

Annual Report

2025-26



About us

Local London is brimming with opportunity. We are one of four sub-regional partnerships in the capital. Our nine dynamic member boroughs are: Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Bromley, Enfield, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, and Waltham Forest.

We are growing faster than any other part of the capital. **We represent around 2.7 million residents and 100,000 businesses.** Our population already makes us larger than the cities of Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool combined, and we are **set to reach 3 million residents** by 2050.

Our sub-regional economy is **valued at over £60 billion** annually. Yet, we know with greater investment we can unlock our vast potential.

Led by our Leaders and Mayor, our partnership is a strong voice for the sub-region. Together we are working to deliver [our Vision for Growth to transform this part of London](#) sustainably and inclusively, to improve the lives of all our communities and ensure our businesses thrive.

**2.7 million
residents**

**100,000
businesses**

**£60 billion
annually**

**Improving
communities**

**Ensuring
businesses
thrive**

**3 million
residents
by 2025**

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Foreword

This year marks a pivotal moment for Local London. We are on a journey to realise the potential of our boroughs to the east of London, north and south of the river.

At the start of the 2025-26 financial year, we set out to understand what makes our sub-region unique and how we can unlock its full potential. Together with partners, stakeholders, and the expertise of Centre for London, we have delivered a bold Vision for Growth - one that sets a clear direction for the years ahead.

Our Vision is underpinned by four missions: attracting investment, unlocking infrastructure, supporting enterprise and business, and boosting work and skills. These missions are not just ambitions; they are actions that we are already making progress on. Across our nine boroughs, we are driving inclusive

growth, creating opportunities for residents and businesses, and ensuring that this sub-region is rightly recognised for its dynamism and unparalleled potential.

We are proud of the progress made so far, as highlighted in this report. This includes:

- Securing significant funding to help our most in-need residents find work.
- Aligning skills provision with real-world needs.
- Helping young people broaden their career horizons.
- Hosting our first investment forums.

- Strengthening digital connectivity.
- Connecting residents with businesses and local employment support.

Our achievements reflect the power of collaboration and shared purpose.

United behind our Vision, we will continue to champion our communities, attract investment, and deliver sustainable growth that benefits everyone. Thank you to all our partners and stakeholders for your commitment and support as we work together to shape a stronger future for Local London in 2026 and beyond.



Cllr Okereke,
Chair of Local London
(2024-2026) and Leader of the
Royal Borough of Greenwich

Executive Summary

Between April 2025 and March 2026, we have made significant strides in delivering inclusive and sustainable growth, ensuring the unique needs of our boroughs are fully understood and that we are maximising the potential of residents, businesses and communities in our sub-region.

This year, we partnered with Centre for London to shape our bold [Vision for Growth](#). This sets out our ambitious, mission-led approach to transform Our Vision, backed and developed with our boroughs and key partners, outlines how we will accelerate growth and tackle inequality through four key missions: boosting work and skills, unlocking infrastructure, supporting enterprise and business, and attracting investment. Launched in November 2025, we have already made progress against these ambitions.



Collaboration is fundamental to achieving our collective priorities. This year, we strengthened relationships with local, regional and national government, health and education – and supported policy development with London Councils and GLA and secured significant investment to help more residents into work.



Highlights from the past year include:

