



BROMLEY CIVIC CENTRE, STOCKWELL CLOSE, BROMLEY BRI 3UH

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DATE: 19 June 2023

To: Members of the
BROMLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Yvonne Bear (Chairman)	Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing
Ose Akpom	LBB Economic Development Manager
Carol Arnfield	LBB Head of Service for Early Years, School Standards and Adult Education
Zoe Carr	Penge SE20 BID Company
Russell Clarke	Sundridge Investments Limited
Anne-Marie Douglas	Jobcentre Plus
Christopher Evans	Community Links Bromley
Frances Forrest	Your Bromley BID Company
Chris Glover	Churchill Theatre
Mark Haynes	The Glades
Alex Henderson	Henderson Biomedical
Gary Hillman	N. Hillman & Sons
Lesley Holland	LBB Operations Manager, Bromley Education Business Partnership
Michael Humphries	Handelsbanken
Denise Kelly	Nugent Shopping Park
Hal Khanom	LBB Head of Economic Development
Mike Lewis	Michael Rogers LLP
Steve Lipscombe	Ronin Marketing
Helen McIntosh FCIPR	South East London Chamber of Commerce
Lorraine McQuillan	LBB Place Shaping & Local Economy Manager
Sam Parrett	London South East Colleges
Emma Santer	Bromley FC
Robert Sargent	Acorn Group
Clare Searle	Greener and Cleaner
Chandra Sharma	Federation of Small Businesses
Jason Stanton	Mytime Active
Caroline Tatchell	Splash Damage
Lee Thomas	Fairlight Group
Liz Timms	Treval Engineering Ltd
Chris Travers	Orpington 1 st BID Company
Bruce Walker	Lansdown Asset Management
Katy Woolcott	London Biggin Hill Airport

A meeting of the Bromley Economic Partnership will be held at Bromley Civic Centre on **TUESDAY 27 JUNE 2023 AT 4.00-5.30PM** *

PLEASE NOTE STARTING TIME

*Copies of the documents referred to below can be obtained from
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/>*

A G E N D A

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

3 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, members of the public may submit one question each on matters relating to the work of the Committee. Questions must have been received in writing 10 working days before the date of the meeting – by **5pm** on **Tuesday 13th June 2023**.

Questions seeking clarification of the details of a report on the agenda may be accepted within two working days of the normal publication date of the agenda – by **5pm** on **Wednesday 21st June 2023**.

4 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18TH APRIL 2023 AND MATTERS OUTSTANDING (Pages 1 - 8)

5 TERMS OF REFERENCE (Pages 9 - 12)

- o Review and updates

6 LOCAL RETAIL BUSINESS - CASE STUDY

- o Challenges, opportunities & successes experienced by the business locally

7 NTEZ - UPDATE

8 UKSPF - UPDATE

9 PARTNER UPDATES

- o Key updates from Partners

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- o Request for future agenda items

11 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

4.00pm, Tuesday 7th November 2023
4.00pm, Tuesday 9th January 2024
4.00pm, Tuesday 26th March 2024

BROMLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held at 4.00 pm on 18 April 2023

Present:

Councillor Yvonne Bear (Chairman)
Katy Woolcott, London Biggin Hill Airport (Vice-Chairman)
Zoe Carr, Beckenham Together BID Company & Penge SE20
BID Company
Anne-Marie Douglas, Jobcentre Plus
Christopher Evans, Community Links Bromley
Gary Hillman, N. Hillman & Sons
Michael Humphries, Handelsbanken
Mike Lewis, Michael Rogers LLP
Lorraine McQuillan, LBB Place Shaping & Local Economy
Manager
Jason Stanton, Mytime Active
Caroline Tatchell, Splash Damage
Lee Thomas, Fairlight Group
Chris Travers, Orpington 1st BID Company

Also Present:

Ose Akpom, Economic Development Manager, LBB
Hal Khanom, Head of Economic Development, LBB

35 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Carol Arnfield – LBB Head of Service for Early Years, School Standards and Adult Education and Chandra Sharma – Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), and Elena Diaconescu – Head of Bromley Adult Education College and Sarah King – FSB attended as their respective substitutes.

The Chairman welcomed Clare Searle, Greener and Cleaner, to the meeting and proposed that she join the membership of the Partnership as a representative of the green sector.

