

**Decision Maker:** **RENEWAL, RECREATION AND HOUSING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Date:** **Thursday 14 March 2024**

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent                      Non-Executive                      Non-Key

**Title:** **LOCAL LONDON ANNUAL UPDATE**

**Contact Officer:** Daniel Murray, Head of Economic Development  
Tel: 020 8313 3108    E-mail: daniel.murray@bromley.gov.uk

**Chief Officer:** Director of Housing, Planning, Property and Regeneration

**Ward:** All Wards

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1. Reason for decision/report and options

To update the Renewal, Recreation and Housing Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee (RRH PDS) on the London Borough of Bromley's Local London sub-regional partnership membership.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 **For the Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee to note the content of the report.**

### Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Significant positive impact on Vulnerable Adults for example through employment support.
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### Transformation Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
  2. Making Bromley Even Better Priority:
    - (1) For children and young people to grow up, thrive and have the best life chances in families who flourish and are happy to call Bromley home.
    - (2) For adults and older people to enjoy fulfilled and successful lives in Bromley, ageing well, retaining independence and making choices.
    - (3) For people to make their homes in Bromley and for business, enterprise and the third sector to prosper.
    - (4) For residents to live responsibly and prosper in a safe, clean and green environment great for today and a sustainable future.
    - (5) To manage our resources well, providing value for money, and efficient and effective services for Bromley's residents.
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: N/A
  2. Ongoing costs: N/A
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Local London
  4. Total current budget for this head: £50k per annum
  5. Source of funding: General Fund
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### Personnel

1. Number of staff (*current and additional*): 4 staff at bi-monthly/quarterly partnership meetings
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable: No Executive decision.
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### Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: None
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### Property

1. Summary of Property Implications: None
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### Carbon Reduction and Social Value

1. Summary of Carbon Reduction/Sustainability Implications: A key focus of Local London is Sustainability as a cross cutting theme through all activities undertaken.
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### Impact on the Local Economy

1. Summary of Local Economy Implications: Business support and growth are key areas of support from the Local London partnership.
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### Impact on Health and Wellbeing

1. Summary of Health and Wellbeing Implications: UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) People and Skills Investment Priority focused on individuals furthest from the labour market, therefore, of significant relevance from a health and wellbeing perspective.
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users or customers (*current and projected*): All residents and businesses.
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

### 3. COMMENTARY

#### Background

- 3.1 London's Sub-Regional Partnerships (SRPs) bring local authorities, businesses, anchor institutions (including Higher & Further Education) and communities together on economic development programme delivery. Economic development funding is often devolved and administered by SRPs which serve to 'bridge the gap' between local authorities and regional government (the Greater London Authority). London has four SRPs: West London Alliance (covering West London); South London Partnership (covering Southwest London); Central London Forward (central London) and Local London (East focused including Southeast and Northeast).
- 3.2 As per report (HPR2023/008), the London Borough of Bromley's Executive approved the Council joining Local London and signing the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) for the Local London SRP. The IAA established joint arrangements with the Local London Authorities including the formation of a Joint Committee (attended by the Council's Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation with delegated authority to make decisions where there is no direct implication for LBB finances) and approved an annual membership fee, £50k per annum, for the duration of Bromley's current membership (2022-2025).

#### Local London

- 3.3 Founded in 2016, Local London is a sub-regional partnership of nine boroughs, specifically: Barking and Dagenham, Bexley, Enfield, Greenwich, Havering, Newham, Redbridge and Waltham Forest and Bromley. Representing around 2.6 million residents and 100,000 businesses (larger than cities of Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool combined), Local London champions the sub-region to ensure it responds to a set of mutual issues and challenges, and benefits from existing and emerging opportunities.
- 3.4 The Local London plan 'Towards 2026' provides a Framework for the SRP's delivery and sets out an ambitious vision for the future of the sub-region achievable through strong collaboration, partnership and a strong focus on people, place, and sustainability. The Plan identifies Local London's core ambition: providing a strong voice and maximising investment into the sub-region.
- 3.5 The document also summarises the benefits of Local London as follows:
- A stronger voice both in dealings with London Government bodies and Central Government as well as private sector investors
  - A platform to champion common issues that need amplifying with a focus on inclusive growth and the promotion of the sub-region to public and private investors to serve as a catalyst for inward investment
  - A strong focus on fundraising and income generation capacity for partners organisations; for example, bidding for grants or other support which will benefit Borough partners and improve outcomes for people living and working in the sub-region
  - Provision of data and analysis into the needs of Bromley and the rest of the sub-region to influence effective policies for places and people to support the development of Northeast and Southeast London