- **Securing over £54 million investment into our boroughs** over the next four years through Trailblazers and Connect to Work, to support around 16,000 residents - many with complex barriers - to find work.
- **Helping over 1,600 residents move closer to employment and self-employment**, adding to the 32,000 people already supported through our successful portfolio.
- **Supporting over 200 schools to enhance their careers education offer** and raise their average score against national (Gatsby) benchmarks - with Local London's Careers Hub ranked in the top 25% nationally.
- **Launching a new Youth Progression Pilot** (Proactive Enrolment) to identify Year 11 pupils at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) and provide targeted, school-based support to help them with post-16 choices.
- **Hosting a Youth Employment Summit with 175 young people and partners**, now jointly shaping a sub-regional action plan for tackling youth unemployment.
- **Hosting a Skills and Employment Summit with over 100 education partners and employers** to celebrate and build on the successes of Local London's skills offer.
- **Developing a refreshed Local Skills Improvement Plan for Local London** in partnership with GLA, Business LDN and the Local London Skills Provider Network and Employer Group, to better meet the skills needs of our local economy and ensure residents succeed.
- **Identifying 15 priority transport projects to unlock growth**, and support better connectivity between our communities and commercial areas.
- **Launching Local London's first Investment and Development Forum** and Investment Prospectus to strengthen collaboration with the private sector and promote opportunities for investment.

Together, these achievements reflect the power of collaboration and our shared commitment to building a stronger, more inclusive future for the capital's leading edge.

Over £54 million investment secured

Over 1,600 residents moved closer to employment and self-employment

Working with over 200 schools to enhance careers education

175 young people and partners attended our Youth Employment Summit

15 priority transport projects

100 education partners and employers convened at our Skills and Employment Summit

MISSION ONE: Attracting Investment

Our sub-region is a prime destination for investment. We are home to the best London can offer as Europe's leading business destination alongside unmatched land opportunities, gateways to domestic and global markets, and a workforce ready to deliver. We are unlocking this unmatched opportunity.

Our highlights this year include:

- Launching Local London's Investment and Development Forum, connecting Local London boroughs with international and domestic investors and developers, where we launched our Vision for Growth.
- Developing the **first joint investment prospectus** for our boroughs showcasing the opportunities available, launched at the second of our Investment and Development Forums.
- Planned a joint presence and investment session at UKREiF 2026.

Attracting inward investment

We are London's best investment opportunity. We have unmatched land for development, a young, diverse workforce, and in alignment with the Government's Modern Industrial Strategy and the Mayor's London Growth Plan, we can become the engine of inclusive growth for the capital and the country.

Our sub-region boasts ten of London's investment opportunities seeking over £22 billion featured in Opportunity London's latest Prospectus. A further fifteen of London's best opportunities with expected returns of 6% to 20+% that are coming to market in the near future are in our sub-region.



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**Opportunities valued
£30-£900 million
in our sub-regional
Investment Prospectus**

.....

Local London Investment Prospectus

Over the past three years, we have attracted investment of circa £5 million into our boroughs for improving digital connectivity. Over the coming months and years, we will support our boroughs to secure investment on a wider portfolio of opportunities, complementing but not duplicating the offer in the Opportunity London prospectus.

From December 2025, we began work to establish a prospectus for the sub-region. We launched our Investment Prospectus for the sub-region in March 2026, and we anticipate promoting our sub-region's offer to investors, through our own fora and at key local and national investment events.

Hosting a regular Investment and Development Forum

In November 2025, we opened dialogue with investors and developers at the first in a regular series of fora to attract investment into our boroughs, and giving investors and developers the opportunity to meet our borough leaders.

In the coming years, we will be stepping up our work to attract investment into our world-class industrial hubs, new towns, town centres and opportunity areas. We will be working closely with our boroughs to ensure that our investment offer complements Opportunity London's Investment Prospectus and aligns with the London Infrastructure Framework (LIF).



**10 opportunities valued
over £22 billion in
Opportunity London Prospectus**

MISSION TWO: Unlocking Infrastructure

We are supporting new homes, jobs and better-connected communities. Our sub-region's inclusive economic growth relies on robust infrastructure to create world-class connectivity for all residents, businesses, and public services.

However, this potential is hindered by inadequate digital connectivity, limited energy grid capacity, and an outdated, fragmented transport infrastructure. We are championing for investment into these areas to support new development and economic opportunities.

