



## West London Economic Prosperity Board

8 June 2016

<b>Title</b>	<b>West London Vision for Growth: Action Plan</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Luke Ward, Interim Head of Growth, Employment and Skills, West London Alliance
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1 – West London Vision for Growth Appendix 2 – Vision for Growth Action Plan
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### Summary

This paper sets out an action plan for delivering the West London Vision for Growth, which was requested by the Economic Prosperity Board at its meeting on 17 February 2016 and has subsequently been developed by Growth Directors with input from Chief Executives. If approved by the WLEPB this action plan will proceed to delivery, with different strands of activity within it e.g. Work and Health or Business Rates devolution, reporting back to the WLEPB individually, and an Annual Report covering overall progress once per year in the future.

### Recommendations

The Board is requested to:

- 1. Review the West London Vision for Growth Action Plan as set out in Appendix 2 and make comments and amendments**
- 2. Approve the Action Plan set out in Appendix 2 and delegate authority to the West London Growth Director to incorporate any comments and amendments as referred to in 1. above**

**3. Agree for the Action Plan to be published on the West London Alliance website and for the Board to receive a regular annual report setting out progress delivering it.**

## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to set out an action plan for delivering the West London Vision for Growth, which was requested by the West London Economic Prosperity Board (WLEPB) on 17 February 2016. A broad framework for this action plan was agreed at the Leaders and Chief Executives Board on 22 March 2016, and subsequently discussed and steered by Growth Directors on 21 April 2016 and chief executives on 3 May 2016.
- 1.2 Delivery of the Vision for Growth has to date focused on a number of priority areas, including Employment and Skills, the Post-16 Education and Training Review, and Welfare Reforms. With the Economic Prosperity Board established now is an opportune time for the sub-region to turn its attention to other elements of the vision that are essential components of economic growth, including business and productivity growth, housing, business rates devolution, infrastructure and inward investment, in addition to employment and skills.

## **2. PRINCIPLES FOR DRIVING GROWTH SUB-REGIONALLY**

- 2.1 Given the work that is already happening at both the borough level and pan-London levels (e.g. Skills Devolution, elements of housing) a set of principles for identifying priority areas of work for the West London area have already been identified by Leaders. These are:
- **Subsidiarity:** Sub-regional activity occurs where it either wouldn't otherwise happen or would be less efficient if undertaken at the national, regional or borough levels.
  - **Additionality:** Activity occurs and is prioritised where action produces the greatest economic impact for the least resources.
  - **Accountability:** Sub-regional activity has clearly defined objectives and outputs, is resourced, and has clear ownership.
- 2.2 Activity undertaken at the sub-regional level should also be deliverable, evidence-based, and focus on agreed outcomes.

## **3. ACTION PLAN**

- 3.1 The summary table that Leaders and Chief Executives discussed on 22 March has been significantly developed and refined with input from West London Growth Directors to produce the action plan in Appendix 2, which is divided

into four distinct categories against which different strands of work have been allocated:

1. Housing
2. Employment, Skills and Productivity
3. Infrastructure
4. A Competitive Economy

- 3.2 For each of these groups activity is divided into short, medium and longer-term opportunities that set strategic goals alongside shorter-term, deliverable outputs. The content of the action plan was discussed by Chief Executives on 3 May 2016 and by Growth Directors on 21 April 2016. The action plan also reflects the outcome of a prioritisation exercise that was undertaken by Growth Directors at the request of Chief Executives identifying the activities in the plan that they consider to be of highest priority.

#### **4. DELIVERING THE ACTION PLAN**

- 4.1 Should the WLEPB approve this action plan then, subject to comments, it will progress to delivery stage, with detailed plans embedded into the wider WLA work programme and those of WLA member authorities.
- 4.2 Consideration also needs to be given to how the action plan that Leaders have requested will be implemented, for example:
1. Director / borough-level leadership of different activities within the action plan
  2. Resources necessary to deliver activity beyond the core WLA team, e.g. within boroughs and other partners and through external/devolved funding or secondments
  3. Project budgets to deliver for example research projects relating to Business Rates devolution or Area Review.
- 4.3 Resourcing considerations are set out in more detail in section 8.2 of this report (below) and in section 8 of Appendix 2.

#### **4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 At its meeting on 17 February 2016 the WLEPB requested the West London Growth Directors develop an action plan for delivering the Vision for Growth to return to its meeting on 8 June 2016. This action plan reflects that request.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 5.1 The Vision for Growth was agreed by West London Leaders in late 2014, and to date there has been more emphasis on some parts of it than others, with focus predominantly on the delivery of a number of skills and employment programmes such as the Area Review of Further Education and the Work and

Health programme, and less on wider agendas of relevance to sub-regional growth such as Business Rates Devolution, housing, or infrastructure.

## **6. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

6.1 If approved by the WLEPB and subject to its comments this action plan will be published on the WLA website and proceed to delivery stage. Activity outlined within the action plan will be embedded across WLA work areas and those of WLA member authorities along with appropriate programme support and resource to ensure delivery.

6.2 Progress against delivering the action plan will be reported to the WLEPB on an annual basis, with decisions relating to individual priorities or strands of work (e.g. Work and Health or Business Rates Devolution) returning to the Board as required.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **7.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

7.1.1 This report relates directly to the delivery of the West London Vision for Growth, which has been agreed by the members of the West London Alliance.

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

7.3 WLEPB are asked to note Section eight of appendix two setting out resourcing requirements associated with this action plan. It is anticipated that a significant element of work will happen within existing resources; however some additional resource will be required to deliver the overall programme, for instance in relation to policy agendas such as Area Review, Business Rates Devolution, or Infrastructure.

7.4 Where a specific requirement for additional resource is identified to fund a particular activity or project contained within the Vision for Growth action plan then this requirement will be brought back to a future Board for consideration on a case-by-case basis.

### **7.5 Social Value**

7.5.1 This action plan supports the delivery of the objectives set out in the Vision for Growth, including the objective to support low-paid people in work and those without work to find it.

### **7.6 Legal and Constitutional References**

7.7 The Board has its own functions and procedure rules as set out in the Constitutions of the relevant local authorities. These include representing the participating local authorities in discussions and negotiations with regional and

national bodies and central government on matters relating to economic prosperity for the benefit of the local government areas of the participating authorities, and representing the participating local authorities in discussion and negotiations in relation to pan-London matters relating to economic prosperity.

## **7.8 Risk Management**

7.8.1 There is a risk that by not engaging with the full range of levers that have an impact on the overall economic success of an area the sub-region will not achieve the level of economic outcomes in terms of jobs, investment, or housing that might otherwise be the case over the medium and long term.

## **7.9 Equalities and Diversity**

7.9.1 The Vision for Growth recognises the need to ensure that people from all backgrounds are able to benefit from growth. Individual programmes within the Vision will have equality impact assessments undertaken on a case by case basis.

## **7.10 Consultation and Engagement**

7.10.1 WLEPB considered an outline Vision for Growth action plan and requested more developed version on 17 February 2016. Growth Directors subsequently discussed and informed a draft action plan at their meeting on 21 April 2016. Chief Executives discussed a more developed draft action plan on 3 May 2016. Growth Directors prioritised elements of the action plan over the first part of April 2016.

## **5.8 Insight**

5.8.1 The content of the Vision for Growth Action Plan draws on the evidence base for the West London Economy that was commissioned from Peter Brett Associates in 2015.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None