Vision for Growth

London's Leading Edge: A place where all can live well, succeed and thrive

Developed in partnership by the
Centre for London and Local London

local london

CENTRE FOR LONDON

local london

Created with and for our nine member boroughs

Barking & Dagenham

LONDON BOROUGH OF BEXLEY

Bromley

ENFIELD Council

ROYAL borough of GREENWICH

Havering LONDON BOROUGH

Newham London

London Borough of Redbridge

Waltham Forest

Photographers: Simon Collins, Mike Rivett and Taking the Pixels.

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Foreword

Our sub-region - spanning nine buzzing boroughs to the east of London - is home to around 2.7 million residents and is the fastest-growing part of the capital. We are the largest owners of brownfield land in London, which offers us huge scope for development. We are a place of energy, ambition, and opportunity and home to some of the most diverse communities in the country.

Representing our residents and businesses, we are committed to unlocking this sub-region's full potential by attracting investment that delivers high-quality homes, thriving commercial spaces, better connectivity, good jobs and quality of life for all.

Our location is one of our great strengths. We are home to London Government, a large number of London's key opportunity areas, bustling town centres, and a dense network of tube and rail lines. With access to multiple international airports, we are a natural gateway between London, the UK, and the wider world.

Strategically positioned at the crossroads of two national growth corridors - the UK Innovation Corridor to the north and the Thames Estuary Growth Corridor to the east - we are uniquely placed to drive forward innovation, enterprise, and inclusive prosperity.

Our local economy already supports over 100,000 businesses and generates an estimated £60 billion GVA annually. But we know with appropriate investment our contribution to the UK economy could far exceed this.

We have worked closely with Centre for London and partners from across and beyond our boroughs, from a range of backgrounds, representing business, education, health, government, as well as residents to shape this new Vision for Growth.

We extend our thanks to everyone who has given time to interviews, focus groups, workshops and to the team at Centre for London for creating this Vision that highlights the diversity and uniqueness of the sub-region and also unites us as arguably the UK's best investment opportunity.

We are proud to represent the eastern region of London, spanning the north and south of the river Thames. This is a place to invest. A place to build. A place to grow. A place where everyone - residents, entrepreneurs, and investors - can succeed and thrive.

Signed on behalf of Local London

Cllr Anthony Okereke, Chair of Local London and Leader of the Royal Borough of Greenwich

Mayor Fiaz OBE, Chair of Local London's Growth Board and Mayor of Newham

Cllr Ray Morgon, Chair of Local London's Skills and Employment Board and Leader of Havering

About Centre for London

We are London's independent think tank. We are uniquely dedicated to developing new solutions to our city's challenges, for the benefit of all its people. We help policymakers and city leaders think for the long term about London's biggest issues and plan for a better future. We do this through:

Research and evidence: conducting robust, unbiased research and analysis, and collaborating with Londoners and stakeholders across all sectors, to generate new ideas and recommendations.

Convening and collaborating: bringing together citizens, experts and decision makers from diverse standpoints to discuss complex issues in a safe space, devise solutions and work out how to implement them.

Awareness raising and advocacy: being an authoritative policy voice on London and promoting our research and ideas to those with the power to act on them – from the grassroots to London's and the nation's leaders – through briefings, publications, social media, press and events.

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Acknowledgments

We are grateful to everyone who shared their time and expertise with us throughout this project. This Vision would not have been possible without the support of our brilliant local authority partners: Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Bromley, Enfield, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest. We would also like to thank everyone who gave their time to be interviewed or take part in workshops for this Vision refresh, including representatives from:

The Association of Employment and Learning Providers (AELP)

Arctech Innovation

Arriva Rail London

Arup

Association of Colleges

AtkinsRealis

Aviva Capital Partners

Barking and Dagenham College

Barnet and Southgate College

Be First

Berwick Partners

Bloqs

Bombadier

British Business Bank

British Land

Bromley Adult Education College

Business Board Network

BusinessLDN

Campaign for Better Transport

Capel Manor College

Care City

Care Providers Voice

Catch22

CBRE

CEME Business Campus

CGI

Champion 3D

Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)

Citizens Advice Redbridge

Coca-Cola Europacific Partners

Construction Youth Trust

Cory Group

Coventry University London

Cube Ultra

Department for Business and Trade

DG Cities

Department for Work and Pensions

Eastbrook Studios London

Elba

Enterprise Enfield

First Rung

Ford Dagenham

GetZero

Greater London Authority

Glenny LLP

Havering Adult College

Havering Chamber

Ilford Business Improvement District

Impact Investing Institute

Inclusive Growth Consultancy

ITS Technology Group

Jobcentre Plus

Kenson Highways

KeolisAmey Docklands

Learning & Enterprise College Bexley

Legal & General

Lendlease

Leyton College

Leyton Sixth Form

London Legacy Development Corporation

Local Pensions Partnership

London & Partners

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

London City Airport

London Councils

London Design and Engineering UTC

London Higher

London Property Alliance

London Riverside BID

London TravelWatch

LSEC

MAG (Airport Group)

Make It London

Make UK

Maritime UK

Mary Ward Centre

Maximus

McHugh Ltd

Neos

Network Rail

New City College

Newham Adult Education

Newham Chamber of Commerce

Newham College

NHS Confederation

NHS North East London LCB

NHS South East London ICB

NLA

Opportunity London

Places for London

Populo Living

Port of London Authority

Quantum Group

Redbridge Institute

Reef Group

Rooff

Royal Docks

Royal London

Savills

South East London Chamber

SEGRO

Shooters Hill Sixth

South East Enterprise

South East London Integrated Care System

Stagecoach London

Tate & Lyle Sugars

Transport for London

Thames Estuary Growth Board

Thames Freeport

Thames Water

Transport UK Bus

Turner & Townsend

Uber Boat by Thames Clippers

UBS

UCL East

University of East London

UK Business Finance

UK Innovation Corridor

UK Power Networks

University of Greenwich

Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield

VIRTUS Data Centres

Waltham Forest Adult Learning Service

Wates Group

WFC

White Hawk Green

Executive Summary

Vision for Growth
London's Leading Edge — A place where all can live well, succeed and thrive

Local London Vision 2030 sets out an ambitious, mission-led strategy to transform London's largest and fastest-growing sub-region into a national engine of inclusive growth, innovation, and opportunity.

Local London is the capital's largest and fastest-growing sub-regional partnership — home to 2.7 million people, 40% of London's land, and half of its developable space. Local London brings together the boroughs of Barking & Dagenham, Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Enfield, Redbridge, and Waltham Forest. Today, Local London is more populous than Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool combined. By 2050, the population will exceed 3 million, making it one of the UK's most dynamic growth frontiers and home to two of the UK's proposed New Towns at Crews Hill & Chase Park and Thamesmead Waterfront.

The sub-region's economy already contributes over £60 billion annually, with business growth and employment rates outpacing the rest of London and the UK. Local London is London and the UK's gateway to global trade, with two deep-water ports, unmatched potential for riverside development, and strategic links to the UK Innovation Corridor, the wider South East and Europe. Since the pandemic, business growth has surged, and employment has risen at almost twice the UK rate. These assets position Local London as a growth accelerator, benefiting both London and the wider UK.

Yet, this success masks local inequalities and untapped potential. Weekly pay is the lowest in London, productivity growth lags behind the UK average, and some communities remain among the most deprived in the country. Without decisive action, this prosperity gap will widen — threatening not just Local London's future, but London and the UK's economic resilience.

This is our moment to act. With unmatched land for development, a young, diverse workforce, and alignment with the Government's Modern Industrial Strategy and the Mayor of London's Growth Plan, Local London can become the engine of inclusive growth for the capital and the country.

Our Vision:

Local London aims to become a place where everyone can live well, succeed, and thrive. This will be achieved through four core missions, co-created with boroughs, businesses, and local partners:

1. **Attracting Investment:** Showcasing high-potential sites and projects, establishing a unified investment brand, and launching a Investment and Development Forum held at least biannually.
2. **Unlocking Infrastructure:** Prioritising and advocating for major infrastructure projects, leading campaigns to secure investment in transport, digital, public service, and energy infrastructure.
3. **Supporting Enterprise and Business:** Upgrading business support services, establishing a Local London Anchor Network, and increasing access to affordable workspace for startups and scale-ups.
4. **Boosting Work and Skills:** Supporting residents into quality jobs, refreshing the Local Skills Improvement Plan, and strengthening partnerships with employers, educators, and youth services.

→
City Hall and Docklands, Newham

The strategy is underpinned by robust governance, direct delivery and commissioning, advocacy, and a commitment to inclusive growth. Local London will streamline its operating model, refresh its brand, and foster collaboration across boroughs, businesses, and anchor institutions. Progress will be measured through clear milestones and KPIs for each mission, ensuring accountability and transparency.

With unmatched land for development, a young and diverse workforce, and alignment with national and city strategies, Local London is poised to become the capital's leading edge — a place ready to grow responsibly, celebrate its diversity and heritage, and ensure that all residents can share in its success.

Local London is...

Target for

201,000+

new homes

40%

of London's brownfield sites

Home to London's

two proposed new towns

Major export

connections to EU and world

2.7m

residents across nine boroughs

105,000+

businesses

£60bn

economic output (2023)

+44%

increase in business count since 2014

+60%

creative industries growth since 2014

+120%

logistics sector growth since 2014

Our story — a place where everyone can live well, succeed and thrive

London's fastest growing sub-region

Home to 2.7 million residents, Local London stands as the largest and most vibrant of the capital's four sub-regions, bringing together nine boroughs spanning the city's easterly quadrants and home to a third of the capital's families and highest proportion of under 18s.[1]

