



Business, Planning and
Transport Policy and
Scrutiny Committee
Briefing

Date: 8th February 2018

Briefing of: Councillor Robert Davis MBE DL, Deputy
Leader and Cabinet Member for Business,
Culture and Heritage

Please contact: Daniella Bonfanti ext. 5371
dbonfanti@westminster.gov.uk

1. Apprenticeships

Westminster City Council

- 1.1 From 1 April 2017, Westminster City Council will pay 0.5% of its total annual pay cost as an apprenticeship levy. The levy fund can be used to pay for apprenticeship training and assessment against an approved apprenticeship standard for both existing staff and for new apprentice recruits.
- 1.2 The City Council has engaged with the Westminster Adult Education Service (WAES) as its employer-provider to manage the delivery of apprenticeships under the new apprenticeship levy arrangements. There will be two aspects to this, the Entry Level Programme (Level 2 & 3) for New Apprentice Starts and the Higher Level (Level 4 and above) Apprenticeship Programme for internal staff.
- 1.3 WCC has engaged with the Westminster Adult Education Service as its employer-provider to manage the delivery of apprenticeships under the new apprenticeship levy arrangements.
- 1.4 Since August last year thirty-two apprentices have been recruited through special recruitment days run by WAES.
- 1.5 Of our 43 apprentices that started in 2015, 17 have gone on to secure permanent roles within the City Council helping to support the people and businesses in Westminster.
- 1.6 The next round of apprentice recruitment is scheduled for early 2018.

2. Broadband

Connect Westminster

- 2.1 The Connect Westminster Programme helps local Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) to secure superfast or ultrafast broadband by providing up to £2,000 towards the capital cost of their connections. All connections must deliver speeds of at least 30MB/s but have the capability of being configured to deliver gigabit speeds.
- 2.2 The table below is an update on consequential improvements to business connectivity in Westminster since Connect Westminster in August.

Number of SME applicants	177
Total funds committed to date	£290,272.17
Download speed uplift for new applicants (%)	1,814%
Upload speed uplift for new applicants (%)	15,218%

- 2.3 As a direct consequence of the voucher scheme, Hyperoptic, a proactive broadband provider in the borough, has accelerated the rollout of its fibre network within Westminster. The new deployment has enabled the firm to offer affordable broadband to every eligible SME within Westminster.

Creative Enterprise Zones

- 2.4 Creative Enterprise Zones are a new initiative led by the Greater London Authority (GLA) intended to recognise areas of London where artists and creative businesses can put down roots and where creative activity can be supported.
- 2.5 These Zones will offer incentives to retain and attract artists and creative businesses by offering affordable workspace, business and skills support, business rates relief, superfast broadband and pro-culture local plans.
- 2.6 The GLA is currently offering ten grants of £50,000 to test the feasibility of Creative Enterprise Zones in London. The development grant can be used to fund research and prepare a costed action plan.
- 2.7 An Expression of Interest has been submitted to the GLA on the development of a Creative Enterprise Zone in Westminster. Should Westminster be successful in the bid it would bring resources to the Council to enhance and accelerate the existing activities to support the sector.
- 2.8 The Creative Sector in Westminster houses 8% of the UK's jobs in this industry, employing over 95,000 people. Westminster is also home to several already established creative clusters as well as those that are emerging.

3. The Good Growth Fund

- 3.1 The Good Growth Fund is a £70m regeneration programme administered by the GLA to support growth and community development in London. The GLA will work with the London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP) and the capital fund to support projects that are inclusive, innovative and which demonstrate an approach to tackle the challenges faced across London.
- 3.2 The Good Growth Fund has been designed to support three strategic themes: 1) Empowering People, 2) Making Better Places and 3) Growing Prosperity. The fund encourages cross-cutting proposals that secure the long-term social, environmental and economic sustainability of London, although projects are also able to focus on one or two of the themes within proposals.
- 3.3 Following an initial call at the beginning of September for Expressions of Interest, 'Project Church Street' successfully progressed to the next stage of the GLA application process.