RESOLVED that Clare Searle join the Bromley Economic Partnership as a representative of the green sector.

36 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING

No questions had been received.

37 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31ST JANUARY 2023

AND MATTERS OUTSTANDING

The Chairman noted that there were no matters outstanding.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 31st January 2023 be agreed.

38 LOCAL OFFICE-BASED BUSINESS - CASE STUDY

The Chairman welcomed Gregory Micallef, Managing Director – Gregory Micallef Associates Ltd to the meeting to provide an overview of the company. A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix A.

In response to questions, Members of the Partnership were advised that one of the key considerations was ensuring that the right workforce was in place to enable more contracts to be taken on by the company. The current employment market was interesting and for potential employees there was a clear differential between a family run business with a heart and soul and a larger commercial organisation.

Out of the 23 people working for Gregory Micallef Associates Ltd., 18 resided within the Borough. Members of the Partnership also noted that Gregory Micallef Associates Ltd. sought contracts locally and nationally as long as potential clients were seeking the good quality advice offered by the company.

The Chairman thanked Gregory Micallef for his attendance at the meeting and presentation.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

39 LOCAL SKILLS IMPROVEMENT PLAN (LSIP)

Philip Doyle, Senior Policy Manager at Local London, provided an update to the Partnership on the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP). A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix B.

In response to questions, Mr Doyle suggested that increasing the skill level of the workforce and providing a pipeline of skilled workers would lead to an increase in demand for space for manufacturing across the Borough. The Chairman highlighted the importance of ensuring that young people had the skills required to access the jobs that were available.

The Vice-Chairman suggested that across London it would be helpful to have a pooled facility for certain skill sets. In addition, it would be necessary for the Borough as a whole to widen its vision around the skills and the employment land that would be required in the future in order to keep jobs local.

A Member of the Partnership emphasised the need to identify manufacturing land across the Borough in order to ensure that there was the necessary space for people to work.

The Head of Economic Development explained that the purpose of the Local Skills Improvement Plan was to address the skills challenge that had been highlighted by employers across London. The key for the London Borough of Bromley was to identify the correct sectors to be included in the Bromley Annex of the Improvement Plan.

The Partnership requested that the Annex be circulated following the meeting to enable Members to respond following the meeting.

A Member suggested that charitable organisations experienced skills challenges around developing people to become great managers. It was also noted that there was a need to develop individuals who had a broad range of skills including general administrative and managerial skills.

In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr Doyle confirmed that engineering would be picked up under the two headings of Construction & Civil Engineering and Manufacturing. The Chairman suggested that it may be beneficial to have engineering as a separate heading.

The Chairman noted that the Council experienced particular skills shortages within the Social Care sector but also the Housing and Planning sectors. It was recognised that in these sectors there were skills shortages across London and the challenges were not restricted to Bromley.

It was agreed that the consultation document would be circulated following the meeting and the report would be circulated when it was available.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

40 ULEZ EXPANSION - UPDATE

The Chairman provided an update on proposals from the Mayor of London to expand the Ultra-Low Emissions Zone (ULEZ).

LB Bromley and some other London Councils have bought a judicial review, of which some grounds have now been accepted so the JR will be proceeding, with the first hearing due in July.

The Chairman reported that the Council had no powers to prevent cameras being installed on 'A' roads and on traffic lights as these fell under the jurisdiction of the Mayor of London. The Mayor had confirmed his intention to proceed with the proposals and it was unlikely that the judicial review would prevent this, although the Council was working to slow down implementation.

It was reported that the view of the Council was that ULEZ was not right for Bromley. Tube stations were not common across the Borough and many residents were reliant on their cars. In addition, Bromley did not suffer from the heavy traffic congestion experienced in inner London Boroughs. ULEZ

was seen as a regressive tax which impacted on the most vulnerable residents.

The Head of Economic Development reported that it was likely that the judicial review would be heard in early July. In addition, the Council had challenged the statistics around death rates in Bromley due to the Borough's ageing population (which impacted these figures). The Council would be reviewing progress on the Borough's Air Quality Action Plan. The ambition remained to maintain good air quality across the Borough. ULEZ was perceived to have a limited impact on maintaining air quality.