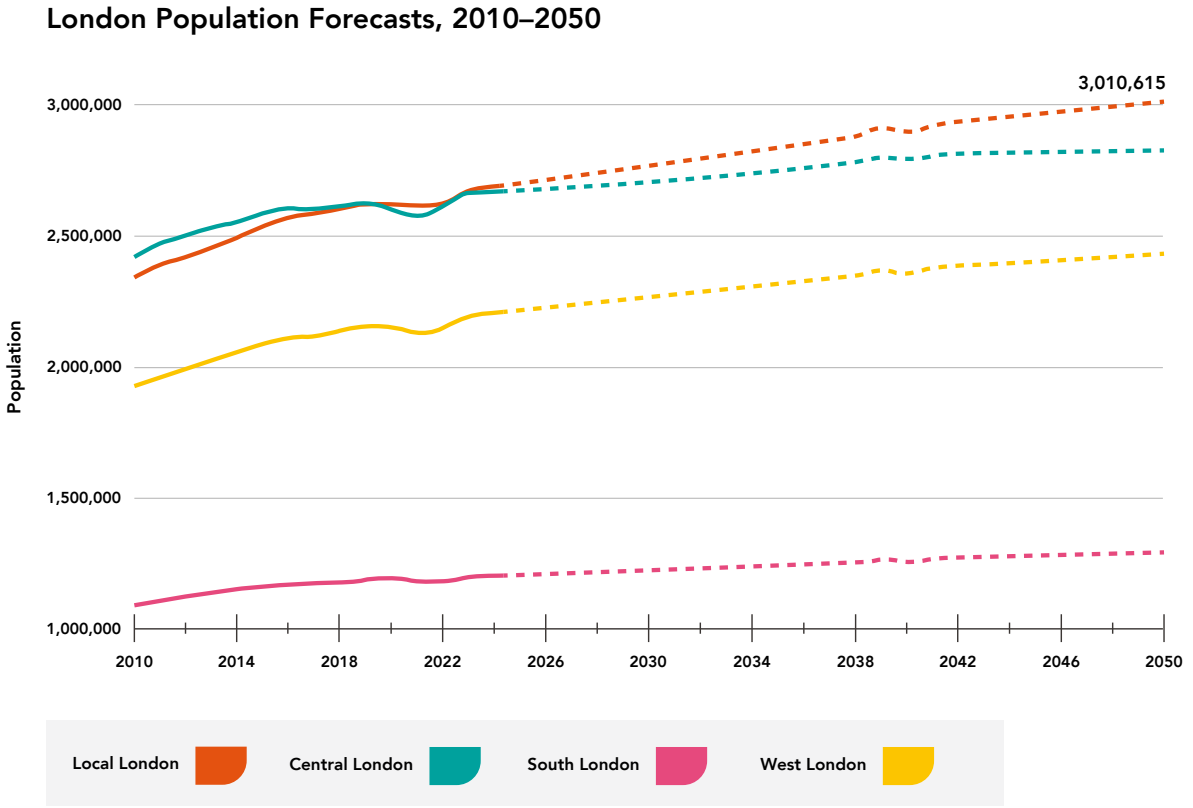
Our unique urban landscape weaves thriving communities, leafy suburbs and cutting-edge industrial hubs and has the fastest growing population of any part of London — by 2050, Local London will be home to more than 3 million people.[2]

Our fast-growing population is young and diverse, with 45% of residents identifying as members of an ethnic minority group. The area also has a higher proportion of families with children compared to other parts of London.[3]

Consequently, nearly half (46%) of Local London's places are characterised by vibrant migrant and student neighbourhoods, concentrated in the north of the sub-region, while around a fifth (21%) of our places are suburban neighbourhoods, home to thriving communities of ethnically diverse professionals, more often found in the southern and eastern parts of the sub-region.[4]

This diversity of place is mirrored in how our residents describe their areas, with people living in the northern boroughs of the sub-region more likely to describe their area as 'Vibrant and diverse' or 'Up and coming', while those in the south and eastern boroughs are more likely to describe their area as 'Quiet and residential'.

Across these diverse communities, however, there is one uniting thread: the overwhelming majority of our residents are proud to live here, with almost three-quarters stating they feel proud or very proud of their area.[5]



Source: Greater London Authority, Trend-based population projections, 2010–2050

London's biggest place opportunity

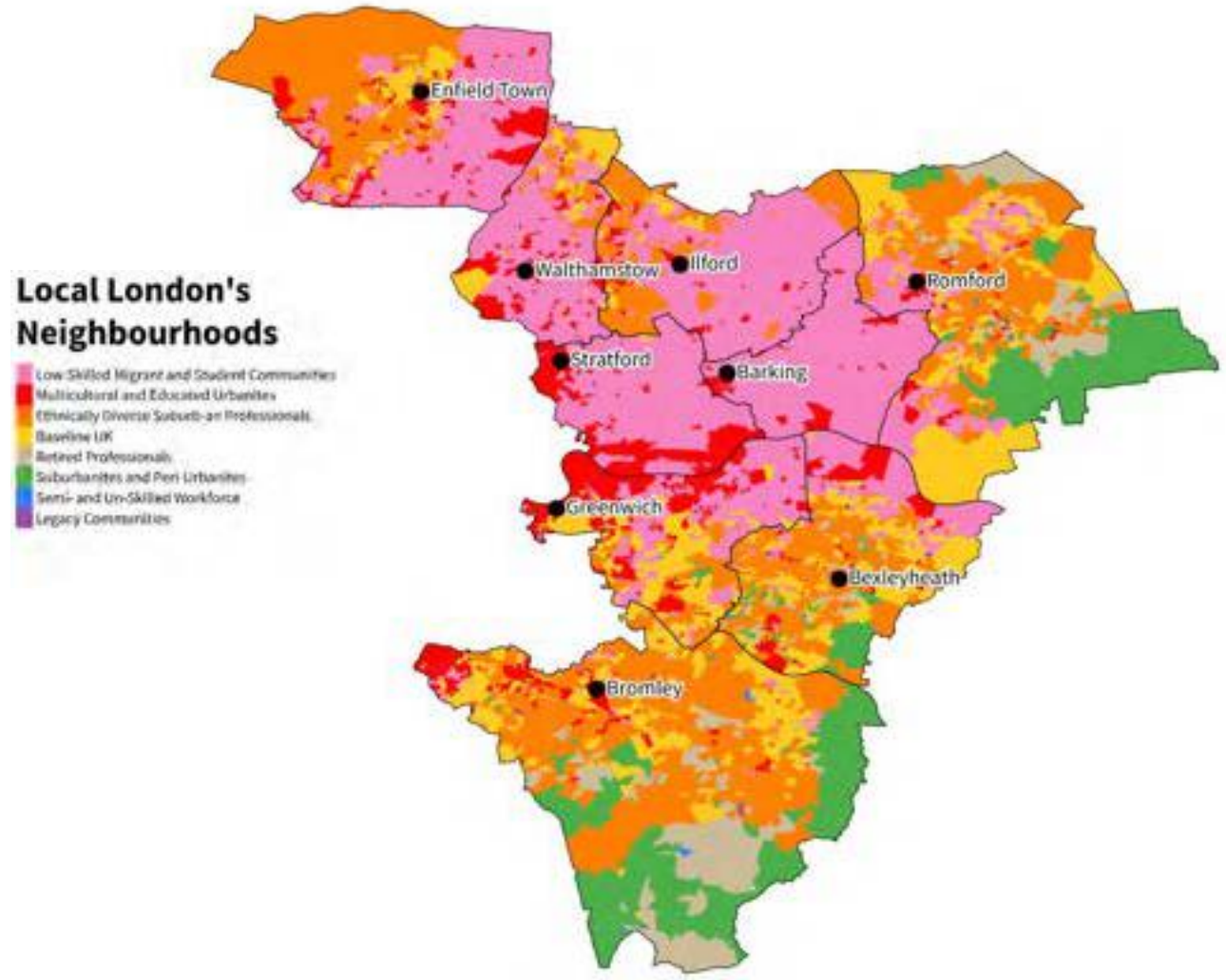
Local London comprises 40% of the capital's total land area, making it the largest sub-region in London and home to the city's most significant reserves of undeveloped, vacant and previously-developed land[6] — spanning 10.6 square miles, and 55% of the capital's developable land.[7] This presents a prime opportunity to align to the Government's National Planning Policy Framework for unlocking unloved, unused sites to boost growth and development while protecting much-loved green, blue and biodiverse spaces.

Building on the successful delivery of major brownfield regeneration schemes such as The Quarry in Erith, Lorimer Village in Goodmayes, Waltham Forest's Blackhorse Lane, and award-winning Barking Riverside, the sub-region hosts a significant number of brownfield sites — 40% of London's total and equivalent in size to the Square Mile — with potential to deliver over 145,000 new homes.[8] Subject to Government decisions and statutory planning processes, the emerging plans for proposed New Town sites at Chase Park & Crews Hill[9], as well as the proposed New Town development enabling further residential development at Thamesmead Waterfront, are a vote of confidence in Local London's boroughs and their ability to deliver on future growth for both residents and the national economy.

The scale of opportunity is extensive, all while ensuring we protect, preserve and champion the beautiful green, blue and biodiverse spaces which are some of our sub-region's most beloved spaces. The sub-region has been home to several significant regeneration initiatives, including projects such as the Olympic Park, the revitalisation of the Royal Docks, and the cross-borough investments led by the (now dissolved) Thames Gateway Development Corporation. These efforts have transformed extensive areas of post-industrial land into vibrant residential neighbourhoods and modern business districts.

Furthermore, these developments have complemented the ongoing growth and enhancement of town centres, which coexist with a rich heritage of historic high streets, parks, green spaces, and accessible natural areas such as Epping Forest, the Lee Valley, Eastbrookend Park & The Chase, and the Cray Valley.

With the right investment in much needed infrastructure, in close alignment with our boroughs' investment and infrastructure plans, Local London can and will deliver a vision for maximising our land opportunity to boost growth and improve living standards, while protecting and investing in our sub-region's vital green, blue and biodiverse spaces.



A strategically located and nationally significant economy

Local London's economy is foundational to London's economy and nationally significant. In 2023, the sub-region's gross domestic product added more than £60 billion to the UK economy[10], with an industrial output (by GVA) growing faster than any other part of Outer London since 2010.[11]

From the UK's biggest export market via the Thames Freeport, to the UK Innovation Corridor linking life sciences in Cambridge, and major industrial centres in the Lee Valley and Dagenham, Local London is at the confluence of several of the UK's biggest economic corridors. This strategic location has enabled a significant growth in the number of businesses in foundational industries such as construction, logistics, and manufacturing, as well as nurturing a fast-growing creative industries sector which has grown by 60% in the past ten years, more than any other London sub-region and more than double the national average.[12]

A favourable environment for co-location and business growth, Local London is experiencing significant growth in industries highlighted by the London Growth Plan as critical for the city's growth. Since 2010, Local London's economic output from arts, entertainment and recreation industries grew by 124% — the fastest growth of any London sub-region, including central London. Furthermore, as an anchor for high-tech distribution, freight and London's export industries, economic output from businesses in transportation and logistics industries has increased by 54% — the fastest in London and well-ahead of the national average.

Overall, this thriving business environment has meant Local London's business count has grown faster than any other part of London at 44% since 2014, outpacing central London by more than 10%. This growth has not just mattered for the economy, but for residents too, with more than two-thirds of Local London residents believing their local area is a good place for businesses to grow and thrive.