Our highlights this year include:

- Working with digital providers to connect **30,000** additional homes and business sites and over **300** public sector sites in the sub-region with high-speed broadband.
- [Identifying 15 priority transport infrastructure projects](#) to unlock growth.
- Contributing to the London Infrastructure Framework on Local London's key transport and fibre infrastructure schemes.*

Digital Connectivity

The goal of Local London's digital programme is to ensure that the sub-region is an exemplar digital corridor underpinning economic growth, linking London to key markets and growth areas; a sub-region where fixed and mobile service availability is ubiquitous and world-class in terms of speed and capacity.

This year, an additional 30,000 premises have been connected to high-speed broadband. However, around 86,000 (8%) of business and residential sites in the sub-region are still unable to access gigabit capable services. This is impacting the delivery of public services, creating a digital divide and impacting the productivity of our small and medium sized businesses.



* The London Infrastructure Framework has been produced by London Councils in partnership with the Greater London Authority to outline London's priority infrastructure needs.



Our sub-region also requires greater availability of world class business-grade fixed and mobile services to stimulate investment in digital, creative and logistics sectors. Many areas suffer from significant capacity challenges in mobile infrastructure, notably key transport hubs such as Stratford, high streets and commercial centres.

It is fundamental for digital inclusion and our vision to lead the UK's AI and digital future that we address these issues. In the past year we have and will continue to:

- [Lobby central government](#), notably Department for Science, Innovation and Technology and Building Digital UK, to argue for grant funding to London to address service gaps and highlight the need to focus on urban connectivity challenges. This was a factor resulting in the launch of the Government's Urban Connection Voucher scheme.
- Work closely with complementary bodies to engage with [engage with suppliers](#) and industry to promote our infrastructure and investment needs.
- Support our boroughs to undertake similar activities as well as providing technical and procurement support.

This has resulted in:

- Increased availability of high-speed broadband services across the sub-region to an additional **30,000** premises this year.
- Over **200km** of new wholesale fibre delivered and the connection of over **300** public sector sites, following the successful procurements in each borough of fibre infrastructure funded by Strategic Investment Pot. The networks also delivered choice and accessibility to local businesses and residents.
- Over **£5m** commercial investment leveraged into fibre infrastructure in the past three years.

.....
30,000
additional homes
and business sites
connected



Transport Infrastructure

Across our sub-region there are transport infrastructure issues and gaps that are impacting people's ability to travel across the sub-region, meeting net zero targets, as well as our boroughs' ability to meet house building ambitions.

In 2024-25, we commissioned ekosgen to conduct [research into fifteen priority transport infrastructure projects](#) across our nine boroughs. Published in 2025, this research has steered the Unlocking Infrastructure Mission in our Vision for Growth, as well as our response to the London Infrastructure Framework (LIF).

We responded to the LIF on behalf of the sub-region and welcomed the extension of the Docklands Light Railway into Thamesmead, providing additional connections within our boroughs. Further extension into our sub-region would multiply the benefits and promote growth and housing. We anticipate advocating more strongly for investment in transport infrastructure in 2026 and beyond.

In November 2025, at the launch of our new Vision for Growth, we committed to establishing a Transport Task and Finish Group to promote sub-regionally important infrastructure projects. Complementing this, we will develop an investor-ready suite of business cases; comprising the top infrastructure opportunities across rail, London underground, buses and roads that will generate the greatest long-term economic impact for both the sub-region and London as a whole.



MISSION THREE: Supporting Business and Enterprise

We are home to thousands of thriving smaller businesses and offer a growth opportunity for tomorrow's industries.

Our business growth has surged, outpacing every other part of London since Covid-19, and employment has risen at almost twice the UK rate at 9.1% since 2010.

