

Weekly Economic Development Update 8 March 2024

London Councils Updates

Agenda: London Councils Inclusive Economy Network Spring Meeting

The first London Councils Inclusive Economy Network meeting of 2024 will take place **online, on Thursday 14 March, 3:30-5:00pm**. There will be opportunities for discussion throughout.

The focus will be on the creative economy and skills. Please download the attached ics to save the date in your diaries.

Agenda:

- Film London Skills Cluster - Babak Jani, Film London
- West London Film and TV Skills Audit – Bill Boler, Creative Enterprise Zone West
- LB Bromley Night Time Enterprise Zone Pilot, Lorraine McQuillan

Opportunity London – The Prospectus is Live!

The first [Opportunity London](#) prospectus is now live, outlining nine capital projects with £9.6 billion of investible opportunities across inner and outer London. You can view the prospectus [here](#).

If you have any questions about the prospectus or if you are keen to submit a project for version 2 (due in the Autumn), please contact [Yasmin Malik](#).

Analysis for Opportunity London shows London's five-year investment volumes (up to February 2024) totalling \$96.2 billion, ahead of New York (\$94.3billion) and San Francisco (\$86.5 billion).

Culture Updates

Arts Council, Cultural Development Fund: Round Four

Expressions of interest are now open for round four of the Cultural Development Fund. The fund aims to level up through investing in unlocking growth and productivity, increasing access to excellent creativity and culture, and regenerating communities. Deadline for Expression of Interests is on 12pm (midday) on Friday 15 March.

For more information, click [here](#).

ONS - Access to Sports Facilities and Other Amenities in Your Local Area

Today ONS released new analysis and data that shows the differences in people's access to amenities such as sports facilities, museums and supermarkets.

The article includes interactive maps allowing users to discover how these facilities are distributed in their local area compared to elsewhere. You can access it [here](#).

Economy & Business updates

Recommendations for Social Media / E-Commerce Training and Support Providers

LB Harrow is looking for firms / advisors to deliver a social media & e-commerce training and support project for local businesses. Please could any boroughs that have recommendations that they may have with [Anurag Munshi](#) via email.

Request for Borough Input on Supporting the Local Supply Chain in Local Plans

LB Lambeth is looking to develop a local supply chain SPD. Please could any boroughs that have them or explicit references to supporting the local supply chain in their Local Plans get in touch with [Molly Harris](#) or [Rohan](#) via email.

Final Call, Meet the Buyer - Islington, Westminster, City of London, GLA – 12 March

London Boroughs of Islington, Westminster, the City of London Corporation and GLA are hosting a joint 'Meet the Buyer' event in partnership on **Tuesday 12 March**.

This event is focused on growth oriented and innovative diverse-owned businesses, meeting with buyer and procurement teams focusing on construction, professional services and event services.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Final Call - Tower Hamlets High Street Taskforce Roadshow, 15 March

Tower Hamlets Council is hosting one of four High Street Task Force Roadshow's on 15 March in their new Town Hall. Join the event to hear findings from across England's high streets, and to connect with other place leaders on the latest projects and ideas transforming your towns and cities.

The event will share findings from four years of the Task Force's work in town and city centres, bringing together regional leaders to debate the latest challenges and opportunities for communities.

This is a free event open to anyone involved in making their place - businesses, local authorities, community groups and others - and will feature a range of local stories (including Whitechapel!) as well as national insights.

For more information and to register, click [here](#).

Central London Forward, Neurodiversity Awareness Training for Employers, 24 April

Do you want to better understand neurodiversity at work? And do you want to ensure your workplace is a supportive and inclusive environment for people with neurodiversity?

If so, sign-up for free Neurodiversity Awareness training. The session will take place on Wednesday 24 April, 1.00pm – 2.15pm.

This training session is designed for employers who want to make their workplace more inclusive, and for employment support professionals who want to better support people with neurodiversity.

The session will cover:

- Neurodiversity terminology and how language shapes the narrative around disability;
- The benefits of neurodiversity in your workplace;
- Understanding the autism spectrum;
- Creating a neuroinclusive workplace;
- Understanding reasonable adjustments and why these are important.

The event is organised by Central London Forward. It is delivered by Auticon, an autistic majority global company with decade of experience in supporting employers to become neuro-confident.

The event is free to attend and funded by the Mayor of London as part of the No Wrong Door initiative. To book a place, [NeurodiversityAwarenessTraining](#)

To find out more, please contact Miranda Jude (miranda.jude@cityoflondon.gov.uk). *Please cascade to borough employment and business networks.*

Property Week ESG Edge Awards, Applications Open

Entries are open for the Property Week's inaugural ESG Edge Awards, for environmental, social, and governance practices within the property, including regeneration projects.