This economic dynamism has driven rapid growth in job opportunities and an increasingly skilled workforce, with employment in the sub-region growing by 9.1% since 2010, almost twice the national average and faster than the rest of London.[13] This has seen more residents reap the benefits of economic growth, with economic inactivity amongst working-age men falling by 3% since 2010 and by 10% amongst working-age women.[14,15]

Since 2018, the sub-region has led the capital in further-education learner starts (around 12,000 a year) and, in 2023–23, 136,000 residents achieved Level 2–3 qualifications — the highest of any sub-region in London and a dynamic talent base for London's future growth.

↖
Tate and Lyle, Silvertown, Newham

←
Eastbrook Film Studios, Barking and Dagenham

A persistent prosperity gap

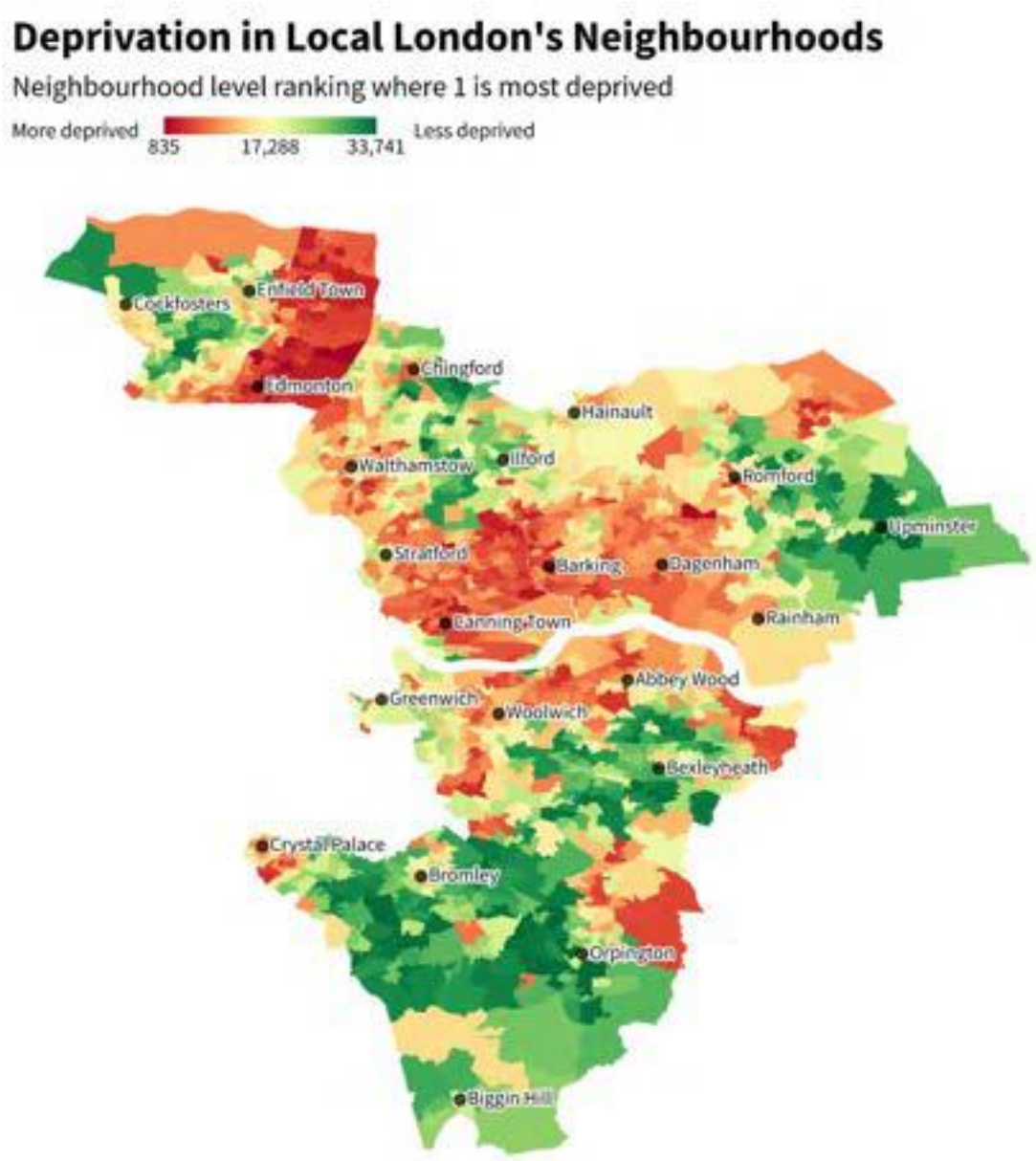
However, while many parts of the sub-region have seen economic progress translate into improved living standards, the benefits have not been spread equally.

While some of our places have seen significant drops in deprivation, including neighbourhoods such as Woolwich, Canning Town, and Abbey Wood are cited as exemplars of regeneration, other areas have not experienced the same level of improvement to living standards over the last twenty years and, in some areas, deprivation has risen.[16]

Analysis of the 2025 English indices of deprivation (IMD) shows that, while Local London as a sub-region has improved further than the wider England average, neighbourhood-level inequalities persist.[17] In terms of income deprivation, three of the sub-region's boroughs are in the poorest 10 local authorities in England (Barking and Dagenham, Newham, and Enfield).

This prevalence of neighbourhood-level deprivation is partially due to a lack of orbital transport infrastructure which has prevented the economic benefits of regeneration from spreading widely, and because our impressive growth in employment has been concentrated in lower paid and productivity sectors such as retail, construction and logistics. As such, boroughs in southeast London without reliable, orbital connectivity through Tube, rail or road routes have more pockets of higher income and employment deprivation as a result. These include town centres and employment areas such as the Cray Valley, Erith, Rainham and Harold Hill.

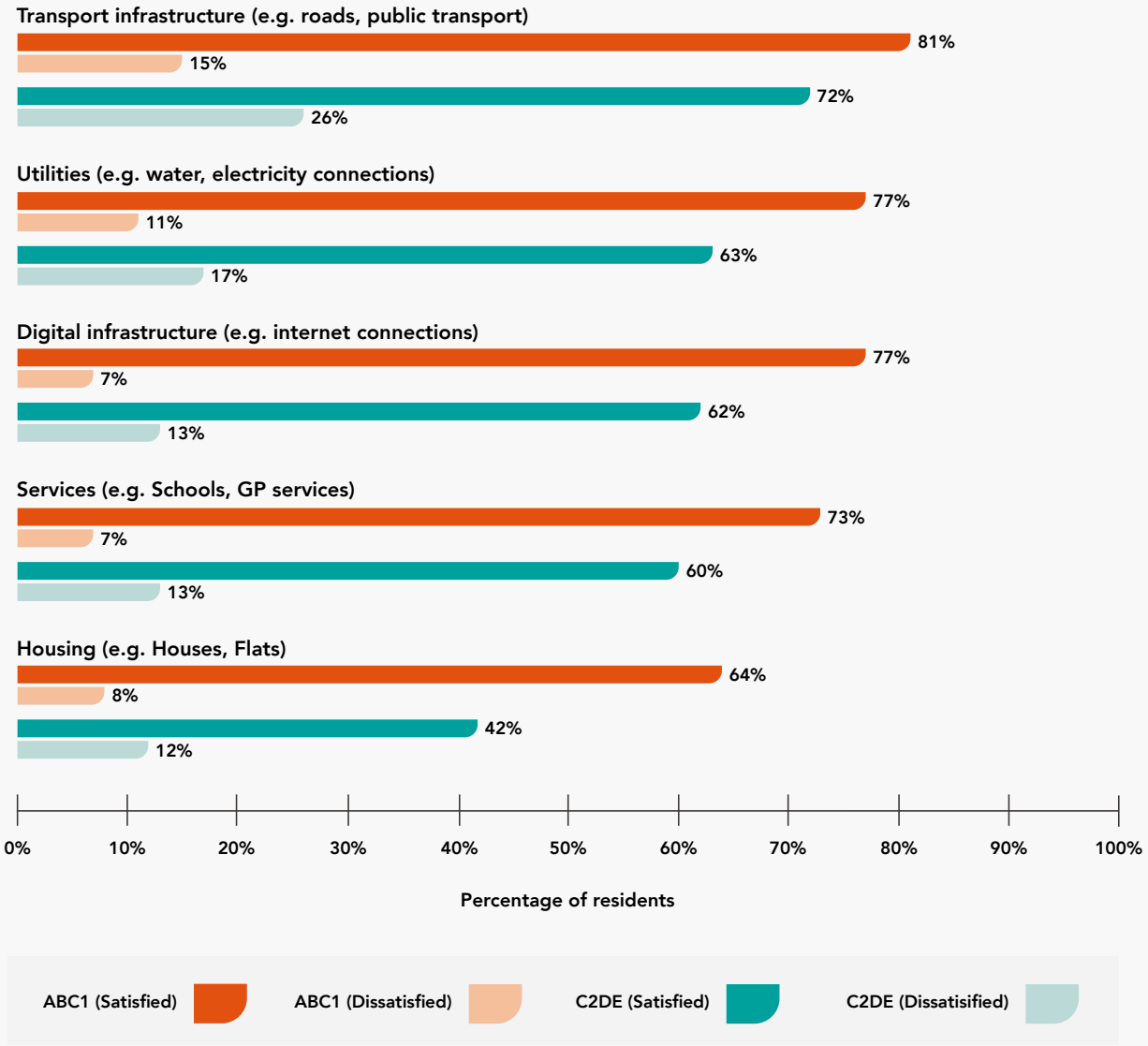
Polling suggests that currently only 40% of Local London residents rate the availability of quality, well-paid jobs locally as good, while 22% rate it poor, and just 41% say it is easy to access education and skills training needed for current and future jobs.[18] As evidence of this gap directly translating to reduced opportunities and prosperity, gross weekly pay in Local London is currently 20% lower than central London — and the lowest of London's sub-regions.[19] This has meant that residents have the lowest disposable household income in the capital[20] and the highest proportion of residents in poverty (after housing costs) of any sub-region.[21]



Source: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2025

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with following in your local area?

Polling of 1,018 residents representative of the nine constituent boroughs of Local London



Source: Savanta, Local London Resident Polling, 20 June 2025 – 8 July 2025

These inequalities of opportunity and access to the best our sub-region has to offer can be seen in how residents from different backgrounds feel about their areas. Residents in managerial or professional jobs (ABC1) are much more likely than those in manual occupations or who are unemployed to feel positive about their area across almost all aspects of place, from transport infrastructure to local services, utilities to housing.[22]

Also, despite growth in economic output, productivity growth in the sub-region has slowed significantly, trailing both London and UK averages. This productivity lag means that, despite being home to a population the size of three of the UK's biggest cities, our economic output — while sizeable — is not of the same scale, highlighting the extent of untapped potential in our sub-region.