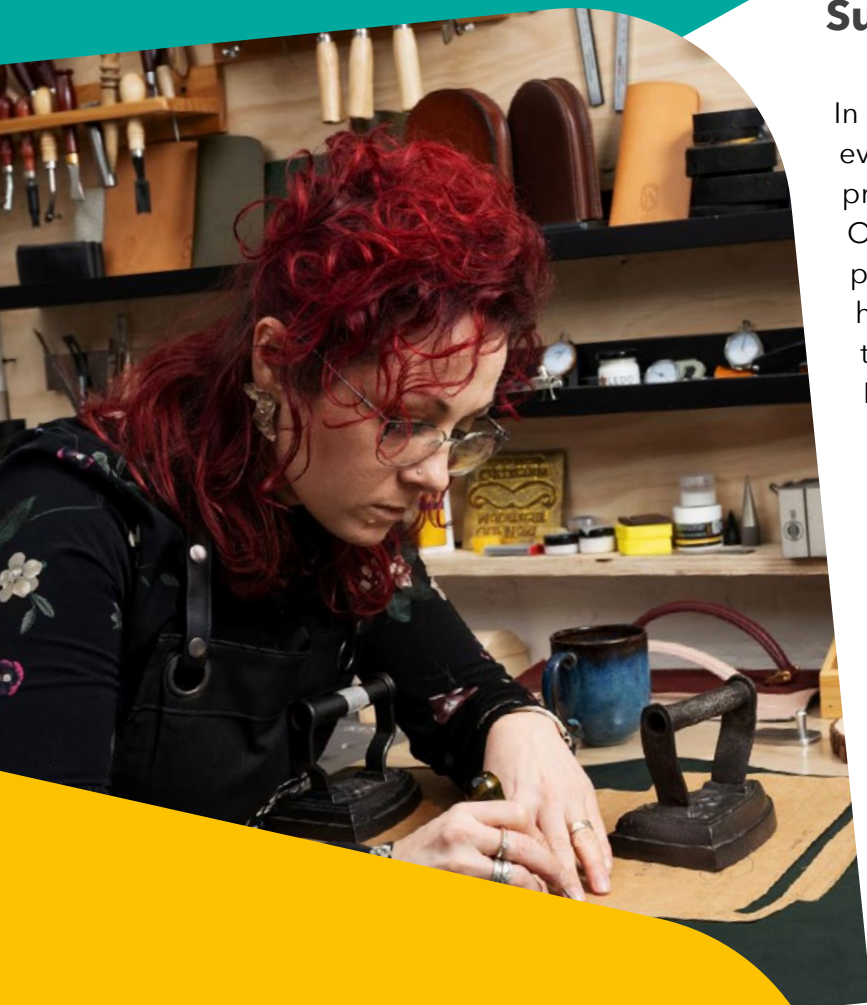
With one in five enterprises in the capital operating in our sub-region, delivering a coordinated, employer-led business support offer is key to unlocking our economic potential.

Our highlights this year include:

- **4,000 jobs** safeguarded and **£57 million** increase in business revenue generated by our E-business programme.
- **Over 60 people taken up** self-employment and start-up support via our Economic Inactivity Trailblazer since launch September 2025.
- **Over 2,410** interactions with businesses and partners through our 'No Wrong Door' approach bringing employers, residents and employment advisors together to help people find work and training.
- **Over 350** businesses accessed information and resources to become more inclusive employers.
- **75** businesses engaged through our Employment and Skills Summit to drive forward an integrated approach to skills and workforce development across our sub-region.



Supporting Business and Enterprise



In November 2025, we published the evaluation report for our E-business programme. This programme ran from October 2021 to September 2024, which played a pivotal role in helping local SMEs harness online marketing and digital tools to grow. Delivered by Enterprise Enfield, Newham College, and South East Enterprise, and funded through London's Strategic Investment Pot (SIP), the programme supported over 3,000 SMEs, safeguarded more than 4,000 jobs, and generated an impressive £57 million increase in business revenue.

The success of this initiative speaks for itself: 90% of businesses rated the programme effective or very effective. Its impact extended beyond our sub-region, with the model adopted across London - incorporating our learning and supported by two of our delivery partners - to help SMEs citywide strengthen their digital capabilities.