- 3.4 The Good Growth Fund for Project Church Street was submitted by the City Council on 5th January.
- 3.5 The bid is a collection of small interventions that, as a whole, will allow further support for the local business community. The project is designed to encourage new enterprise and also existing local businesses.
- 3.6 Through a partnership with The Showroom and Farrell's, two local partners, the project looks to build on the creative and cultural assets in the area.
- 3.7 If successful, the project will be asked to engage in a funding agreement by the end of March 2018 with the three-year programme of activity beginning on the 1st April 2018.

4. Recruit London

- 4.1 Recruit London is a free local recruitment service for businesses. Workplace Coordinators train and place out of work residents into jobs across central London.
- 4.2 The service is delivered in partnership by the City Council, Cross River Partnership, and other local stakeholders.
- 4.3 Since the beginning of the financial year and up to the end of Quarter 3 Recruit London has helped 151 residents into employment with employers such as Debenhams and New Look.
- 4.4 Recruit London is also supporting the delivery of an internal target set by the City Council to provide 30 work related opportunities for unemployed residents by the end of March 2018.
- 4.5 Over the recent months Recruit London has secured new ties with companies such as The Hyatt, Villandry and Lloyds Banking Group.

5. Westminster Employment Service (WES)

- 5.1 The Westminster Employment Service provides free help to unemployed residents who need help training for and finding a job.
- 5.2 Since the beginning of the financial year and up to the end of Quarter 3, 551 residents have been supported into employment by the Westminster Employment Service; of those 272 were long term unemployed.

Outreach & referrals

- 5.3 The Westminster Employment Service continues to run weekly drop-in session for residents of the Ebury Bridge Estate. The service is being promoted through posters and flyers at GP surgeries, health centres, supermarkets and faith and children's centres.

Licensing

6. Consultation on proposed changes to Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures (Department of Culture Media and Sport)

- 6.1 Officers have now submitted a response to the government's proposals concerning gaming machines and social responsibility measures for gambling operators.
- 6.2 The primary focus of this consultation surrounds the evidence base to justify a change to gaming machines in betting shops. These machines, commonly referred to as fixed odds betting terminals (FOBTs), currently have a maximum stake of £100 and a maximum prize of £500. There has been significant concern, and now evidence, to suggest that these machines create a risk to those who are more susceptible to gambling related harm
- 6.3 The Council's response is supportive of the vast majority of the Government's proposals. Our position is to support the option to reduce the maximum stake to £2 - this brings the maximum stake in line with other machines within that same category and also creates the least risk to the player.

7. The Windmill Theatre

- 7.1 On 26th September 2017 the Licensing Authority received a renewal application for the SEV licence for The Windmill, 17-19 Great Windmill Street.
- 7.2 During the consultation period, an objection was received in relation to the application in which the objectors alleged that the club allows groping, punching and slapping of the performers. The objectors also stated that there were breaches to licence conditions.
- 7.3 Westminster, as the Licensing Authority, raised an objection to the application on the grounds of allegations of multiple breaches of conditions and allegations of criminal activity taking place. Submissions from the Licensing Authority, included CCTV footage of breaches of licence conditions, and detailed summaries of the individual dances; some of this evidence is very explicit.
- 7.4 City Inspectors also raised an objection to the application, stating that an investigation into the management of the venue would be carried out. During this investigation, the City Inspectors noted breaches of licence conditions.
- 7.5 After further meetings and discussions with the applicant, the City Inspectors stated that there had been a marked improvement in the management of the premises and provided a detailed submission of their full investigation which was appended to the report.
- 7.6 After careful review of the evidence provided for and against the renewal of this sexual entertainment licence, Westminster City Council decided not to renew this venue's licence. We expect any business operating under a licence within our City, to do so in

a safe and responsible way, ensuring protection of all those who come into contact with this form of entertainment.”