If this productivity slowdown goes unaddressed, the gap between Local London and the UK average could reach 43% by 2050, holding back living standards for our residents and London's economy as a whole.[23]

With London's economic output forming 25% of national GDP, a slowdown in the Local London economy represents a significant risk of stagnation for the wider national economy too.

→
Rainham Marshes, Havering

Our vision and missions

The story of the Local London sub-region today is one of untapped opportunity. With a population larger than three major UK cities combined, 40% of the capital's land, and a £60 billion globally networked economy, we have the people, the space, and the economic dynamism to be a vital engine of the UK's future growth.

However, without concerted action to enhance our infrastructure, improve productivity, and reduce inequalities and tackle low pay, this potential will remain unrealised, leaving many of our sub-region's communities behind. And now, in alignment of the Government's national Modern Industrial Strategy and the Mayor's London Growth Plan, is the moment to do so.

Our vision is to maintain our position as London's leading edge, harness the enormous assets of our sub-region and ensure all residents have access to the support they need to succeed. Designed in dialogue with our partners, we will work together through four core missions, to create a virtuous circle of investment, opportunity, and inclusive growth. We will:

- **Attract Investment** into our world-class industrial hubs, town centres and opportunity areas.
- **Unlock Infrastructure** to support new homes, jobs, and better connected communities.
- **Support Business and Enterprise** to drive innovation and create high-quality employment.
- **Boost Work and Skills** so that everyone can contribute to and benefit from our success.

Through this mission-led approach, Local London will transform our sub-region into a beacon of inclusive prosperity: **London's leading edge, and a place where everyone can live well, succeed and thrive.**

Inclusive Growth for Local London

Our Vision will focus on ensuring our boroughs, communities and residents benefit from the proceeds of economic growth — an inclusive growth model which boosts economic output while reducing inequality across our sub-region.

Our approach focuses on:

- **Connecting places:** Advocating for improved transport links, digital infrastructure, and active travel to connect people to jobs and services.
- **Skills and opportunity:** Expanding training, apprenticeships, and employment support to reduce economic inactivity and prepare residents for the economy of the future.
- **Affordable, sustainable homes:** Delivering community-driven regeneration, new mixed-use neighbourhoods, and housing that meets diverse needs and supports our future growth while supporting climate goals.
- **Vibrant communities:** Enabling our town centres to flourish while protecting cultural assets and green spaces to foster identity and wellbeing.
- **Collaborative leadership:** Working across our nine boroughs and with communities to ensure the proceeds of growth are benefitting residents, sustainable by design, and locally driven.

Inclusive growth is not just about economic success — it's about creating a fairer, prosperous, and more resilient Local London for everyone.

Local London investment atlas

Town centres and mixed-use development

1. walthamstow
2. ilford town centre
3. chadwell heath
4. romford town centre
5. barking town centre
6. woolwich arsenal
7. abbey wood
8. greater erith
9. bromley town centre

Culture and creative industries

1. meridian works
2. blackhorse road creative enterprise zone
3. ilford cultural quarter
4. havering london
5. stratford & olympic park
6. eastbrook studios
7. greenwich peninsula
8. bexley cultural network
9. penge creative hub

Housing and neighbourhoods

1. meridian water
2. south leytonstone
3. lorimer village, goodmayes
4. silvertown & cyprus
5. barking riverside & thames road
6. rainham & beam park
7. thamesmead
8. abbey wood
9. kidbrooke village

Manufacturing, production and logistics

1. brimsdown industrial estate
2. montagu industrial estate
3. argall industrial area
4. hainault business park
5. harold hill industrial estate
6. gallions reach & beckton
7. dagenham dock & thames freeport
8. belvedere industrial area
9. cray valley business corridor

Innovation, communications and technology

1. innova park & innovation corridor
2. olympic park innovation district
3. royal docks & university of east london
4. dagenham east
5. east havering data centre campus
6. greenwich peninsula
7. veridion park
8. penge & beckenham digital cluster
9. london biggin hill

Transport and infrastructure

1. walthamstow central
2. stratford & stratford international
3. london city airport
4. thames freeport
5. beam park station
6. DLR to thamesmead
7. riverside 2 energy-from-waste plant
8. erith pier
9. london biggin hill airport

Mission One: Attracting Investment

Local London is a prime destination for investment, 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.

Seamless connectivity. Local London is plugged into the world. It boasts two deep-water ports — London Gateway and Tilbury — handling millions of containers annually, feeding national supply chains. These sit alongside the capital's largest riverside opportunity for exports, connectivity and energy. Barking Eurohub links freight directly to Europe by rail, while the Elizabeth Line has transformed east-west passenger travel across the capital. Logistics and freight industries have thrived in the sub-region supported by unparalleled access to major UK road connections via the M25 and M11. Economic corridors along the A406, A10, A12, A13, and A2 highways are incubators for the capital's foundational industries and connectors for London to the wider UK and Europe.

A global growth hub. Air travel via London City Airport and London Biggin Hill Airport, and fast connections to London Stansted and London Gatwick in close proximity, offer seamless access for local businesses, both large and small, to UK and international markets. The prospect of further suburban rail devolution to Great Northern and Southeastern services offers additional opportunity to streamline connections for residents and businesses, unlocking new areas of intensification for industrial and residential development. In addition, increased market competition for use of the sub-region's high-speed rail line to Europe offers a nationally significant opportunity for truly transformative connectivity to the continent, as well as the potential to unlock Stratford International and connections across the wider southeast via Ashford.

London's biggest place opportunity. Local London's land offering is unique in the capital, with unparalleled space for development. The sub-region is home to 55% of London's undeveloped land — with brownfield land equivalent in size to the Square Mile. Thanks to the success of waves of public sector investment into major regeneration opportunities such as Meridian Water in Enfield, and world-class strategic industrial locations and Opportunity Areas from the Royal Docks Enterprise Zone to London Riverside and Upper Lee Valley, the sub-region has the capacity for tens of thousands of new homes and high-quality jobs. Subject to Government decisions and planning processes, the prospect of two New Towns at Thamesmead Riverside and Crews Hill & Chase Park — along with its vital transport, digital and utilities infrastructure needed to unlock sites — provides investors both space and government backing to build 36,000 homes across a combined 984 hectare land opportunity.[24]

Sector strengths. With a proud history as London's industrial heartland, Local London now boasts a diverse range of globally competitive sectors. The sub-region is a major logistics and innovation hub, with the Thames Freeport attracting £4.5 billion in investment and creating 21,000 new jobs[25] within advanced manufacturing and low-carbon industries alongside emerging light manufacturing sites in Bromley, Waltham Forest and Bexley. Newham and Waltham Forest are home to burgeoning technology, creative, and research and development clusters, while Newham's Excel Centre, Olympic Park and Royal Docks boast a world-famous visitor economy. In sites in the Lee Valley, Belvedere, and Romford, Local London is home to an emerging network of data centres with significant potential for further investment — including the East Havering Data Centre Campus. This growing sector also presents new opportunities for innovative district heat networks in Canning Town and Edmonton. At the same time, major publicly-funded regeneration projects — such as Beckton Riverside and Meridian Water — present new job markets for construction, engineering and tech.

A green and sustainable future. Aided by the River Thames, our sub-region's most significant natural asset, riverside boroughs such as Bexley, Havering and Barking and Dagenham are transforming the future of waterside logistics, freight and future energy generation. Major developments such as Cory Group's second energy-from-waste plant at Belvedere soon-to-be powering 176,000 homes a year, plus emerging heat network development opportunities at Barking Riverside, Beckton, and Vattenfall's partnership with Greenwich and Bexley councils to create a 25,000-home strong heat network in 2026[26], offer prime opportunities for cluster development in the green and circular economy.

A workforce for the future. A leading location for businesses that need both scale and diversity in talent, Local London is home to one of the UK's youngest, most diverse and fastest growing populations, one set to grow to 3 million people by 2050. Home to a network of innovative higher education institutions — including the University of East London and University of Greenwich, and thriving further education institutions such as London South East Colleges, Waltham Forest College and New City College — Local London is one of the UK's leading destinations for green skills, digital innovation, and entrepreneurship.

↗
Walthamstow Central Station, Waltham Forest

→
University of Greenwich

Our Investment Mission

By showcasing our **international connections, strategic land opportunities, and talent pipeline,** Local London will **attract businesses and investors to unlock the full potential** of the sub-region.

Local London will promote the sub-region as a prime destination for investment, both from across the globe and from within our communities, offering **a trusted front door and a programme of 'ready-to-go' investment opportunities** which will unlock long-term prosperity for residents.

↓
London Biggin Hill Airport, Bromley

What we will do to deliver this mission

We will:

1. Launch a **Local London Investment Portfolio** to showcase high-potential projects across our sectors (green industries, logistics, creative, tech) and economic centres such as the Cray Valley, London Riverside, and Meridian Water. Aligned with our boroughs' Local Plans, this ambitious portfolio will provide prospective investors with key site qualifications, such as planning status, infrastructure requirements, community benefits, local skills landscape, and strategic practicality, borough priority and viability. The Portfolio will showcase opportunities in priority sectors identified by the London Growth Plan, such as our creative industries, and the UK Industrial Strategy, such as digital and tech, developed in close alignment with London & Partners and Opportunity London.
2. Establish a **unified Local London investment brand** to position the sub-region as London's leading growth frontier nationally and internationally, offering a single sub-regional 'front door' to connect investors to boroughs and local stakeholders.
3. Convene a cross-borough **Investment Officer Network** to coordinate site opportunities, share intelligence, and streamline engagement with private investors at both international and local levels, our boroughs, Opportunity London, the Greater London Authority, and central government. Our brand and activities will align closely with and complement local investment initiatives, borough Local Plans, the London Growth Plan's Global Capital Ambition and London & Partners' global investor outreach programme — Opportunity London.
4. Host a regular **Investment and Development Forum**, showcasing investment opportunities of mixed sizes and sectors, as well as providing updates to priority sites. The Forum will attract and connect Local London with global, domestic and local investors, central government, local businesses and developers to showcase schemes, uncover investment and development opportunities across our boroughs.

How we will get there

Year One

By year one, we will have:

- Established a sub-regional 'front door' for investment and launched our Investment and Development Forum to open the sub-region for business.
- Completed scoping, site assessments, marketing, and engagement with boroughs, investors and industry stakeholders to promote the sub-regional Investment Portfolio, providing key site qualifications and tiers of strategic priority and viability.
- Established a cross-borough Investment Officer Network to enable early engagement and cross-pollination of investment opportunities and strategic thinking.

Year Three

By year three, we will have:

- Progressed investment opportunities across a range of industry sectors, including the progression of sites from the Investment Portfolio.
- Established consistent messaging and narrative on the investment opportunities across the sub-region used and promoted at local and national level.
- Established a consistent and influential presence at investment and development events such as UKREiiF and MIPIM.