Members of the Partnership highlighted that ULEZ would have the biggest impact on lower paid staff. It was however acknowledged that it would be a positive step forward to have a constructive conversation around improving air quality around Orpington High Street. Concerns were raised surrounding a recent ULEZ protest in Orpington Town Centre which had focused on the War Memorial.

The Partnership noted that there were a large number of key workers who commuted into the Borough from other areas. There was a concern that with staff essentially being taxed to travel to work they would seek employment in areas not subject to the ULEZ.

A Member of the Partnership made the point that, more broadly, the scheme was having a positive impact on air quality as a result of a large reduction in polluting vehicles across London, that many of these were using roads in Bromley and that was of benefit for everyone.

A Member of the Partnership noted that it would be helpful for more environmentally friendly transport methods such as electric vehicles to be promoted across the Borough. It was suggested that it would be helpful for the Economic Partnership to have a wider discussion regardless of the decision to be taken around ULEZ.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

41 LOCAL PLAN - UPDATE

The Head of Economic Development provided a brief update on the Local Plan. The Local Authority was consulting on a Local Plan Issues and Options document and at this point the Council was not setting out its preferred policy position, it was seeking views from local stakeholders regarding key issues for the Local Plan.

The Chairman highlighted that at this point the Council was trying to identify priorities for the Borough and the consultation contained a series of questions designed to elicit feedback from key stakeholders.

A Member of the Partnership highlighted that in the Borough there was very little Brownfield land for infill development. In terms of future development, it

was essential for the Local Authority and key stakeholders to identify the future direction for the Borough and urged all Partnership members to participate in the consultation.

The Chairman reiterated that the development of the Local Plan was based in evidence and there was a need to follow processes in order to develop a robust evidence base.

The Economic Partnership noted that the London Plan remained in place.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

42 STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND (SIF) - UPDATE

The Economic Development Manager provided an update reporting that the Council had recently submitted a proposal to the GLA to access up to £1m from their Strategic Investment Fund (SIF). The funding was available to target investment by broadband infrastructure providers in order to develop full-fibre infrastructure by connecting Council sites or building assets via a local dark-fibre network. It would also enable the infrastructure provider to commercialise the additional full-fibre capacity and passive infrastructure deployed under this project. The aim was to stimulate further commercial investment to increase the coverage for residents or businesses.

The key benefits of the project were that it would increase the speed and connectivity at key Council owned sites to improve productivity, increase the range of digital services, reduce costs and future-proof the Council to make better use of Smart/IOT technology. The project would also help to increase the general full-fibre footprint across the Borough and address gaps in connectivity at key or strategic locations. This was in accordance with the Council's Digital Infrastructure Work Plan and Economic Development Strategy.

The Economic Development Manager outlined the approval process explaining that the SIF funding was subject to approval by GLA with the decision anticipated by early May. It was also subject to approval by the Council's Executive committee.

Members of the Partnership recognised the importance of ensuring a robust broadband infrastructure as broadband was an essential tool.

The Chairman noted that a significant amount of work was being undertaken to ensure that there was good broadband coverage across the Borough.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

43 NTEZ UPDATE

The Partnership received an update and presentation regarding the Night-Time Enterprise Zone (NTEZ). The Place Shaping and Local Economy Manager confirmed that Bromley's application for a Night Time Economy Zone had been successful and a number of events had been arranged for over the summer.

Members of the Partnership were asked to help with the promotion of events.

It was noted that research had been commissioned into the Night Time Economy in Bromley and the findings from this research would be presented at the next meeting in June alongside an update on the Umbrella Project.

Members of the Partnership noted that the Economic Development Team were aware of the impact of vacant units on the High Street. An update on progress to re-let the units would be sought from the Council's Property Team.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

44 CORONATION UPDATE

The Place Shaping and Local Economy Manager reported that there would be big screens in Queen's Gardens, Bromley and Market Square, Orpington screening the Coronation on 6th May 2023. Grants had been provided for community events and fees for street parties had been waived. In addition, there would be a Best Decorated Shop competition with a £100 gift voucher donated by the Glades for the winning business.

The Partnership noted that the BIDs were also decorating the Town Centres for the celebrations.

The Chairman reported that the grant funding for Street Parties had been highly oversubscribed, and the Council was hopeful that there would be a good weekend of celebration across the Borough, boosting local businesses.

