

IN THIS ISSUE: WLB Property Lunches restart with catering from Cote at Home | £5000 Green Innovation Vouchers go live | London West Innovation District | Additional Restrictions Grant schemes | AND MORE...

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WLB CEO Update

March 2021

Dear colleague,

For many local businesses and members of WLB times remain tough, but there is now hope with the promise of lockdown easing and also in this year's [Edelman Trust Barometer](#): At WLB we have always believed business can be a force for good, so it was encouraging to see trust in business rising this year in 18 of 27 countries surveyed.



One way all local business leaders can support West London's recovery is [encouraging your staff to complete their census returns](#). Much government funding is distributed on a per capita basis, so we need to make sure all West Londoners are counted!

It's taken a while but [WLB's Kickstart gateway](#) is now fully mobilised and its not too late to sign up for these fully funded six month placements for young people, just [email Clara Haglund](#). if you are interested in the **traineeships** alternative then please contact our new member [Inspire ATA](#).

In this issue you can find our more about our forthcoming **Property Lunch** exploring how the market and policy is changing in West London; the Better Futures Plus **Green Innovation Voucher scheme**; plus a series of **Trade Beyond Brexit webinars** we are delivering over the coming month with Hounslow Chamber of Commerce, supported by the London Growth Hub.

As well as our new colleague **Rohan Gupta**, who joins as Policy & Events Coordinator, I am also delighted to welcome **new members**: Business Education Events, Origin Oils, PreSols, 2k Tiger, Branduin Business Support, The Oak Network, Olwg Ltd, Pest Rescue London, Sahan Cares, The Hayward Partnership and Inspire ATA.

Finally look out for news on **Race to Zero #WestLondon** a UN/ WLB initiative to support your business

put in place and deliver on Science Based Targets for carbon reduction in this year of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow.

Best wishes,



Andrew Dakers

Chief Executive

West London as the Innovation Hub of the Capital

Better Futures

Part funded by

**GREATER
LONDON
AUTHORITY**



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



**LONDON WEST
INNOVATION
DISTRICT**

**ATTAINING ZERO
CARBON AVIATION**

Building on the success of the established Better Futures Programme, 2021 brings the exciting announcement of [Better Futures+](#) providing yet more support to London's vibrant SMEs.

This expansion to the programme includes the Green Innovation Voucher Scheme, enabling London SMEs from Food; Hospitality; Film & Creative sectors to apply for support for green business transformation from specialist consultancies worth £5,000.

[Read more & apply >>](#)

The first stakeholder meeting of the new London West Innovation District took place on Thursday 18 March after [launch at the Blue Skies Conference last year](#).

Speakers at the senior roundtable included the Aviation Minister Robert Courts MP, Katy Racina, CBI's Senior Policy Adviser for London and Matt Gorman, Head of Carbon Strategy for Heathrow Airport. The agenda focussed on the decarbonisation of flight and local transformation plans for digital logistics and cargo.

[Read more >>](#)

West London Property Lunches are back!



The West London Spring Property Lunch will take place online, with catering by Cote at Home and plenty of time for networking as always!

Our panel discussing the future of development and planning policy in West London post-pandemic:

Cllr Muhammed Butt, Leader, Brent Council

André Gibbs, Partner, Argent Related - leading on Brent Cross Town

Lucy Taylor, Director of Growth and Sustainability, Ealing Council

Shaylesh Patel, Director and Trustee at ASTOP Limited and Use Aid Charity

[Read more >>](#)

Business support

Harrow Council's Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) scheme is now open for applications until Monday 29 March. To qualify for the grant, you must have been trading on the first full day of national or local tier 2 restrictions (5 November 2020). Businesses that are in administration, insolvent or where a striking-off notice has been made, are not eligible.

[Read more >>](#)

Businesses from other West London Boroughs are strongly encouraged to check the website of their local authority for the latest on their ARG schemes - or call the WLB Business Support Helpline on **020 8607 2500**

WLB member BDO has launched a comprehensive post-Brexit FAQ, addressing a variety of issues relating to international trade. The FAQ contains a

Member news

The latest insights on CGT Reporting from Lawrence Grant

Lawrence Grant work hand-in-hand with their clients for the long-term, creating bespoke tax plans and handling all the details behind the scenes. In their latest insights, they look at changes in Capital Gains Tax (CGT) reporting.

[More >>](#)

selection of webinars and tools to help you navigate the new regulations post Brexit.

[Read more >>](#)

Delivered by the West London Export Club and in partnership with London Business Hub, the Trade Beyond Brexit Webinar Series will cover a selection of key issues for London businesses looking to trade overseas. The first of these webinars takes place on Wednesday 31 March, looking at new markets with a focus on the UAE. Registration is now open for all four webinars:

[New markets - Focus: UAE. Wednesday 31 March](#)

[New Incoterms and VAT. Thursday 22 April](#)

[Export Trade Finance. Thursday 29 April](#)

[Export Essentials. Thursday 6 May](#)

Policy watch

Freedom of movement with the EU has ended and the UK has introduced a points-based immigration system. You now need to register as a licensed sponsor to hire most people living outside the UK and must check that they meet certain job, salary and language requirements.

[Read more >>](#)

A new HGV safety permit based on the new Direct Vision Standard (DVS) is required for all HGVs over 12 tonnes driving within Greater London. DVS is a key part of the Mayor of London's Vision Zero plan to eliminate all deaths and serious injuries on London's streets.

[Read more >>](#)

Spark! seeking employer volunteers and work experience placements

Westfield launches 'Future Fashion' initiative

Westfield London is launching 'Future Fashion' a sustainable design competition in collaboration with the Royal College of Art who are based next to the centre at White City. The search will unveil London creatives that prioritise sustainability in their creation process.

[More >>](#)

Ibis Styles London Ealing ready to reopen

Sylvie Gallon, The General Manager of Ibis Styles London Ealing, is looking forward to throwing open the doors once again from 17 May.

[More >>](#)

Olwg joins The Greenhouse Programme

Brentford-based clean energy project screening startup Olwg Ltd recently won a space on the prestigious climate action innovation programme The Greenhouse (run by Imperial College) after fending off stiff competition.

[More >>](#)

At this critical time of Post-Covid recovery, Spark! is seeking employer partners based in Ealing, Hammersmith & Fulham and Brent. [Spark! currently partner with approximately 700 local, national and international businesses every year](#); including GSK, Sky, Ecoworld, Heathrow, as well as hundreds of SMEs. Register your interest for your business to partner with Spark to ensure that the next generation of school leavers are well prepared for sustained employment and rewarding careers.

[Express your interest >>](#)

Virtual Mock Employment Tribunal Hearing from IBB Law

Due to the high demand for the first event, IBB Law will shortly be re-running their hugely popular Virtual Mock Employment Tribunal Hearing!

[More >>](#)

Interested in recruiting a placement student? Let your workplace be the platform for a young person to build their skills - connect with the Professional Development Centre at Brunel University London and [register your interest](#).



**Recruit a
Placement Student**

Strengthen your leadership and mentoring skills, and get a fresh approach to challenges.

Connect with Brunel to find out more.

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