



WLB CEO Update

March 2020

Dear colleague,

I know from conversations with many local business leaders over the past few weeks the pressure you are experiencing from **Coronavirus**. As emphasised in my last email, do utilise our [preparedness resource](#) for Government and expert insights on actions that will help minimise the impact on your people and operations.



West London has been rarely out of the national news in the last couple of weeks. Top of the agenda has been **Heathrow's expansion plans** being put on pause by a ruling at the Court of Appeal last week. In [our immediate reaction West London Business & Heathrow restated the critical contribution that Heathrow makes to the West London and the Prime Minister's vision of Global Britain](#), and I also shared [more personal reflections on PoliticsHome](#). We highlighted the global leadership that Heathrow is now providing the aviation sector on climate change, including in [our immediate reaction as the news broke to the BBC's Victoria Derbyshire Show](#). *We will monitor Heathrow's Supreme Court challenge of the judgement closely, and hope that plans are quickly put back on track.*

Elsewhere, the future of **HS2** has fortunately become clearer. Following last month's [approval from the Prime Minister](#), HS2 Ltd has put forward its [planning submission to OPDC, setting out its designs for the new London super-hub](#). The HS2 Old Oak Common station will provide a world-class interchange with the Elizabeth Line and provide vital additional north-south rail capacity.

In early February [the seventh West London Business Awards put the spotlight on the best of business in our area](#). In a stellar celebration of success at Twickenham Stadium, hosted by Gaby Roslin, **Wrapology** was crowned West London Company of the Year 2020 for, amongst other things, putting

environmental sustainability at the heart of their business model. Last Friday we visited the company with their local MP Rupa Huq who was keen to learn more about the business.

As always I am just an e-mail or call away if you would like to discuss any concerns or new opportunities.

Best wishes,



Andrew Dakers

Chief Executive

Coronavirus COVID-19 Preparedness for business



West London Business has prepared a dedicated Coronavirus Business Support resource, which is updated daily. With the latest information from the UK Government, WHO and other relevant sources such as ACAS and Resilience First, find the latest information, including contingency planning and HR guidance.

[Read more >>](#)



WLB Member Smart Currency Business takes a look at how Coronavirus is disrupting different sectors and currencies. Global markets have already taken a hit from the outbreak and giants such as Apple, Amazon and Facebook are feeling the effects as result of China's slowing production.

[Read more >>](#)

West London Spring Property Lunch



[Join us at the first property lunch of the year and enjoy networking in a fantastic setting!](#) The West London Spring Property Lunch will take place at Fulham Palace on Friday 27 March. The theme of the lunch, supported by Better Futures and WSP, is CleanTech and sustainable construction. *Precautions will be in place to manage Coronavirus risks and we will follow the latest advice from Public Health England.*

Policy watch

The WLB Education & Skills Commission 2018 report recommended as part of a 'gold standard' for education-business partnership the development of a West London Essential Skills framework. This task has been taken on by the WLB Education & Skills Working Group, and our recent research has led us to review and endorse the framework developed by The Skills Builder Partnership, which is already being adopted by Heathrow and a number of other significant local employers.

[Read more >>](#)

Harrow Council's economic development team is conducting an online survey to learn about the borough's current business climate. Completing the questionnaire will help the Council to target their support and shape projects to areas of need that you have identified. Please help the team by completing this and promoting it other local businesses operating in Harrow - it will only take a few minutes to complete.

[Read more >>](#)

The Bank of England's Lai Wah Co shares how the Policy Committee (MPC) met in January 2020 to decide on the appropriate level of Bank Rate—the

Member news

Need a new printing solution for your business? allINKlusive has you covered

allINKlusive is an always-on print at your service (PAYS) platform for small businesses. WLB members can now benefit from a 10% discount at their online store - contact elliott.parker@westlondon.com for more details or log in to the WLB member area for details of how to redeem the offer.

New WLB member offers from Hyatt Place West London Hayes

Fellow WLB members offered a discount on

official base rate of interest in the UK. The MPC also updated its forecasts for economic growth and inflation.

[Read more >>](#)

Business support

WorkHounslow, part of London Borough of Hounslow, is launching a brand new programme aimed at supporting the borough's micro businesses (all businesses from 1-10 members of staff) to achieve and grow. Working in partnership with three local organisations for delivery as well as Hounslow Chamber of Commerce, WorkHounslow will be supporting 100 small businesses in the borough to survive and thrive.

[Read more >>](#)

Ealing Council has launched Fit to Bid with Branduin Business Support. The programme of ten workshops is designed to help businesses master the art & science of bid writing. It is fully funded for businesses that are successful in an initial 'Bid Capability Assessment'.

[Read more >>](#)

The London Growth Hub has launched a new initiative that provides FREE face-to-face Business Support to London based businesses with the West London advisor based at WLB member Huddle in Hammersmith. The aim of the programme is to help businesses 'unlock growth, investment and make productivity improvements'.

[Read more >>](#)

**Brent Business Expo 2020 -
Wednesday 22 April**

business travel rates as well as your Day Delegate Rates for corporate events and meetings. Members can contact elliott.parker@westlondon.com for details or log in to the WLB member area.

Introducing Verlingue: Insurance Brokers & Employee Benefits

New WLB member Verlingue stands ready to offer to provide a free and confidential risk management and benefits benchmarking review for fellow WLB members.

[More >>](#)

How will the changes to off-payroll working or IR35 status affect you?

Moore Kingston Smith invites businesses in West London to a complimentary seminar focusing on how the off-payroll working rule changes have widened to the private sector. These are fundamental changes to the way businesses engage individuals providing their services through a company to your business.

[More >>](#)



Brent Business Expo 2020, the borough's first B2B expo run by Brent for Business, is coming to the Sattavis Centre, Wembley, on 22 April. Brent for Business is organising the free event, which will provide companies with a great opportunity to celebrate their business and network to create new leads and extend their client bases.

[Read more >>](#)

The latest tax insights from WLB member Bright Grahame Murray

The end of the 2019/20 tax year is approaching and Bright Grahame Murray have shared their insights for [year end tax planning time](#) and what lies ahead with [the new government's tax plans](#) for business.

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