It was noted that information on Coronation celebrations across the Borough was included on the website and a link to this information could be circulated following the meeting.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

45 PARTNER UPDATES

Anne-Marie Douglas – there was a drive to encourage priority group customers, including those customers who were over 50, to upskill. A Twitter online Jobs Fayre had been developed and this had proven to be very popular and businesses were encouraged to advertise any vacancies on the platform.

Prior to the start of the meeting Mike Humphries sent the following update - The Cost of Living challenges, rising inflation and increases in Bank of

England Base rate seen through 2022 have continued to have an impact on the economy and all of us both personally and in our businesses in the first quarter of 2023. This has also started to be seen in the financial markets with a couple of bank failures in the US and Credit Suisse in Switzerland. Regulations in the banking industry in the UK are very stringent and at this juncture we are not aware of any UK banks that might be struggling. Handelsbanken I am pleased to say remains one of the strongest Banks worldwide in terms of asset size and has the best Credit rating of any Bank in the whole of Europe. The positive news for the economy generally is the view currently that further increases in Bank of England Base rate are expected to be limited to perhaps one further increase of 0.25% in May, with Base rate then remaining at 4.25 / 4.5% for much of the rest of the year before some reductions are seen during 2024. Much however depends on inflation which is currently 10% plus but which will reduce sharply over the coming months not least because the impact of the energy increases last April will drop away; so our economists anticipate (naturally based on life as it is today) currently that inflation by year end could be half what we see today. The path to full recovery is likely to be 2 to 3 years, but the UK may now just avoid a recession and as I have reported previously the prospects for 2024 / 2025 are looking promising. So not all doom and gloom. In conclusion Handelsbanken continue to view the future with confidence and remain fully occupied - opening accounts, receiving large deposits and lending both to Private individuals via Mortgages and to businesses via commercial loans, our "Local Relationship Banking" model proving hugely popular.

RESOLVED that the updates be noted.

46 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

4.00pm, Tuesday 27th June 2023
4.00pm, Tuesday 7th November 2023
4.00pm, Tuesday 9th January 2024
4.00pm, Tuesday 26th March 2024

The Meeting ended at 6.05 pm

Chairman

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Bromley Economic Partnership

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose of the Partnership

- 1.1 The purpose of the Partnership is to provide a collaborative and coordinated approach to economic development in the borough.
- 1.2 The principal functions of the Partnership are to:
- Champion the London Borough of Bromley, its local economy and its contribution to the wider London and South East economy as a place to work, study, invest in and do business
 - Provide a forum for sharing data related to economic trends and provide a collaborative approach to addressing these economic trends
 - Be a mechanism for sharing research, information and best practice on the local economy
 - Inform, influence and contribute to the work programmes associated with the Economic Development Plan and monitor progress on these
 - Provide a coordinated approach to borough-wide communications on economy, business, employment and skills.
 - Share information relevant to the performance of the local economy.

2. Membership

- 2.1 Core membership of the Economic Partnership should include relevant representatives from the public sector, private sector and voluntary and community sector:
- Portfolio Holder, Renewal, Recreation and Housing
 - Bromley Adult Education College
 - Bromley Education Business Partnership
 - Community Links Bromley
 - Federation of Small Businesses
 - Jobcentre Plus
 - Representatives from key business sectors (maximum of 3 per sector)
 - London Borough of Bromley – representatives from Regeneration & Renewal, Planning Policy, and Green Recovery as non-voting participants and Democratic Services to provide support to the meeting.
 - London South East Colleges
 - Orpington 1st Business Improvement District
 - South East London Chamber of Commerce
 - Your Bromley BID Company
 - Penge SE20 BID Company
- 2.2 Members must represent one or more of the 7 economic aspirations as outlined within the Economic Development Plan:
- Education and Skills;
 - Employment Spaces;

- Helping Businesses Thrive;
- High Streets for the Future;
- Connectivity and Mobility;
- Enhancement of Tourism and Culture Industries; and
- Working Towards a Green Economy.

A list of members will be presented and reviewed as and when necessary, and at a minimum annually. A list of members is attached at Appendix A.

2.3 On occasion and when appropriate other people will be invited to attend meetings to talk on specific items. These will be in a non-voting capacity.