7.7 The decision will come into force on the 16th February and the operator has the right to appeal the decision.

8. Evening and night time economy (ENTE) Vision Statement

8.1 I am currently working with officers to develop a “vision statement”. The objective of the statement to articulate a clear vision and set of ambitions that determine what the Westminster ENTE should aspire to.

8.2 Once formalised the vision statement will provide a comprehensive framework for longer term policy change that sets clear standards for how we will work with the ENTE industry to promote an even better environment for residents, visitors, businesses and responsible growth.

8.3 Work is currently being undertaken by officers to gather an up to date localised evidence base on Westminster’s ENTE to provide the platform on which to build and develop the vision development.

9. Markets

Berwick Street Market

9.1 The application process for permanent street trading licences for vacant pitches on Berwick Street Market opened last spring.

9.2 In September 2017 a specially convened Licensing Sub Committee considered 47 applications for pitches on Berwick Street market. The applications received outnumber the pitches available, which demonstrates the popularity of this location.

9.3 Through this process 15 new traders are joining the market with 7 already in place. All new traders should have joined the market by the end of the month with the delay down to waiting for equipment and stalls to be delivered, recruiting assistants and waiting until Christmas had passed before launching their new businesses.

9.4 Once all the traders have joined the market the pitches will be full on Wednesday and Thursday, with only a few vacancies on other weekdays.

9.5 The breakdown is shown below:

	Takeaway Food (New Traders)	Fresh Produce (New Traders)	Non-food (New Traders)	Vacant Pitches
Monday	19 (8)	7 (1)	1 (0)	3
Tuesday	21 (10)	7 (1)	1 (0)	1

Wednesday	21 (11)	8 (2)	1 (0)	0
Thursday	20 (9)	8 (2)	2 (1)	0
Friday	20 (10)	7 (1)	2 (1)	1
Saturday	7 (5)	7 (1)	2 (1)	14

- 9.6 Existing traders have been made aware of the arrival of new traders and stalls with officers working to ensure that logistics such as parking, unloading and street access are managed and available to all traders.

Kemp House Broadband

- 9.7 I am delighted that PMB, the developer of Kemp House, has agreed to provide residents with a year of free broadband. The network will also eventually serve local businesses and officers are looking at the potential opportunity to explore the provision of free Wi-Fi for the traders on Berwick Street Market.

Market Curator

- 9.8 As part of the myWestminster Programme announced at Council on the 8th November a Market Curator has now been employed to co-ordinate and support the improvement of Westminster's markets.
- 9.9 The role will focus on promoting Westminster's markets to new traders from leading markets across the country in order to improve and diversify the offer currently available.

10. Bond Street Public Realm Improvement Scheme

- 10.1 The £9.85m public realm improvements to Bond Street commenced in April. Works are progressing in line with the agreed programme and budget. The scheme will reach completion in late summer 2018 ahead of the arrival of Crossrail 1 in December 2018.
- 10.2 The aim of the scheme is to improve the public realm throughout Bond Street and provide a safe and secure environment for pedestrians. Wider pavements will improve accessibility, while the use of natural materials in a high quality design will emphasise the importance of Bond Street as a destination.
- 10.3 On the 7th November I was delighted to be present at the unveiling of the newly restored 'Allies' sculpture. The unveiling marked the completion of phase one of the Bond Street public realm works, which includes the pedestrian area between Grafton Street and Clifford Street.
- 10.4 The life-size public work of Churchill and Roosevelt became a popular landmark after it was given a permanent home on Bond Street in 1995 to mark 50 years of peace since the end of World War II.

11. Baker Street Two Way Project

- 11.1 Works on site started on 24th July and progress has been as per the programme schedule. The project is being delivered in three phases. During Phase 1, work concentrated on the various junctions of Gloucester Place.
- 11.2 Phase 2, which starts this month will focus on three junctions of Marylebone Road – Upper Montagu Street, Gloucester Place and Baker Street. In order to carry out these works there will be one lane closure on each side of Marylebone Road for five months. In addition, works will also be undertaken on Park Road/ Rossmore Road junction and two junctions on Baker Street, south of Marylebone Road.
- 11.3 Phase 3 will involve works to various junctions of Baker Street, both north and south of Marylebone Road. Works on all junctions are expected to be completed by end of 2018.
- 11.4 The two-way switch and associated works are programmed for early 2019, with exact dates yet to be finalised.
- 11.5 A weekly email update is sent to all stakeholders who have registered for regular updates. The project website is regularly updated to provide the latest information on on-going works.