Year Five

By year five, we will have:

- Attracted new investment contributing to improved economic output (GVA), progress on local housing delivery and sustainability objectives, and bolstered local business rates bases through new investment.
- Influenced investment opportunities in emerging growth markets in alignment with the London Growth Plan.

↓
Meridian Water Regeneration, Enfield

How we will measure progress

1. We will monitor the number of 'ready-to-go' sites included in the Investment Portfolio to evidence a healthy pipeline of opportunities.
2. We will assess investment outcomes through data analysis on the number of jobs created and safeguarded, business rates yield, and voids on commercial sites. Progress in unlocking investment for residential sites will be measured by homes built and council tax generated.
3. To assess our investment brand and service, we will measure rates of repeat engagement, satisfaction with governance, and overall satisfaction with Local London's 'front door' and its ability to amplify the boroughs' investment opportunities.

→
Gascoigne Estate Regeneration, Barking and Dagenham

Local London transport and economic connections

A nationally significant economy worth £60bn annually, Local London is home to many of the capital's biggest development and growth opportunities — enabled by connections to high growth markets in the UK, EU and across the globe.

Road transport corridors and interchanges

1. a10 great cambridge road
2. m11 & woodford interchange
3. a12 to lowestoft
4. north circular & royal docks interchange
5. a13 thames gateway
6. blackwall and silvertown tunnels
7. a2 london to dover
8. a20 london to dover
9. a232 orpington to ewell

Major sub-regional rail and tube stations

1. edmonton green
2. walthamstow central
3. ilford
4. stratford & stratford international
5. barking
6. romford
7. woolwich
8. abbey wood
9. bromley south

Airports, cargo and rail freight

1. temple mills depot, leyton
2. bow goods yard
3. london city airport
4. barking eurohub, box lane
5. dagenham dock
6. london biggin hill

Ports and riverside infrastructure

1. lee valley regional park & river lea
2. three mills & bow locks
3. north greenwich pier
4. royal docks enterprise zone
5. the thames barrier
6. woolwich & royal arsenal piers
7. river roding crossing
8. dagenham dock & thames freeport
9. erith pier

Mission Two: Unlocking Infrastructure

Local London's economic future depends on infrastructure that unlocks growth — connecting every resident, business and public service in an equitable network. Yet our potential is constrained by poor digital connectivity, low energy grid capacity, and a patchy and ageing transport network ripe for expansion and renewal to unlock new economic activity and development.

Constrained connectivity. Despite being home to many of London's biggest development and growth opportunities, rail infrastructure and station capacity in Local London is creaking at the seams, hampering growth and prosperity, and many communities are disconnected from jobs and opportunities. At Stratford, a vital hub linking eight of the nine sub-regional boroughs, demand is forecast to rise by 60% by 2041, far beyond the station's current capacity and putting the brakes on the fastest growing station in the UK.[27] Unlocking the sub-region's infrastructure capacity at Stratford through new national and international rail links, as well as Walthamstow Central and via the Elizabeth Line extension to Ebbsfleet, would further transform the sub-region into a powerhouse of connectivity, trade and inward investment, while unlocking huge opportunities for development in southeast London. Further upgrades to the West Anglia Main Line through four-tracking between Coppermill Junction and Broxbourne, as well as rail electrification on tracks between Essex Thameside and the Midland Main Line[28] could enhance the sub-region's capacity for orbital passenger and freight transport, further boosting Local London's development as a hub for industry.

Routes to growth. Capitalising on existing strengths in international freight and logistics, upgrades at Eurohub in Barking could streamline servicing of freight and logistics from rail, road and river, to seamlessly connect global and domestic supply chains. Improving connectivity from major highways — including the A406, A10, A12, A13 and A2 — would intensify development of the sub-region's critical industries in logistics and freight, while supporting the construction of new residential sites across the sub-region.

Connections for the future. South of the river, the DLR extension to Beckton Riverside, Thamesmead and beyond[29], as well as the Bakerloo Line extension[30] could unlock more than 50,000 homes and 20,000 jobs. These transport infrastructure projects are overwhelmingly supported by both residents[31][32] and local government, and are even more critical following the recommendations made by the independent New Towns Taskforce for the proposed development of a combined 36,000 homes at Thamesmead Riverside and Crews Hill & Chase Park, subject to planning decisions. Increasing investment into cycling infrastructure — building on strategic investment into Cycleways 2 (Stratford to Woodgrange Park), 4 (Greenwich to Woolwich)[33] and 61 (Chingford to Walthamstow)[34] — as well as pedestrian routes in our town centres and delivery of green transport infrastructure could further catalyse improvements in connectivity between residential and employment areas while improving health outcomes.

Digital on demand. Digital infrastructure is critical to the growth potential of the sub-region, and the Local London partnership has already unlocked much-needed improvements locally. However, coverage remains patchy. In parts of the sub-region, approximately 30% of residential and commercial premises are unable to access Full Fibre to Premises connections: harming the productivity of businesses, cooling investment appetite, and hamstringing the potential of major future developments such as the proposed New Towns at Thamesmead Riverside and Crews Hill & Chase Park.[35] While government policy recognises the need for improving digital infrastructure across the UK, urban areas like much of Local London risk being left behind without coordinated advocacy and strategic policy alignment, public private partnership and investment strategies. The prospect of further investment in digital and communications industries, such as the proposed East Havering Data Centre Campus[36], along with new AI, innovation and R&D businesses in the sub-region also increases the clear need for improved strategic investment in digital infrastructure.

Tomorrow's neighbourhoods. With London's biggest place opportunity, and the current Government's policy agenda for growth, development and urban expansions, Local London has the opportunity to promote the sub-region's most ambitious projects for inclusive growth. New train stations at Beam Park, Ruckholt Road and Castle Green could boost the investment and development potential for hectares of accessible land for new neighbourhoods and thousands of homes in Opportunity Areas. Improved public service infrastructure such as the development of Whipps Cross Hospital and town centre regeneration in Bromley, Enfield and Bexleyheath would ground the sub-region's growth in meaningful, long-term improvements to the daily lives of residents. Strategically aligned advocacy for expanding the sub-region's active travel networks could lay the foundations for a healthier, more accessible public realm connecting our town centres.

Improving our resilience. With over one million homes and 105,000 businesses[37], Local London's attractiveness as a sub-region for new development risks being undercut by growing demand for electricity network connections, grid capacity, and a pressing need for improved water and drainage utilities. The sub-region's exemplary connections to Europe, central London and the wider South East continue to attract a growing market of businesses such as digital enterprises and data centres. To ensure our sub-region grows equitably, with equal access to utilities for all, we are in a strong position to develop our understanding of our strategic needs, work closely with utility and energy providers, and advocate for the levels of investment needed to fortify our sub-region's future as a destination for new homes and businesses.

→
Bexleyheath Broadway, Bexley

Our Infrastructure Mission

Local London will influence the **delivery of a world-class, investable infrastructure pipeline** which enhances the sub-region's transport, energy and digital connectivity — unlocking the development of growth sites and measurably improving residents' quality of life.

Supported by a **unified, renewed advocacy strategy**, Local London will spearhead the business case for investment in infrastructure across the sub-region.

What we will do to deliver this mission

We will:

1. Establish a **Local London Transport Task and Finish Group** comprised of representatives from each borough, and in close liaison with the Greater London Authority and Transport for London, to develop a business cases package identifying the most compelling, investable pipeline of infrastructure projects.

    - This group will work together to identify the most investable projects with the strongest economic benefits for residents and businesses. The group will work collaboratively to progress projects and advocate to unlock their delivery, including attracting investment from the public and private sectors.
    - This group will identify key infrastructure projects in alignment to a transparent prioritisation framework with metrics which reflect the viability, investment readiness and deliverability of each project.
    - This group will produce an annually refreshed shortlist to highlight in Local London's ongoing advocacy, campaigns, and for inclusion in the Local London Investment Portfolio.
    - Local London will act as both secretariat and strategic advisor across the nine boroughs, working closely with borough leaders, the GLA and TfL, and other private partners to guide the group's functions and respond to major policy events.

2. Lead a co-ordinated **Infrastructure for Growth** campaign, targeting transport and health infrastructure, telecommunications and energy providers, central government, and investors to champion the potential of the sub-region and secure the investment that it needs. As part of this output, Local London will produce a comprehensive contact map across the public and private sectors, while acting as a bridge between boroughs and operator representatives.
3. Work in partnership with boroughs, the GLA, central government, market providers, developers, and other key industry stakeholders to **enhance digital connectivity and extend digital infrastructure across the sub-region**. We will coordinate lobbying and business cases for investment to position **Local London as an exemplar Digital Corridor** — accelerating the rollout of high-speed fibre broadband, dark fibre and mobile services by 2030 to link key markets, industry areas and communities, while ensuring availability of fixed and mobile service availability is world-class.
4. Deliver **targeted advocacy activities** to secure investment for infrastructure in specific Opportunity Areas and for key growth sites as identified in the Investment Portfolio. Local London will produce concise, influential materials developed using a central resource of statistical evidence on the local economy, housing and infrastructure, provided to both boroughs and prospective investors, and aimed at raising awareness of the sub-region's potential while **showcasing the economic potential of projects to boroughs, the Mayor of London and central government** for long-term growth and funding support.

How we will get there

Year One

By year one, we will have:

- Established the governance arrangements and prioritisation criteria for the Task & Finish Group, ensuring that boroughs and relevant partners are represented and the Group has a clear work plan.
- Agreed shortlisted projects, published for wider advocacy through the Investment Portfolio. We will have also assisted in several case-study pilots, site visits, and cross-borough learning sessions to raise the awareness of the Task & Finish Group's functions.
- Integrated infrastructure into our 'front door' service for investment, acting as a primary contact to connect investors, boroughs, government and stakeholder groups.
- Acted as an advocate for growth and infrastructure delivery through a full response to the draft London Plan, as well as consulted boroughs on a sub-regional influencing timetable in line with local, regional and national budget announcements.
- Convened key industry sector stakeholders, digital service providers, and borough teams with central and city government to outline the business case for investment into digital infrastructure in Local London, as well as establish Local London as a provider of technical and commercial support to boroughs and stakeholders.

Year Three

By year three, we will have:

- Progressed the relationship-building between boroughs, city and national government, and investors for up to 5 different projects shortlisted by the Task & Finish Group. Local London will have acted as a vital connection between partners for progressing infrastructure improvements.
- Launched a major investment campaign attracting political and private sector interest in an ambitious project with significant growth potential across the sub-region.
- Delivered an impactful advocacy on transport, digital and energy infrastructure in the sub-region, appearing at investment, infrastructure and development events such as UKREiiF and MIPIM.