£57 million
increase in business revenue

We are building on this success by applying lessons learned to the self-employment and business start-up project of our Economic Inactivity Trailblazer programme that is supporting residents who are not working to explore starting their own business. Alongside this, we continue to help businesses engage with current and future talent through supported employment programmes and careers education for young people.

To further strengthen these connections, we are developing a comprehensive library of online tools and resources as part of the Mayor of London's 'No Wrong Door' initiative. These resources will enable employers to connect with local talent and become more disability-confident, directly supporting inclusive employment through our Connect To Work and Trailblazer programmes.

As part of a refresh of Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIP), which aims to align training provision to employer skills demands, we have been engaging with local employers, skills providers and other stakeholders to build a shared understanding of local skills needs and the actions needed to address them. We have worked with GLA Economics to get a clear understanding of local data, which will feed into our sub-regional annex to the London LSIP being developed by BusinessLDN.

MISSION FOUR: Boosting Work and Skills

This year we have continued to bolster support to our residents to help them find good work and develop their skills by joining up services and facilitating collaboration between our borough employment and skills services, health and education partners; and helped to broaden the career aspirations of young people.

Our highlights this year include:

- Securing over **£54 million** new investment into our sub-region to deliver the Government's flagship Trailblazers and Connect to Work programmes. These have already helped over 1,250 residents looking to find and stay in work or become self-employed. This brings Local London's total investment in boosting jobs and skills to £130m.
- Working with our **220 schools** to deliver quality careers advice to young people, with our sub-region now ranked in the **top 25%** nationally.
- Hosting a Youth Employment Summit that brought together **175** young people and professionals to start addressing employment issues impacting local young people.
- Kick starting the development of a new Local Skills Improvement Plan that is aligning skills training with local businesses' needs and underpin our boosting work and skills mission.



Joining up services and facilitating collaboration

Recognising our unique position as a convener for the sub-region, we have continued to facilitate conversations and collaboration with a wider range of stakeholders to re-think systems. From tackling skills gaps, to addressing youth unemployment and promoting more inclusive pathways into work in our boroughs.

Our plan for addressing skills gaps across the sub-region

Skills shortages affect businesses and people's employment prospects. An Employer Skills Survey found that 70% of businesses in Local London that reported hard-to-fill vacancies said that they had skills shortage vacancies.

To address this, our employer-led and data-driven [Local Skills Improvement Plan \(LSIP\)](#) has continued to direct our collaboration with employers as well as education and training providers to close skills gaps. Our annual LSIP progress report outlines how this work is transforming training so that local people have the skills they need to succeed and supporting businesses to thrive.

During 2025-26 we have been engaging with local stakeholders to refresh the sub-regional annex to the London LSIP. This is due to be published in June 2026.

"Working with Local London, as a group of employers we have been able to highlight key areas where we need to address skills gaps to help businesses grow and thrive. Through this partnership, and supported by the team, we have created an employer led local skills improvement plan (LSIP). This is essential for bridging skills gaps and we're delighted to see colleges and training providers responding innovatively to the sub-region's needs.

Through the continued development of the LSIP and the new employer sector hubs, we will keep assessing businesses' needs and collaborating with partners across the skills provider network to make sure the system supports both our current and future workforce."

DRAFT quote from Dr Noorzaman Rashid, CEO of CEME and Chair of Local London's Skills & Employment Employer Group

"As a consortium of organisations, our skills providers' network is innovating across curriculum areas and is supporting us to provide training that best meets employers' needs.

For example, our immersive learning suites - funded through the local skills improvement fund - are helping to bring learning to life, broaden access, and upskill far more students - both in person and virtually across the sub-region. Using interactive technology, we can provide new and different ways of learning and applying skills, whether that's e-sports, retrofitting or any other area. This means we can offer training to employers who want to upskill their workforce."

Asfa Sohail, Deputy CEO and Executive Principal of London South East Colleges, and Jamie Purser, Principal/CEO of Newham College London, Co-Chairs of Local London's Skills Provider Network.

