



West London Economic Prosperity Board

9 February 2022

Title	WLA Economy & Skills programme updates
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	N/A
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Summary

This report provides brief updates not covered elsewhere on the agenda on progress on the various elements of the West London Alliance's Economy & Skills Programme in line with the themes set out in the annual business plan, covering:

- Good employment and the right skills
- Infrastructure – West London Orbital and mobility
- Infrastructure - Tomorrow's digital economy

Recommendations

Leaders are asked to:

- **Note** the updates provided on the West London Alliance's Economy & Skills Programme.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 This report updates the Board on progress across the various strands of the West London Alliance's Economy & Skills Programme where not picked up elsewhere on today's agenda.

2. EMPLOYMENT AND THE RIGHT SKILLS

- 2.1 A summary of progress on various employment support programmes is included at Annex One, the headlines of which are:
- Confirmation of the extension of the **Job Entry: Targeted Support** element of the Work & Health Programme, providing capacity to support an additional 9,000 people out of work for three months or more by late 2022.
 - The West London **Work & Health Programme** confirmed by DWP in December as the best performing contract in England & Wales, with over 7,300 programme starts and over 1,000 job outcomes.
 - Securing £1.4m in European Social Fund monies to support **West London Borough Employment Services** to boost the capacity of boroughs' job brokerages, with the aim of working with over 3,200 participants.
- 2.2 We are close to completing **research on green jobs/skills** - co-commissioned with London's other sub-regional partnerships - to help build a firm understanding of jobs that make up the green economy now, how the labour market might change over time and the skills required for our communities to access these jobs. The research was undertaken in two stages, one at the London level (available on the WLA website [here](#)) and a sub-regional analysis to be published later this month. WLA and borough employment/skills and climate emergency lead officers will be working with skills providers and others to take forward the recommendations and act on the findings.
- 2.3 As referenced in the paper on next steps on economic recovery, we have secured funding from the GLA and the UK Community Renewal Fund for a **No Wrong Door Integration Hub**. This will be an overarching 'system level' piece of work, steered by the West London Skills & Employment Board, aiming to make the skills and employment support system work in a more co-ordinated, less fragmented way to improve individuals' journeys through the system towards and into 'good work', with an initial focus on the under 25s and over 50s.
- 2.4 We supported three successful bids for funding from the **Mayor's Sectoral Academies programme**, covering the health, green and creative/cultural sectors. Each will aim to provide improved co-ordination across the system and increase the responsiveness of skills provision to need. WLA and borough officers will be involved in steering each.

3. INFRASTRUCTURE 1 – WEST LONDON ORBITAL AND MOBILITY

3.1 A detailed update on the **West London Orbital** is covered in a separate paper on today's agenda.

3.2 Although impacted by reduced funding through Transport for London, our WestTrans team has focused efforts on several sub-regional transport-related workstreams, including:

- Continued delivery of a service to boroughs to monitor **travel plans submitted under Section 106 agreements**, including revisiting many sites which have been inactive during the pandemic. An annual report of this work will follow once more reports have been received from sites.
- Production of a report to assess the impact of a **pilot cycling promotion scheme with NHS Trusts and universities**, which has had to wind up owing to lack of funding.
- Continued work with the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group and Heathrow Airport to create a macro review of freight in and around the Heathrow Cargo Centre, with a view to **improve the efficiency and impact of freight movements in the Heathrow area**.
- Completion of an **active travel and connectivity review of the boundary areas** the boroughs share in partnership with borough colleagues and TfL to assist boroughs in producing their Local Plans.

4. INFRASTRUCTURE 2 – TOMORROW'S DIGITAL ECONOMY

4.1 Our Digital team continues to deliver through close collaboration with boroughs and the private sector. Key points of recent progress include:

- The launch of a procurement process to find a supplier for the **Fibre West** project to upgrade connections to public buildings using the Crown Commercial Services Gigabit Dynamic Purchasing System. This project will draw in further private investment into West London upgrading connections for residents and businesses.
- Continuation of the **Expanding Opportunities for All** project to streamline working arrangements between boroughs and wireless network operators. New ways of working will create a simpler and quicker pathway to getting wireless communications infrastructure up and running so residents and businesses in West London can enjoy the benefits of next generation communications technology sooner.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 This report is for information only, to keep this Board informed of progress across the West London Alliance's Economy & Skills programme of work.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

N/A

7. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

N/A

8. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

8.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- This report relates directly to the 2021/22 West London Alliance Business Plan as agreed by Chief Executives in March 2021.

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

- N/A

8.3 Social Value

- Social and economic inclusion is a cross-cutting theme woven into the various elements of the programme outlined.

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 co-operation 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

- N/A

8.6 Equalities and Diversity

- The ongoing focus of addressing economic recovery at the sub-regional level through the Build and Recover Plan will assist in promoting equalities and diversity across the sub-region. The plan has a central focus on ensuring that West London's economic recovery is inclusive, benefiting those most impacted by the economic impact of the pandemic.

8.7 Consultation and Engagement

- Regular updates on the various elements of the Economy & Skills programme are provided to both Chief Executives and your Economy & Skills Directors among other officers.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A