You can find out more and enter [here](#). Entries close on 26 April.

Resonance - Second Annual Europe's Best Cities Report

The second annual Europe's Best Cities Report (check out all 100 city profiles, [here](#)) shows London as top in Europe, based on a combination of core statistics and qualitative evaluations, alongside recommendations by locals and visitors in digital channels such as Tripadvisor, Google etc.

You can read the full report [here](#).

Employment & Skills updates

Request for Borough Input on Gathering Equalities Data

Please see below a request from [Connor McDonagh](#) below. Please direct any responses his way.

“As part of [Ealing’s Race Equality Commission](#), LB Ealing need to gather more data on at the borough level in addition to what they have from the [ONS](#). But localised data is not easily available and will not be for some time especially after the government’s [decision not to legislate](#) in making ethnicity pay reporting mandatory.

It would be great to hear what boroughs are doing on this, or any ideas on to possibly even work collectively on this? I safely assume this is a priority for all organisations.”

Examples of Borough Employer Engagement to Secure Local Opportunities

Please could boroughs with examples of best practice in engaging employers to secure local opportunities for residents send these to [Rohan Gupta](#). These will form part of wider work around devolution proposals and on engaging young people.

Mayor of London’s No Wrong Door Innovation Challenge Applications Open Now – Close 18 April

No Wrong Door means that no matter their starting point or what service they access first, Londoners can be connected to the right type of support at the right time to help them into good work.

Its primary goal is to enhance collaboration among various job and skills training entities to assist Londoners in securing quality employment.

The GLA are thrilled to announce the launch of the Open Innovation Challenge as part of the Mayor of London’s Challenge LDN Programme. This is a significant opportunity to drive positive change in our community by supporting up to 15 innovators in developing or scaling innovative solutions to address challenges identified in the [Young Foundation’s No Wrong Door research](#).

This challenge will improve the experiences of Londoners in accessing support to build their skills and move into employment. The GLA are seeking change-makers who will receive seed funding of up to £50,000 to bring their fresh ideas to life, driving meaningful employment, fostering economic growth, and addressing real challenges in London's skills and employment sector.

Key features of the Challenge include:

- A 4-month development programme to support innovators in conducting user research, co-design, testing, and building crucial stakeholder networks.
- Seed funding awards for the most impactful solutions to scale and embed their pilots for one year of delivery.
- Opportunities for Challenge partners to commission successful solutions and integrate fresh ideas into their ongoing operations.

Eligibility criteria include:

- Innovators must be London-based and can be organisations or individuals.

At the heart of this challenge is a commitment to driving real impact and sustainability. The GLA aim to empower innovators to consider these elements throughout the development of their ideas, creating lasting solutions that will benefit our community for years to come.

It invites all interested parties to join in supporting this important initiative by sharing with your networks and potential innovators.

Visit the [No Wrong Door Innovation Challenge webpage](#) to learn more and apply. *Please cascade to borough employment and community networks.*

Mayor of London Skills Bootcamps Wave 5 Applications Open Now – Close 18 April

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has today announced a further £21.6 million to help Londoners train or progress into jobs in the green sector and other key industries such as digital and construction. The funding will be invested into the Skills Bootcamps for Londoners programme, which will offer short, flexible courses up to 16 weeks to help fast-track Londoners into good jobs sectors key to London's long-term economic success.

The bootcamps have already had a transformational impact on Londoners, supporting over 6,000 people to date build their skills across jobs such as Property Maintenance Operatives, Trainee Gas Service Engineers and Retrofit Coordinators to Trainee Software Developers and Apprentice Data Technicians to name a few - with 75 per cent of those undertaking courses from Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic Backgrounds and more than half under the age of 34.

The programme will also help businesses access the skills they need to thrive, helping them address skills shortages and build their future workforces. London's Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) led by BusinessLDN and published last year highlighted the opportunity for Skills Bootcamps to deliver the skills employers need through the delivery of flexible training that allows Londoners to fit learning around other commitments.

This round of funding will prioritise applications to deliver training in roles pivotal to London's green transition, from retrofit coordinator to heat pump installation, supporting the Mayor's commitment for London to be a net zero city by 2030. Early Years education has been added to the programme for the first time, reflecting the growing importance of this sector to London. Other sectors covered include Digital, Construction, Creative, Health and Social Care, Logistics, Engineering, Manufacturing and Professional Services.

Applications for the programme open on 7 March 2024. Providers interested in applying for funding to deliver bootcamps can do so [here](#). The deadline for applications is 5pm on 18 April 2024. Londoners who are interested in enrolling on Bootcamps courses can check [here](#) from May 2024 to see which Skills Providers will be delivering Bootcamps.