Creating a single door for employment advice

As part of the Mayor of London's '[No Wrong Door](#)' initiative, the Integration Hub helps to convene employment and skills services to make it easier for practitioners, residents and businesses to better navigate the support that they need.

The integration Hub works with Jobcentre Plus and local skills and employment services, sharing information and learning opportunities. This helps them deliver the best service to residents looking for work and/or training and to support businesses to access the talent they need.

The Integration Hub especially focusses on reaching three priority groups:

- Residents aged 19 + with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and/ or disabilities.
- Young people aged 19 to 24 (especially those facing significant barriers such as low skills).
- Residents aged 50 and above.

"I had the pleasure of attending the London Job Show alongside my colleague, representing our collaborative efforts with Local London and the boroughs that form this vibrant sub-regional partnership. The event was incredibly well attended, full of energy and enthusiasm from jobseekers and exhibitors alike. A huge thank you to Emma Byrne and Mirela Popa from Local London. Your coordination and support made the experience seamless and impactful."

Mark Hunte, Compliance and Monitoring Officer, Enfield Council

Highlights

- Co-produced materials to inspire people aged over 50 to return to work or change careers which were distributed to all boroughs and promoted to over **500,000** people.
- The workconnections.london website that brings together resources for residents, employment advisers and employers to help local people find work and training, has had over **6,900** visits in 12 months.
- Organised joint borough presence with two of our boroughs at the London Job Show (Stratford) attended by over **29,000** people looking for work. Increasing traffic to workconnections.london by over 300 visits on that day alone.
- Created a handbook with the British Association of Supported Employment to help our boroughs' teams to deliver consistent and high-quality services including through the Connect to Work programme.
- Published our 'ABILITY not disability: Employers Guide to Inclusive Recruitment' to help employers recruit residents with disabilities and health conditions, further supporting the delivery of Connect to Work.





"Too often, young people are seen as statistics, not stories. As risk, not resource. As cost, not creativity. But I believe that when we change how we see young people, we change everything."

Chisola Chitambala, Co-founder of CB Virtual Assistant, star of The Apprentice UK and keynote speaker at the event.

Collaboratively tackling youth unemployment

Funded through the Government's Get Britain Working trailblazers, Local was awarded £116,000 through the GLA to deliver a Youth Integration Network as part of the pan London youth employment trailblazer.

To deliver this we have convened young people, youth services and professionals to help map and co-design Local London's youth offer.

In June 2025, our Youth Unemployment Summit brought together 37 young people, alongside around 140 educators, employers and support organisations, to explore the key issues affecting youth employment. Discussions at the event have informed an action plan to be launched in 2026.



Supporting adults furthest from the job market into work

We are delivering over £100m of cumulative investment to support our residents with accessing the support that they need to progress into good jobs. This includes a new investment of £54m to deliver two new programmes: Trailblazers and Connect To Work. We are strengthening our relationships and extending our networks, building on our strong track record of providing additional support to help some of our hardest to reach communities.

Over 21,800 people helped through our Work and Health programmes

Our flagship employment support programmes Work and Health Programme and Work and Health Programme Pioneer are nearing the end of the programme cycle and we are no longer taking new referrals but are continuing to provide support to people who are furthest away from the job market, to help them find and stay in work.

Funded through the Department of Work and Pensions, the programmes have helped over 21,800 people move into work, training or closer to the job market, many of whom have long-term health conditions and/or disabilities and faced significant barriers to employment.

Nationally, many people on the Work and Health Programme have disabilities, in Local London that figure is 78%.



Highlights

- Over **21,800** people moved into work, training or closer to the job market.
- **78%** of people on the Work and Health Programme in our sub-region have disabilities.
- While no longer taking new referrals, the programmes have continued to help people, bringing the total number of people in sustained employment to over **5,700**.