Year Five

By year five, we will have:

- Influenced major commitments to the delivery of new infrastructure which improves transport provision in the sub-region. These projects will have contributed towards the delivery of the sub-region's housing development targets and productivity and to improved air quality and energy efficiency.
- Secured the delivery of improvements to digital infrastructure, including ubiquitous full fibre and dark fibre spines across the region, gigabit capability, and improved mobile service availability and capacity, promoting the sub-region as an exemplar Digital Corridor. Through the Task & Finish Group, investment service, and advocacy campaigns, we will have fully integrated digital infrastructure into the sub-region's strategy for sector development, increasing cross-sector investment into industry clusters.

→
Ilford Station, Redbridge

How we will measure progress

1. We will monitor the success of our efforts to secure infrastructure investment by tracking the quantum of capital secured each year and the number of individual projects started.
2. We will assess how new transport infrastructure projects, when delivered, have improved accessibility for public transport journey times. This also includes measuring travel times between strategic industrial and commercial centres and residential areas by road, rail and boat.
3. We will measure accessibility to high-speed fibre broadband and digital infrastructure through assessing network coverage and take-up in areas with identified digital poverty. We will also measure coverage and delivery in areas with new and existing social housing, neighbourhoods with higher levels of deprivation, business parks and rate of take-up by new and existing SME businesses.
4. We will monitor both the need for new infrastructure and progress on newly delivered projects by measuring air quality, energy efficiency, health equity, and active transport usage. This will also inform measurements on how much housing is delivered and jobs unlocked per scheme, both pre and post delivery.

→
Hepworth Place at Fellowship Square, Waltham Forest

Local london industries map

Manufacturing, construction and production

1. great cambridge road & martinbridge industrial estate
2. montagu industrial estate
3. blackhorse road
4. harold hill industrial estate
5. royal docks enterprise zone
6. barking riverside & thames road
7. dagenham dock & thames freeport
8. west thamesmead & plumstead
9. belvedere industrial area

Utilities, infrastructure and logistics

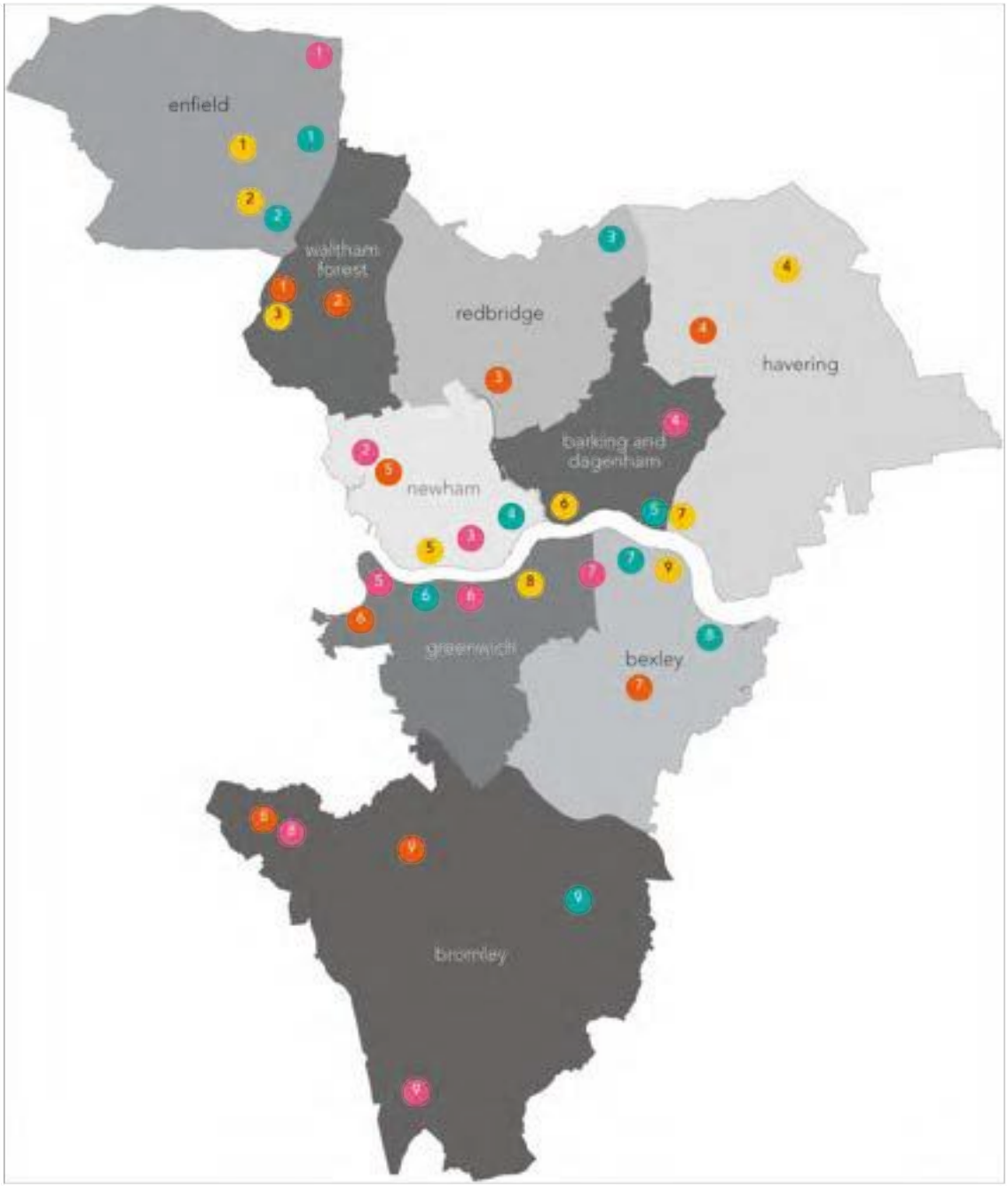
1. brimsdown industrial estate
2. edmonton ecopark
3. hainault business park
4. beckton riverside
5. dagenham dock & thames freeport
6. charlton riverside
7. riverside energy park
8. erith riverside
9. cray valley business corridor

Innovation, communications and technology

1. innova park & innovation corridor
2. olympic park innovation district
3. royal docks digital district
4. dagenham east
5. digital peninsula
6. woolwich & royal arsenal
7. abbey wood
8. penge & beckenham digital cluster
9. london biggin hill

Retail, culture and creative industries

1. blackhorse road creative enterprise zone
2. walthamstow central
3. ilford town centre
4. romford town centre
5. stratford & olympic park
6. greenwich maritime
7. bexleyheath
8. penge creative hub
9. bromley town centre



Home to over 105,000 enterprises, Local London is a thriving market for new, small businesses in foundational and growth sectors.

This includes emerging hubs for business growth in the arts, entertainments and recreation sector, and London's biggest construction industry base.

Mission Three: Supporting Enterprise and Business

Local London is home to thousands of thriving smaller businesses and a growth opportunity for tomorrow's industries. 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.

London's new business destination. Local London's business base grew by 44% over the last decade, outpacing central London by more than 10% and faster than any other sub-region, and more than two-thirds of Local London residents believing their local area is a good place for businesses to grow and thrive.[38] Today, with over 105,000 enterprises in the sub-region, Local London represents a flourishing market for new businesses, with significant growth in the arts, entertainment and recreation sector, transport and logistics, and London's biggest construction industry base, with more than one in 16 of England's construction businesses based in the sub-region.[39]

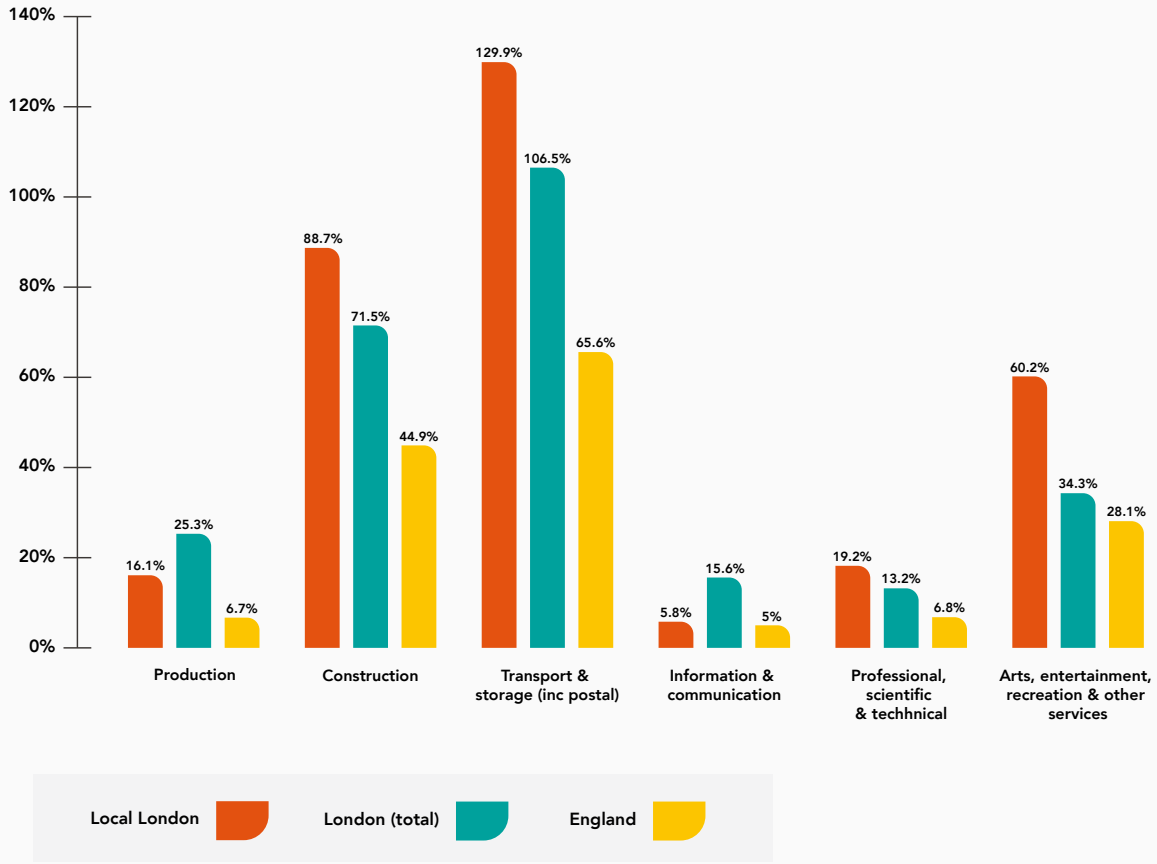
Entrepreneurial and enterprising. Local London's business base is home to a unique number of small and microbusinesses. Nearly 99% of the sub-region's enterprises have employee sizes of below 50 people, with more than 98,000 microbusinesses, constituting the largest share of small businesses of any part of London.[40]

UK PLC's critical workforce. Due in part to its strategic location at the confluence of international and domestic trade routes, Local London is home to a significant workforce of employees directly linked to exporting businesses. While this has declined as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brexit, and international trade factors, over 224,000 employees — nearly a third of the sub-region's workforce — has a role in supporting the UK's international trade and export industries.[41]

Struggling to scale. While Local London's many small enterprises and businesses are thriving, more can be done to help successful businesses scale and succeed. As a result of transport and digital infrastructure constraints, skills shortages and a well-diversified but fragmented business support offer, the sub-region has fewer high growth enterprises than other parts of the city[42], and productivity measured by hours worked has fallen behind the rest of London and is now 4.7% lower than the UK average.[43] This presents an opportunity to advocate for investment and support to help our SMEs improve their productivity and scale up.

