



WLB CEO Update

December 2020

Dear colleague,

Through a tumultuous 2020 the WLB team has remained steadfast in progressing West London policy & action on: the built environment; climate change; transport and infrastructure; and education & skills. Our work has also expanded to include business support in response to COVID19 and the creative industries.



We delivered 35+ online events and the year reached a climax as 250+ delegates attended our Blue Skies Conference in late November, convened with the support of a huge network of partners. This provided the platform to introduce the West London Innovation District concept that will be developed further as we start 2021.

In November the WLB board were proud to commit to becoming a [UN Global Compact](#) signatory and we are now in the process of joining the [UN Global Compact Network UK](#). This makes the values and intent of WLB and our membership unambiguous: We ensure West London is the best place to do business by working with our members and partners to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals locally.

This Autumn we have welcomed a number of new members including: Aviserv, Dynamic Training, IBB Law, Reach Food Service and Splendid Hospitality Group.

As we come to the end of the toughest of years for West London I hope all this offers you some evidence for hope that our local economy will pull through this crisis and build back in 2021 through a combination of innovation, hard graft and the many advantages of our location.

Have a wonderful Christmas break and peaceful New Year,

Andrew Dakers

Chief Executive

Rebuilding our businesses and communities in 2021



The Blue Skies Conference 2020 took place on Friday 20 November as over 250 delegates joined West London, UK and global thought leaders for the virtual event. The conference is now available to view via the WLB YouTube channel. Uploaded as individual sessions, you can choose to view the event in full or dip in to selected panels and discussions that took place on the day.

[Read more >>](#)



Introduced at the Blue Skies Conference 2020, the West London Innovation District will provide a new platform for business and industry, research institutions and government to come together to secure larger scale opportunities for new investment growth and jobs in key opportunity areas. Sign up to the policy statement and show your readiness to participate in its development.

[Read more >>](#)

West London Business Awards 2021 shortlist announced!



[The shortlist for the West London Business Awards 2021 has been revealed](#), putting a spotlight on the very best of business in the sub-region. Many shortlisted businesses attended the WLB Christmas Reception on Thursday 3 December where plans

for the **online award ceremony on Thursday 4 February 2021** were announced. You can now [book to attend as a guest](#) for just £19+VAT (£29+VAT non-members).

Business support

Applications are open for Support Grants (Local/National Restrictions and Additional Restrictions). These grant schemes are for qualifying businesses that have been either forced to close or adapt their activities by central government due to coronavirus. Grants are being administered by Local Authorities, check your eligibility: [Barnet](#), [Brent](#), [Ealing](#), [Harrow](#), [Hammersmith & Fulham](#), [Hillingdon](#), [Hounslow](#), [Richmond](#) and [Spelthorne](#).

Business advice and support is available from the London Business Hub for qualifying businesses.

Sessions can cover a wide range of topics relevant to small businesses, helping you to navigate the challenges you face from the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read more >>](#)

Policy watch

With the full impact of Brexit on the horizon and elements of the UK transition still unclear, there is no better time to get your business 'Brexit Ready'. The Brexit Ready podcast series, recorded over the summer, gives four practical examples of Brexit's impacts on business' across London and provides insights from experts on how to respond.

[Read more >>](#)

[CIGRE](#) (The International Council on Large Electric Systems), in conjunction with [Better Futures](#) is hosting two sessions to bring together SMEs and some of the largest players in the UK Energy Supply industry. Each session provides an opportunity to

Member news

Heathrow expansion given go-ahead by Supreme Court

Airport emphasises their commitment to green strategies for expansion as latest barrier removed for third runway.

[More >>](#)

FREE West London Creative Producers peer mentoring programme

A Mayor of London supported programme for the creative sector in Hounslow and neighbouring boroughs.

[More >>](#)

Hounslow's creative sector receives a welcome boost for job creation

Hounslow's creative sector gains half a million pounds in a jobs boost. A timely win for the borough's economic recovery ambitions.

[More >>](#)

examine what collaboration really looks like when it comes to innovation in the UK energy supply industry.

[Read more >>](#)

Top tips for a healthy happy workforce



Many employers invest in Group Income Protection for their employees to provide support if they are unable to work due to long-term sickness or injury.

However, most of these schemes also come with a range of additional benefits which can be particularly valuable in physically and mentally supporting your team during this continued period of remote working.

[Read more >>](#)

New report from PwC looks at the way ahead



PwC has launched a new private business report that will be relevant and insightful to members. The report is called "Private business: the way ahead" and analyses the impact of COVID-19 for privately owned companies, looking at the road ahead.

[Read more >>](#)

Property exchanges up 11% despite second lockdown – Knight Frank data

The early days of a second national lockdown in England bear little resemblance to the first for the property market, reports WLB member Knight Frank.

[More >>](#)

Replacing the reactive with the proactive: Timeless IMS provide clarity on the future of your technology roadmap.

Learn about the solution Timeless provided a recent airline catering client that delivers the finest ingredients from around the globe.

[More >>](#)

Pinewood Studios to help former Heathrow workers retrain for screen industry careers

Jobseekers previously employed at Heathrow Airport are being lined up for careers in screen industries.

[More >>](#)