## Economic Development Delivery

3.6 Specific examples of economic development delivery undertaken since Bromley joined Local London, and **only possible because the Council joined the SRP**, include the following:

- **Strategic Infrastructure Fund (SIF)** – As per Report HPR 2023/033, and as part of Bromley’s Digital Infrastructure Work Plan (see Report No DRR 20/017), Bromley’s Economic Development team in partnership with Local London, secured £938k of SIF funding from the GLA and Transport for London (TfL). This c£1m investment opportunity was only available to the borough because of the Council’s membership of Local London SRP. It is funding a Works Funded by Grant (WFbG) programme which will enable the Council to deploy new dark fibre anchored at key sites across Bromley (including the borough’s library network, CCTV sites and a waste recycling depot). The connections to the libraries will both improve digital access at the library sites for the benefit of the service and residents using the on site ICT facilities; as well as being an anchor site to enable further connection to nearby sites.
- SIF has also leveraged additional investment from the providers (Boldyn/ITS) who have committed match funding of £450k to enable additional iSP/digital overlay services for commercial use by Bromley’s residents and businesses; this will deliver additional free connection fees (normally costing £1.5k per business) for c120 businesses within 250m – 1.7km of the new dark-fibre network. This new network investment is also expected to stimulate additional provision to residential and business premises by leveraging investment from the telecoms sector (i.e. ISPs or existing service/channel partners).
- In total, the SIF WFbG will deliver over 50km of new fibre infrastructure and new full-fibre broadband connectivity to Bromley’s five renewal areas (Bromley Common, Crystal Palace & Penge, Mottingham, Ravensbourne & Plaistow and the Cray Valley) and three economic growth / strategic areas (Bromley Town Centre, Crays Business Corridor and Biggin Hill Airport). The SIF WFbG has commenced delivery with a maximum delivery period of 10 months (ending in December 2024).
- **UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) People and Skills Investment Priority** – As per Report HPR 2023/040, the London Borough of Bromley in partnership with Local London, secured a total allocation of £734k of UKSPF grant funding to be used in the delivery of employment and skills projects in Bromley. This represented 100% additional investment to the borough only possible due to the borough’s membership of Local London SRP. It also addressed a delivery gap in the Council’s economic development service (i.e. support for residents furthest from the labour market) and created a delivery mechanism for effective use of future employment and skills funding post UKSPF. The Bromley People and Skills SPF programme consists of three strands delivered by a variety of internal/external partners:
  - The Good Work Bromley Exchange (£309k) – which has established the Borough’s first Employment and Skills Centre, at LSEC’s Orpington Campus, to support economically inactive Bromley residents to transition into employment, education, or training.
  - Supporting Care Leavers into Employment (£212k) – to support young care leavers to establish meaningful connections, build a strong peer-community network and find the confidence and support needed to move into sustainable employment, training, and education.
  - SEND Programme (£213k) – embedding a sustainable SEND employment offer to support the region’s young adults, aged 16-25 with additional needs into internships, employment, and training by the end of the funding period. This is of particular importance to Bromley given the rise in number of Education, Health, and Care Plans (EHCP) issued in the borough. The latest figures show 560 EHCPs were issued between January to December

2023 an increase of 35 per cent from the previous 12 months, bringing the total number of Bromley children and young people with an EHCP to 4,143 at the end of December 2023 (Source: Bromley SEND Governance Board: Performance Report Update (February 2024)).

- The programme officially launched on 23 January 2024 and will operate till March 2025 delivering a range of employment programme outputs and outcomes, including helping over 200 economically inactive people engage with key worker support and over 30 individuals into employment, including self-employment.
- The London E-Business Support Programme –Bromley businesses can now take advantage of a fully-funded package of support including: 121 expert advice, guidance, webinars, and events, which is specifically aimed at helping small business owners across London make better use of digital technology to enhance their online presence; attract more customers; increase sales and improve their business operations. This programme will run until March 2025.