A national net contributor. Local London's business base is both a major employment market and a critical revenue base for local and national government. Local London's boroughs collected more than £725 million in levied business rates in 2023–24[44], and generate nearly 5% of the national VAT tax base.[45] Investing in our sub-region's businesses to thrive therefore presents significant potential returns both for vital local services and the nation as a whole.

Rate of change in number of VAT-levied enterprises by industry group, 2014 to 2024



Source: Office for National Statistics, UK business, actviity, size and location, 2014–24

←
The Glades Shopping Centre, Bromley

Our Enterprise and Business Mission

Local London will be **the capital's most navigable and inclusive business destination ensuring high-quality advice and support** for businesses of all sizes. Local London will work closely with businesses and the skills sector to signpost economic opportunities for SMEs and microbusinesses across the sub-region.

Guided by city and national government strategy, Local London will support small business through anchor-led procurement pathways while empowering employers to **invest in the needs of their businesses and their employees**.

What we will do to deliver this mission

We will:

1. Work closely with partners such as London & Partners and education providers to **strengthen coordination of business support services**, ensuring that support is easier to access, up-to-date and responsive to local need. We will coordinate and align our business support offer to the sector-focused approach highlighted in the Modern Industrial Strategy and Inclusive Talent Strategy. We will support the development of an **Economic Development Officers Group** to share insights into borough-level business support and improve access to bespoke, place-based guidance.
2. Turbocharge the role of the public sector in supporting local enterprise by establishing a collaborative **Local London Anchor Network** across the sub-region, boroughs, major public organisations, and employers. The Network will work in partnership to identify opportunities for alignment on procurement and local supply chains, improve access to tender opportunities for SMEs, and foster inclusive economic development practices through coordinated business and skills support.
3. Boost business startups by increasing awareness and investment into **high-quality, accessible affordable workspace** in both town centres and industrial areas. Local London will work with boroughs to map the supply of workspace and availability of employment land across the sub-region.

→
Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, Newham

How we will get there

Year One

By year one, we will have

- Worked closely with London & Partners, boroughs, employers and the skills sector to promote the local business support offer and identify areas requiring bespoke local-level interventions.
- Built consistent working relationships with employers, anchor institutions, and the skills sector to establish effective collaboration and informal peer networks. We will use this opportunity to deepen our connections with employers and skills providers across the sub-region and increase awareness of Local London's offer to businesses.
- Established the Local London Anchor Network to begin scoping shared approaches to contracts and supply chains, and identifying areas of mutual interest. We will work in close partnership with the London Anchor Institutions Network — led by the GLA, employers, anchor institutions and our boroughs to analyse our sub-region's industry base and gain insights into how we can better direct local procurement practices.
- Commenced scoping for its map of affordable workspace and trading space, using the opportunity to identify high-quality sites for start-ups and scale-ups and promote Local London as a sub-region of opportunity for entrepreneurs and emerging enterprises.

Year Three

By year three, we will have:

- Developed data dashboards providing key information on business demography, such as borough-level trends for employment in foundational and growth sectors.
- Commenced procurement targeting key sectors, SMEs and local supply chains as part of the Local London Anchor Network.
- Worked with public sector organisations, employers and the skills sector to identify gaps in business support, skills and careers education to target interventions at key sectors or areas of business.
- Promoted the role of the Local London Anchor Network with public sector organisations and business groups across the sub-region, including increasing participation for SMEs.

Year Five

By year five, we will:

- Increased participation of SMEs in public procurement opportunities and established a portfolio of case studies which have benefitted from Local London's business support offer.
- Established the Local London Anchor Network as an exemplar in the delivery of partnership-led business support programmes, championing the long-term growth potential of community wealth building in local policy and strategy.
- Delivered effective sub-regional mapping of affordable workspaces, increasing its range of brokered premises to include sites for growth sectors such as digital and communications, advanced manufacturing, and the creative industries.

→
Iford Town, Redbridge

How we will measure progress

1. We will develop a central dashboard of local business, employment and skills data which measures business demography and dynamics, as well as employment outcomes such as employer uptake of the London Living Wage.
2. We will further underpin our partnership's awareness of local business outcomes through data analysis of key local economic indicators.
3. We will assess the performance of the Local London Anchor Network by measuring the number of suppliers accessing public procurement contracts that are SMEs.
4. We will measure the engagement of our partnership's business support services with key partners.

→
CEME Business Campus, Havering

Local London institutions map

With more than 1,700 schools, 91,000 learners in further education, and the highest rate of employment growth of any London sub-region, Local London is home to a world-class talent pipeline, supported by dedicated public services with a range of opportunities for fulfilling potential.

From engineering to social care, construction to digital media: Local London's institutions provide strong foundations for all to live well, succeed and thrive.

1. barnet and southgate college
2. capel manor college, enfield
3. capital city college, enfield
4. waltham forest college
5. waltham forest adult learning service
6. leyton college
7. redbridge institute of adult education
8. new city college, redbridge
9. mary ward centre
10. newham college, stratford
11. our newham learning & skills
12. the adult college barking & dagenham
13. barking and dagenham college
14. new city college, ardleigh green
15. greenwich learns
16. london south east colleges, greenwich
17. london south east colleges, bexley
18. learning and enterprise college, bexley
19. bromley adult education college
20. london south east colleges, orpington

Universities and higher education

1. university of portsmouth, london
2. queen mary university of london, ilford
3. ucl east
4. university of huddersfield london
5. university of east london
6. coventry university london, dagenham
7. university of greenwich
8. ravensbourne university london

Hospitals and health services

1. north middlesex hospital, enfield
2. whipps cross university hospital
3. king george hospital, goodmayes
4. newham hospital
5. barking hospital
6. queen's hospital, romford
7. queen elizabeth hospital, greenwich
8. queen mary's hospital, sidcup
9. princess royal university hospital, bromley

Town halls and civic centres

1. enfield civic centre
2. waltham forest town hall
3. redbridge town hall
4. newham dockside
5. barking town hall
6. havering town hall
7. woolwich town hall
8. bexley civic offices
9. bromley civic centre

Mission Four: Boosting Work and Skills

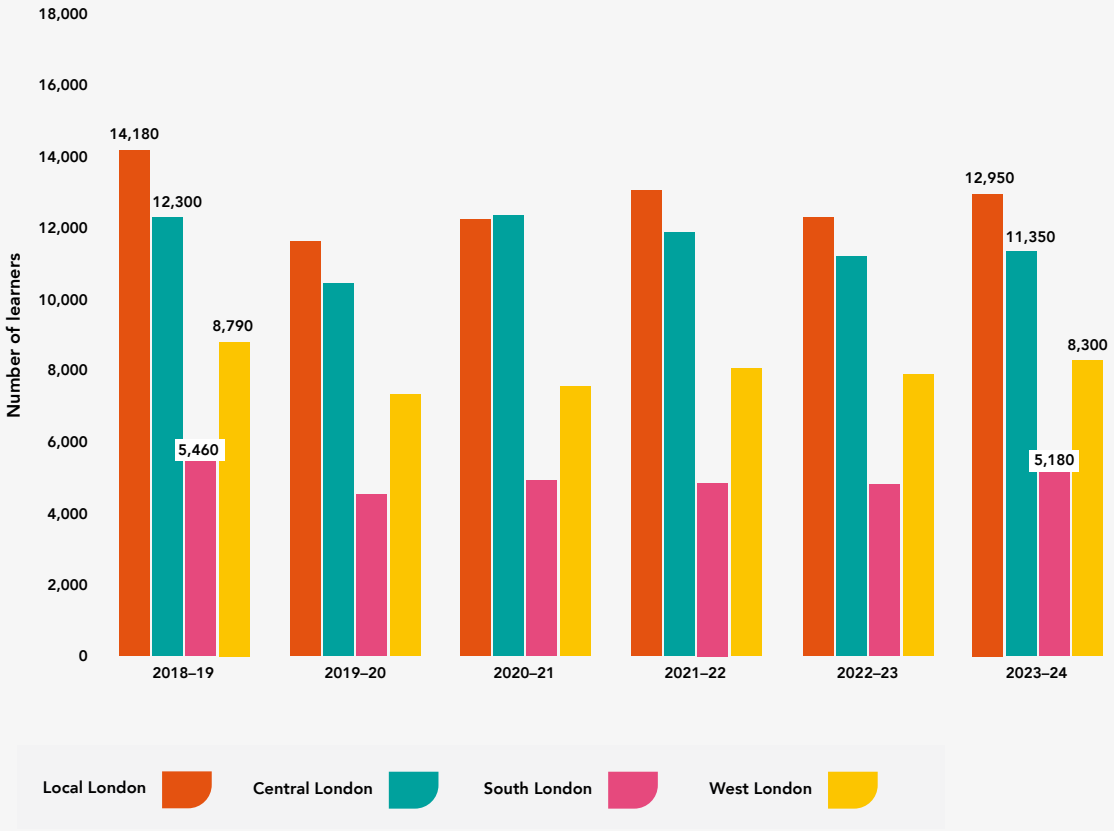
Local London boasts one of the UK's largest and most rapidly expanding labour markets. Working closely with our further education and skills sector, employers, and our boroughs, the partnership has already helped thousands of residents get into work or improve their skills.