Angela* was extremely vulnerable when she was referred to the Work and Health Programme delivered by Maximus UK. With the coordinated efforts of the police, legal teams, and specialist support services, she is now rebuilding her life. Through the programme she has achieved a significant milestone in her recovery and has returned to work one day a week as a language tutor. This progress is nothing short of astounding, demonstrating her resilience and determination to create a new future.

"I finally feel like I have someone I can trust. Henry [from the Work and Health Programme team at Maximus UK] helped me understand what was happening and made me feel safe." Angela, supported on the Work and Health Programme.

*name changed.

Among first to go live with Connect To Work

Local London successfully supported a collective bid for up to £47.1m to deliver the Government's Connect To Work Programme across our nine boroughs.

This new voluntary supported employment programme is expected to help around 12,000 people with disabilities, long-term health conditions, and other complex barriers to find and stay in work.

Residents are offered intensive, personalised support, through a 'place then train' approach, meaning job search begins early and is followed by tailored training and in work support once someone is employed.

As part of the programme, boroughs are embedding Employment Specialists directly into primary care, community health services and specialist clinical teams, strengthening the connection between health and employment, and ensuring employment support is integrated into people's wider care and treatment pathways.

Since launching in early September, Local London has coordinated multi-borough presence at the London Job Show (Stratford), building awareness of the programme among employers and residents at an event attended by some 30,000 people looking for work.

Highlights

- The programme will support around **12,000** residents to find or stay in work across our sub-region.
- Among the **first** accountable bodies in the country to go live (within the first 15 out of 43 areas).
- Delivery plans co-developed by all **9** boroughs and Local London, with all boroughs now actively delivering the new supported employment model.
- **76** borough staff trained in supported employment principles.



Chandra took a career break from her role as a chef de partie for 16 years to care for her family. Through Connect To Work, Care Providers Voice gave Chandra work experience in a small kitchen in a local care home. This was exactly what she needed to rekindle her self-belief, and she has now start looking for cheffing roles.

"Chandra was amazing! She would be an asset to any company she works for."

Michaela Gordon, Care Providers Voice, Barking and Dagenham

Exceptional start to our Economic Inactivity Trailblazers

We supported our boroughs to secure £7 million to deliver the Government's Get Britain Working economic inactivity trailblazers programme.

The nature of the programme allowed our boroughs to design and trial support to help people in their boroughs become economically active. Take up in year one exceeded expectations with more people helped than anticipated.



While initially intended to run for one year, we worked with partners to secure a year's extension to help more residents get the support they need to move into work.

Local London co-produced plans with its member boroughs to identify and direct support to local needs including support for disabled people, those with long-term health conditions and people from underrepresented groups to find good work.

Each of our local authorities is offering support tailored to best meet local needs, including:

- Training, skills and employability support.
- Self-employment and business start-up support.
- Support for parents, including childcare contributions.

Highlights

- Trailblazers have met and exceeded targets with over **1,200** economically inactive residents engaged to date.
- Over **350** employers and local businesses have engaged to date.
- Trailblazers has helped more people find work than anticipated at this point in the programme, with **126** people already securing employment so far.
- Boroughs have embraced innovative delivery and introduced creative initiatives such as VR-based interview training (Newham), mobile creche (Bromley), and digital skills suite (Enfield) to remove barriers and boost employability.
- Evaluation and research underway and expected to report in 2026.

"Through Trailblazers I was found a work experience placement at a local nursery. At the end of the placement, I was offered a job with them. The job is hard work and busy, but enjoyable and I am receiving plenty of on-the-job support."

Janet, aged 57, from Bexley.

Broadening the career aspirations of young people

Our Careers Hub works with 222 (96%) of mainstream, special secondary education, pupil referral units and colleges across our sub-region to enhance their Careers Education and Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programmes.

Bringing together businesses, post-16 education providers and careers experts, the Careers Hub supports mainstream and special education schools, colleges and pupil referral units to provide the relevant careers education and experiences to enable young people to make their best next steps post-16.