Finally, the Council, working with Local London SRP, has an outstanding funding submission for an additional employment support programme: 'Universal NEET' which will support young people aged 16 to 24 who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) and are more ready to engage with the 'Universal' offer and achieve employment, education, or training outcomes. If successful, this would leverage a further £132k of funding into the borough.

#### Summary of Local London Impacts

3.7 Since joining Local London in December 2022, the London Borough of Bromley has secured significant benefits from the capital's fastest growing sub-region, specifically these include:

- Funding leverage and project outcomes – To date the Council has leveraged £2.1m of investment to date which represents a ratio of 14.1 (this does not include the potential additional £132k) against the cost of Local London membership (£150k) between 2022-23 to 2024-25. Other key benefits include: over 50km of new fibre infrastructure; new full-fibre broadband connectivity to Bromley's five renewal areas and three economic growth / strategic areas; 200 economically inactive people engage with key worker support and over 30 individuals supported into employment.
- Increased influence – Since joining the Local London SRP, the Council has an enhanced platform to access and shape the sub-regional economic policy agenda through the Council's Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation attendance at Joint Committee and attendance at Local London's relevant Officer Groups; for example, the Council actively shaped and co-owned the MOU discussions related to the UKSPF programme.
- Data, policy and good practice – Following membership of Local London SRP, Bromley can now access additional data and analysis (e.g. LightCast labour market statistics) which otherwise the Council would have to pay to access, as well as contribute to sub-regional messaging to London Government bodies and Central Government on specific challenges faced by the borough; for example, around skills and apprenticeships. Local London's sub-regional involvement in the Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) has also provided the foundations for a Bromley-specific future skills research and future skills strategy for the borough. Bromley Council Officers are also now able to work closely with colleagues from sub-regional partners to understand and implement good practices from across the Local London geography.

#### **4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN**

- 4.1 The Local London SRP delivers significant employment and skills programmes (e.g. the Careers Hub) focused on supporting those furthest from the labour market including economically inactive residents, young care leavers and/or young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The UKSPF funding will directly benefit vulnerable adults, and by extension support children through increasing household income.

#### **5. TRANSFORMATION/POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 All five of the Making Bromley Even Better priority areas can be supported through partnership working sub-regionally, as work covers a large breadth of areas including education, transport, health and economic development.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 This report carries no financial implications as it is an update report outlining the positive outcomes the Council has experienced by participating in Local London. This report serves to highlight the benefits accrued without any associated financial considerations.

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This report requests the Renewal, Recreation and Housing PDS Committee Members to note its contents.
- 7.2 As this report states, the London Borough of Bromley's Executive approved the Council joining Local London and signing the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) for the Local London SRP in February 2023.
- 7.3 In accordance with Chapter 4 of the Council's Constitution, it is for this Committee to review, "...working with partner organisations and groups including local businesses, business support agencies, sub-regional and regional organisations including the Learning and Skills Council, Small Business Service and London Development Agency. This would include monitoring the effectiveness of partnership working ...."

#### **8. CARBON REDUCTION/SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 Sustainability is a key focus of Local London's plan 'Towards 2026' with a commitment to deliver a sustainability agenda through all activities of the SRP. For example, there is specific focus on employment support focused on delivering current and future green jobs and skills across the sub-region.

#### **9. IMPACT ON BROMLEY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

- 9.1 Digital infrastructure and resident skills are both critically important enabling supply side factors in the growth and development of Bromley's economy. The outputs and outcomes delivered by the Local London SRP enabled Strategic Infrastructure Fund and UKSPF Employment and Skills programmes will make significant contributions to Bromley's economic development.

#### **10. IMPACT ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

- 10.1 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) People and Skills Investment Priority is focused on individuals furthest from the labour market including economically inactive Bromley residents, young care leavers and/or young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

(SEND); therefore, the programme will have significant impact on Bromley resident's health and wellbeing.

## 11. CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 11.1 Bromley businesses (of all sizes) and residents will stand to benefit from the Local London SRP enabled investment in the Strategic Infrastructure Fund and UK SPF Employment and Skills programme outlined above.

<b>Non-Applicable Headings:</b>	Personnel, Property implications, Procurement implications, Ward Councillor views,
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	[List any documents used in preparation of this report - Title of document and date]