2.4 All members of the Partnership should:

- provide and present data related to their service area at each meeting to inform discussions and decisions on economic data trends
- have sufficient authority within the organisation to be able to discuss actions to address economic data trends
- have equal standing, and no one organisation should assume dominance;
- have sufficient authority to be able to speak for their organisations and/or sector or be able to give advice and information as an individual representative from the business community;
- ensure that the policies and decisions of the Partnership are widely disseminated within their organisation and cascaded to staff/members as appropriate.

2.5 The membership of any member who fails to attend two consecutive meetings without good cause shall lapse and a replacement or reinstatement may be sought.

3. Meetings:

3.1 Meetings will be open to members of the public.

3.2 Meetings will take place at least four times a year. There may be additional meetings, at the request of the Chairman or requested by members and agreed by members.

3.3 Meetings will be chaired by the Council's Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing. The Vice-Chairman will be agreed by the Partnership.

3.4 The quorum for a meeting will be 5 members and consist of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, one other Council representative and partners from at least 3 businesses or business member organisations.

3.5 There will be a structured action and accountability orientated agenda and formal minutes for each meeting.

3.6 Papers for meetings will be circulated at least 5 working days in advance of meetings.

3.7 The Council's Director of Corporate Services will be responsible for providing secretarial services for formal meetings.

3.8 In terms of questions, the Partnership will reflect the rules for all London Borough of Bromley Council meetings.

4. Decision making

4.1 The Bromley Economic Partnership is not a legal entity and does not have executive decision making powers. Representatives remain responsible and accountable to their home organisations. Any decisions on their services and resources must be made in accordance with the requirements of their own executive structures. Decisions of the Partnership will be reached by consensus.

5 Reporting

5.1 Reports associated with the work programme of the Economic Development Plan will be taken to the Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee as and when required.

6. Operation of Sub-Groups or Working Parties

6.1 The Partnership may establish sub-groups or working parties for a particular purpose or theme, usually for a time limited period. These should be kept to a minimum and managed informally outside the Economic Partnership structure.

6.2 Sub-groups or Working Parties will elect their own Chairman who will report back on activity at quarterly Partnership meetings.

7 Public Statements

7.1 Individual members should not make press/public statements on behalf of the Bromley Economic Partnership. Requests for such statements should be referred to the partnership Chairman.

8 Revision of the Terms of Reference

8.1 The Bromley Economic Partnership Terms of Reference will be reviewed regularly, on at least an annual basis.

Agreed: June 2023

BEP MEMBERSHIP

- Portfolio Holder, Renewal, Recreation and Housing
- Bromley Adult Education College
- Bromley Education Business Partnership
- Community Links Bromley
- Federation of Small Businesses
- Jobcentre Plus
- London South East Colleges
- Orpington 1st Business Improvement District
- South East London Chamber of Commerce
- Your Bromley BID Company
- Penge SE20 BID Company
- London Borough of Bromley

- Councillor Yvonne Bear
- Carol Arnfield
- Lesley Holland
- Christopher Evans
- Chandra Sharma
- Anne-Marie Douglas
- Sam Parrett
- Chris Travers
- Helen McIntosh
- Frances Forrest
- Zoe Carr
- Hal Khanom
- Lorraine McQuillan
- Ose Akpom

(plus other representatives to be invited as and when required to present items, e.g. Regeneration & Renewal, Planning Policy, and Green Recovery as non-voting participants)

- Representatives from key business sectors (maximum of 3 per sector):

<p><u>Office</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mike Lewis (Michael Rogers LLP) - Lee Thomas (Fairlight Group) - Russell Clarke (Sundridge Investments) <p><u>Retail / Banking</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mark Haynes (The Glades) - Denise Kelly (Nugent Retail Park) - Mike Humphries (Handelsbanken) <p><u>Green Sector</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clare Searle (Greener and Cleaner) 	<p><u>Leisure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jason Stanton (Mytime Active) - Emma Santer (Bromley FC) - Chris Glover (Churchill Theatre) <p><u>Aviation / Engineering</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Katy Woolcott (London Biggin Hill Airport) - Alex Henderson (Henderson Biomedical) - Liz Timms (Trevall Engineering Ltd) 	<p><u>Property</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rob Sargent (Acorn Group) - Bruce Walker (Lansdown Asset Management) - Gary Hillman (N. Hillman & Sons) <p><u>Marketing / Technology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steve Lipscombe (Ronin Marketing) - Caroline Tatchell (Splash Damage)
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