Highlights

- Supported schools to raise their average score against national benchmarks – our sub-region is now ranked in the **top 25%** in the country.
- More than **220** young people in receipt of free school meals or with significant special educational needs visited businesses for tours and workshops including TfL, The Financial Times, and Framestore Visual Effects company.
- Supported around **150** students from 6 schools to explore STEM-related careers, particularly in architecture and design through a series of Open City events.
- Delivered a wide range CPD events/ meetings and Teacher Encounters with industry to **329** careers leaders, teachers and Governors across our region.
- According to a survey by the Careers & Enterprise Company, **91%** of teachers said their confidence in discussing careers improved after visiting employers and gaining first-hand insight into opportunities across industry.

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Working with over 220 schools and education establishments.

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“The Careers Hub team’s unwavering support and commitment to regular, focused meetings became the engine of our improvement. This essential partnership allowed us to begin strategically implementing both major and minor changes designed to ensure measurably better career outcomes for every student.”

Laura Reed, Routes4Life specialist education provision, Havering



Kick-starting NEET intervention pilot

We have secured £500,000 through the Greater London Authority to support young people at risk of becoming NEET as part of the London Youth Trailblazer Programme.

With national NEET levels still close to one million young people, the programme will actively engage with students in year 11 who are at risk of falling out of learning to give them the help they need to progress confidently into post-16 education, employment and training.

Our NEET Trailblazer launched in March 2026 and will work with around 300 Year 11 learners from selected schools across the sub-region, including mainstream and alternative provision, including pupil referral units.

300 students
at risk of NEET will be supported

Secured funding: financial year 2025/26

Our confirmed financial position, is as follows:

Mission area	Funding awarded in 2025-26
Mission Two: Unlocking Infrastructure	
Digital Connectivity	£125,000
Mission Four: Boosting work and skills	
Local Skills Improvement Plan	£79,000
Our Integration Networks: No Wrong Door and Youth Integrated Network	£221,000
Employment Support Programmes: Work and Health Programme, Connect To Work, Economically Inactive Trailblazer	£54,000,000
Careers Hub	£1,200,000
Pre NEET Programme	£500,000

All programme spend is on track and meeting contractual requirements.

Our future work

As we move into 2026 and beyond, our focus is on turning the ambitions of our joint Vision into reality. We will:

- Step up our activities to attract investment by promoting our portfolio of opportunities, hosting and attending events where we can meet with prospective investors and developers.
- Build momentum to unlock infrastructure through advocacy, calling for investment in transport infrastructure projects that will unlock growth and support sustainable prosperity across the sub-region.
- Reduce digital divides by connecting boroughs with commercial partners and improving access to high-speed connectivity.
- Galvanise businesses, partners and anchor institutions to boost work and skills, making sure their voices are heard and skills needs addressed.



- Use learning from our successful E-business programme, Economic Inactivity Trailblazer, local data and employer insights to support entrepreneurs and businesses to thrive in our sub-region.
- Release our new business-led Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) to further close skills gaps and align training with real-world business needs.
- Help more people into work, self-employment and to stay in work through the Trailblazer and Connect To Work programmes.
- Support local businesses, residents, and employment advisors by expanding events and resources on our Work Connections platform.
- Strengthen links between employers and schools to give young people the widest and most aspirational careers education, while encouraging businesses to offer work experience opportunities.
- Create a sub-regional response to youth unemployment issues by publishing a roadmap and convening partners to take forward actions that address issues in this part of London.
- Deliver a new programme to help young people at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).
- Establish new sector hubs that will strengthen navigation of employment and skills services with employers from key sectors aligned to LSIP, and enhance coordination with borough brokerage teams, jobcentre plus and skills and education providers.

Together, these priorities will ensure Local London continues to drive inclusive growth, create opportunities, and build a stronger future for our communities.



Partner acknowledgements

Working with and on behalf of our nine member boroughs.

**Barking &
Dagenham**



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