation communities.

4. PROGRESS UPDATE

4.1 Below are highlights of activity undertaken across the various themes of the Build & Recover plan, with further detail and outline next steps on each theme provided at Annex One:

- **Growth sectors:** As detailed in a separate paper on today's agenda, work is underway to scope the West London Innovation District concept, working to align existing work on White City as an innovation district with emerging thinking on proposals around Heathrow - as launched at the Blue Skies Conference in November - and more widely.
- **Aviation communities:** Following the Aviation Communities Conference in November 2020, which secured media coverage making the case for our proposed Aviation Communities Fund, work is also underway to establish an Aviation Communities Taskforce. The focus of this strand of work is also being refined to target specifically: reskilling/deployment of residents losing work; and articulating and making the case to government for investment, both in aviation communities and specifically to target innovative growth sectors around Heathrow.
- **Skills and employment:** There has been a strong start to the £12m Job Entry: Targeted Support (JETS) scheme, engaging 1,100 unemployed residents to date, with a target of supporting 9,000 over a year. Joint working across boroughs is also underway with the NHS on local recruitment to mass vaccination hubs with more than 2,400 referrals made through a joint approach between sub-regional employment support providers and borough job brokerages, setting foundations for longer term work with the NHS and informing our 'single front door' model. Labour market data tool to aid improved understanding of demand and supply of skills completed in initial form.
- **Entrepreneurs and microbusinesses:** Most activity within individual boroughs has been focused on disbursing the various business support grants. We have, however, explored collectively the potential to build on best practice in small business support and shape principles for a common business support offer across West London covering e.g. business diagnostics, accredited advice and guidance and consistency of advice provided.
- **Green recovery:** £4.7m has been secured in BEIS funding to retrofit 700 homes (the largest allocation nationally) with a further bid planned during 2021. A focus for green innovation is developing, complementing work underway in the Growth Sectors theme, and likely to cover retrofitting, last mile decarbonisation and circular economy. Additional cross-borough work is underway to develop detailed action plans covering: alignment of sustainable planning policy; development of low carbon & sustainable procurement;

encouraging the circular economy: scoping a sub-regional emissions measuring framework; shaping a sub-regional approach to green skills.

- **Town centres:** Most activity under this strand is taking place at the individual borough level. At the sub-regional level we are considering the appropriate timing – given lockdown restrictions - for undertaking a likely two-stage programme covering strategic and policy issues under a town centre needs assessment.
- **Housing and infrastructure:** Work to progress the West London Orbital passed another milestone with TfL agreeing work should proceed to next stage, including thinking around the timing of first round of public consultation. Commissioned work to analyse and articulate the economic benefits was also completed. Further detail on the West London Orbital is covered by a separate item on today's agenda.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 The Board is provided with this update to ensure it is abreast of activity under the agreed Build and Recover plan for sub-regional economic recovery in West London.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

N/A

7. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 7.1 This report provides an update on progress since November 2020. Delivery of activity set out in the Build and Recover plan will continue across the year and be reported to this Board.

8. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

8.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

This report relates directly to the delivery of the agreed West London Build & Recover economic recovery strategy.

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

It is anticipated that work to develop activity set out within the Build and Recover plan will be delivered in the first instance through funded officer time, both within the core West London Alliance team and working with relevant officers in West London authorities.

8.3 Social Value

The aims of the Build and Recover plan focus on securing an inclusive economic recovery, ensuring benefits are spread across West London's communities, particularly those most acutely affected by the economic impact of the pandemic.

8.4 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.

8.5 Risk Management

- This report provides the West London Economic Prosperity Board with an update to enable its oversight of delivery of the Build and Recover plan.

8.6 Equalities and Diversity

- As the Build and Recover plan focuses on ensuring West London's economic recovery is an inclusive recovery, benefiting those most impacted by the

economic impact of the pandemic, the proposed approach to influencing and communication

8.7 Consultation and Engagement

- N/A

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annex One: Build and Recover progress report (detailed theme updates)