Rising employment, falling inactivity. Local London has seen strong employment growth over the last decade. Employment has grown by 9.1% since 2010 — almost twice the UK rate and faster than the rest of London[46] while economic inactivity has fallen by 6.5 percentage points overall and by 10 points among working-age women.[47] However, these gains in employment have been concentrated in lower productivity sectors: over two in five (40.8%) of Local London's businesses in 2024 were in construction, retail or accommodation and food — enterprises with a higher proportion of workers on minimum wage, shift work or cyclical work, and those on zero-hours contracts. This is compared to 22% in central London.[48]

London's talent pipeline. With one of the capital's youngest populations, Local London has led London in further education learner starts since 2018 at around 12,000 a year. In 2023–24, residents achieved 136,000 Level 2–3 qualifications — the highest of any sub-region.[49] State schools have improved fastest with 96% rated good or outstanding by Ofsted — a 15 percentage point increase since 2014.[50] Residents of the sub-region also form the largest cohort of London's higher education achievements at Level 6, with nearly 41,000 undergraduate degrees awarded to residents in 2023–24 — an increase in the annual total of 26% since 2015–16, greater than both the London and national average.[51]

Good jobs — an access gap. Despite these improvements, only 40% of residents rate the availability of quality, well-paid jobs locally as good, while 22% rate it poor. Just 41% say it is easy to access education and skills training needed for current and future jobs.[52]

London's Further Education and Skills Education starts, 2018 to 2024



Source: Department for Education, Further education and skills total starts by local authority district, 2018–19 to 2023–24.
Data reflects total number of learners across all age groups (Under 19, 19–24, and 25+)

Untapped potential. While economic inactivity has fallen since 2010, nearly a quarter of the sub-region's ethnic minority population were economically inactive in 2024.[53] Economic inactivity is also comparatively higher for residents with disabilities where 41% are inactive — higher than both the London and England average. At a sub-regional level, while employment has risen, there is also spatial variation with four constituent boroughs having higher unemployment rates than the London average in 2024. This compounds the need for delivering targeted skills and education programmes which reach harder-to-reach communities.

Skills slowdown. There is also more to be done to ensure our residents can access the education, training and skills development they need. While Local London continues to have the largest learner cohort in the capital compared to other sub-regions, combined further education, apprenticeships and skills achievements for learners under 19 decreased substantially, falling by more than 35% between 2018–19 and 2023–24. Over all age groups, combined further education, apprenticeships and skills achievements fell by more than 16% — approximately 27,000 qualifications.

Targeting support. We need to increase both participation and completion rates among local residents, paying special attention to improving access for those less involved in skills and employment programmes. This includes offering targeted careers education and guidance through our Careers Hub and Connect to Work, as well as providing dedicated support for accessing English as a Second Language (ESOL) courses. These efforts aim to enhance employment outcomes across our diverse sub-region. Our approach should also include expanding access to employment in foundational sectors such as social care and construction as well as in emerging growth industries like life sciences and the digital and creative economies.

Our Skills Mission

Local London will deliver an **inclusive, joined up skills and employment offer** for residents and businesses which is **future-facing**, unlocking productivity for businesses and prosperity for residents.

Through strong partnerships and co-production with businesses, educators, health services and learners of all ages, Local London will deliver **an employer-aligned system** that addresses the needs of residents furthest from the labour market, improves learner access, progression and experience, and readies a talent pipeline fit for the economy of tomorrow and strengthens the sub-region's competitiveness.

What we will do to deliver

We will:

- Through our **Local London Skills & Employment Board**, work with Local London's skills providers, higher education and businesses to refresh our **Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) annex** to:
    - **Ground our approach in evidence:** Maintain an up to date, shared evidence base on local skills, employment outcomes and services to shape priorities and investment.
    - **Co-produce an employer friendly offer:** Align the sub-region's skills offer with local sector needs, the Government's Modern Industrial Strategy, London Growth Plan and the GLA's Inclusive Talent Strategy, with meaningful participation from young people and adults.
- **Work** with employers, providers, community organisations and health partners **to deliver a joined up support offer so residents can succeed by:**
    - **Investing in delivery:** Channel **£54m** through flagship programmes like our **Connect to Work** scheme and Economic Inactivity **Trailblazer** to help people furthest from the labour market progress into good jobs, subject to funding and programme guidance.
    - **Enabling youth progression:** Through the **Careers Hub** and **Youth Integration Network, support schools,** colleges and careers professionals to provide high quality careers education, information, advice and guidance, and to broker transitions into and through learning and work.
    - **Making support inclusive and seamless:** Build on our **No Wrong Door** approach with health, education and community partners to identify and address gaps, improve referrals, skills and employment progression, and wraparound support for priority groups—people who are economically inactive; residents with ESOL or basic skills needs; young people; carers and care experienced residents; those in temporary accommodation; and residents with learning or physical disabilities.
    - **Raising awareness of the skill offers amongst employers:** We will provide quick and accessible information on pathways, specialisms and brokerage across the sub-region for employers. Building on prior advocacy and **Local Skills Improvement Fund** activity, this will improve access to learning and employment services, support effective funding and delivery, identify routes for skills and employment progression, and enable curriculum coordination and innovation.
    - **Prioritise upskilling and progression:** Support both existing workers and new entrants in foundational and high growth sectors (e.g., information & communication, creative industries, logistics), emphasising transferable, cross-sector skills and work with major employers to open and progress talent pathways.

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High Street and Churchill Theatre, Bromley

How we will get there

Year One

By year one, we will have:

- Refreshed the annex to the London Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and integrated its measures into Local London's skills and employment offer.
- Engaged with employers, learners/ residents and the skills sector on mapping the skills offer across the sub-region. This will support Local London's LSIP and actions to better meet local employment needs, including access to high quality, location-specific information on skills provision for employers.
- Mobilised our flagship Connect to Work and Trailblazers programmes to be active in every borough, across multiple sectors, and with clear, effective working relationships between Local London, boroughs, employers and the skills sector. Through these nationally funded programmes, we will continue building the sub-region's delivery infrastructure — strengthening partnerships with key providers and agencies to ensure a high-fidelity support model is in place across all boroughs. Using innovative, localised solutions and well-supported frontline staff, we will embed a consistent, strategically aligned and flexible offer that meets local need while maintaining quality and oversight at a sub-regional level.
- Enhanced the work of the Careers Hub and Youth Integration Network to drive collaboration between education, employers and wider stakeholders thus ensuring young people, jobseekers and economically inactive residents are at the heart of our programmes. We will have expanded our engagement with young people, adult learners, employers and skills providers through supporting schools and careers professionals to co-produce live events, pop-up advice and guidance sessions, and bespoke training opportunities to meet local skills needs.

Year Three

By year three, we will have:

- Implemented consistent, high-quality skills programmes driven by principles of inclusivity in Local London's skills and employment offer. Working in partnership with our boroughs, employers, further and higher education providers, we will have co-created a coordinated skills offer which improves attainment and boosts employment outcomes. We will have built on learning from employers in foundational and growth sectors, as well as from our education providers, to ensure future skills programmes and support reaches residents who need it most.
- Raised awareness of the sub-regional skills offer amongst employers across the sub-region, providing up-to-date information which connects businesses with the skills, training and recruitment support their workforce people need.
- Supported and strengthened careers education and youth engagement activity through dedicated programmes, where funding allows. We will have matured our careers education offer to provide visible, clear improvements in local skills and employment outcomes, while ensuing our offer provides support to residents on employment opportunities in growth sectors, and a continued, direct link to major employers in foundational sectors such as health and social care, construction and logistics.

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Bloqs Pay-as-you-go Workshops, Enfield

Year Five

By year five, we will have:

- Delivered a mature, sustained level of support to residents, boroughs, employers and the wider skills sector, supporting over 12,000 residents into secure, good jobs in both foundational and growth sectors, with a clear impact on the recruitment of new employees in highly skilled sector positions.
- Stewarded a responsive, joined-up skills and employment offer to residents and business which improves cross-borough referrals for job opportunities, skills courses, and careers support — while connecting employers to a healthy pipeline of skilled talent in foundational and growth sectors.
- Strengthened our skills and employment offer with bespoke, and responsive curricula reflecting the future skills needs of employers in growth sectors and improved skills and employment outcomes for residents who are economically inactive or from disadvantaged backgrounds.

How we will measure progress

1. We will measure the impact of our delivery by tracking outcomes across the skills and employment pipeline, including reductions in economic inactivity, achievement rates, and progression from training into sustained employment.
2. We will track youth outcomes by capturing data on career readiness (e.g. Future Skills Questionnaire responses) and attainment at the end of Years 11 and 13, supported by stronger partnerships with schools, colleges, and employers to expand work experience and placement opportunities.
3. We will monitor the number and uptake of courses linked to priority growth sectors identified in the Modern Industrial Strategy, London Growth Plan, and LSIP.
4. We will embed these indicators in our governance framework to ensure accountability, responsiveness to residents and employers, and continuous improvement.

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Waltham Forest College

How We Will Deliver Our Vision

We know that delivering this vision will require more than ambition, and we will need to build on our existing strengths while also evolving our approach. As such, to deliver this vision and missions, our approach will evolve to span four areas of activity:

- **Delivering Quality Services.** We will continue to work with Government, the GLA, our boroughs, and sector and industry partners to secure investment and funding to design and deliver high-quality locally-led programmes that boost skills, access to good work, business growth, and inclusive economic development.
- **Advocacy and Influence.** Acting as a powerful voice for our nine boroughs as well as our public and private sector partners, we will champion Local London's priorities at the regional, national, and international levels — shaping policy, securing investment, and influencing infrastructure decisions.
- **Convening and Collaboration.** We will be partnership-led at our core, bringing together boroughs, businesses, investors, education, health and anchor institutions to align priorities, share expertise, and unlock opportunities for growth. We will refresh our strategic boards and ensure we are truly representative of the communities, businesses and anchors that make up our sub-region.
- **Policy and Insight.** We will generate and share evidence-based insights to inform decision-making and strengthen the case for investment and development, including opportunities for data-sharing and joint commissioning.

To enable this evolved approach, we will **streamline our governance, enhance our cross-borough convening role**, and strengthen our approach to **advocacy and external engagement**.

To refine our governance and strengthen cross-borough collaboration, we will engage closely with our boroughs and wider stakeholder partners to create appropriate, transparent and accountable service level agreements that set out how we will deliver together. These agreements will be designed in collaboration between Local London and partner boroughs to be agile, responsive to external changes, and scrutinised by Local London's cross-borough decision-making fora, led by our Joint Executive Committee. Local London will work closely with borough partners to establish protocols needed to maximise our ability to deliver on the Vision's missions, including data sharing, brand usage rules, and clear guidelines on marketing local sites to avoid conflicting with plan-making processes.

To evolve our identity to match our new vision of a dynamic, place-based economic partnership committed to inclusive growth which serves our businesses, partners and residents, we will refresh our brand and identity and work even more closely with our boroughs and sub-regional partners to deliver a dynamic, 'always-on' approach to external affairs and advocacy.

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Local London Youth Employment Summit, Woolwich Works, Greenwich

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Bexleyheath Clock Tower, Bexley

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Greenwich Park, Greenwich

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