12. Hanover Square

- 12.1 Earlier this month I and other responsible Cabinet Members, signed a Cabinet Member Report to commission a detailed design stage and to carry out further consultation specifically on the traffic management orders required for delivery of public realm scheme.
- 12.2 Consultation on the proposed traffic orders started on the 19th January.
- 12.3 Once the results have been analysed a third and final Cabinet Member Report will be drafted seeking approval to implement this scheme. The project has been designed to be delivered in stages as soon as sites become available, to provide safe access into and out of the new Crossrail Station.
- 12.4 A phased programme is being developed to enable the public realm improvements to be delivered around the Crossrail and associated over-station development works and other adjacent development sites. This will prioritise laying paving immediately outside the new station entrance ahead of the opening of the station in December 2018. Subject to the outcome of the consultation and site access being provided, these works are planned to start on site in summer 2018.
- 12.5 A funding package is being brought together to include private sector contributions, use of s106 funds, Crossrail and Transport for London contributions, and an allocation from the City Council's Community Infrastructure Levy.
- 12.6 When complete, the scheme will deliver significantly increased and enhanced pedestrian space, with pedestrianisation of the west side of the square and controlled vehicular access into Tenterden Street to limit the potential for pedestrian and vehicle conflicts. New high quality materials will be used throughout the square and this scheme will be linked to adjacent improvement schemes including those currently underway in Bond Street and Brook Street and the proposals currently being consulted on for Oxford Street West.
- 12.7 The comments received during the first consultation have been taken into account with stakeholders adjacent to the square and Historic England being largely positive about the proposals.
- 12.8 The loss of mature, historic trees from the square was a concern expressed by many respondents. Overall the scheme provides a net increase of trees. The four trees suggested for removal are more recent, late 20th century specimens and their removal would assist with the overall improvement to the square and gardens. Further work is to develop a detailed design and layout of the gardens is still to be carried out however no historic, mature trees will be lost in the design.

13. Oxford Street District Transformation

- 13.1 The City Council, Transport for London (TfL), and the Mayor of London are working together to transform Oxford Street and the surrounding streets.
- 13.2 Westminster City Council (WCC), the Greater London Authority (GLA) and Transport for London (TfL) launched a second joint consultation on 6th November. This second round of consultation sought comments on a defined scheme to transform Oxford Street West.
- 13.3 The Consultation deadline was extended to Wednesday 3rd January 2018 to allow all those with an interest in the future of Oxford Street more time over the festive period to submit feedback on the proposals.
- 13.4 Approximately 20,000 responses were received and officers are currently analysing all responses in order to produce a detailed Consultation Response report.

14. City Promotions, Events and Filming

- 14.1 The last two months have brought with them the usual variety of events and filming activity being successfully managed by the team.
- 14.2 Filming for the motion picture Christopher Robin and Johnny English 3 took place at multiple locations throughout the City.

MTV European Music Awards

- 14.3 Working with partners at the GLA the team helped to deliver a live concert in Trafalgar Square as part of the prestigious MTV European Music Awards which featured headline performances from David Guetta and U2.

Christmas Lights

- 14.4 Festive lights across the City including high-profile switch on events on Oxford Street Regent Street and Trafalgar Square.

Lumiere

- 14.5 Following the success of the inaugural festival of light last year, its return was bigger, brighter and bolder. Over 50 art installations were spread across London – the majority being in Westminster and beyond - showcasing the city's iconic architecture and streets through the vision and work of UK and international artists.
- 14.6 Visitor numbers have been estimated at 1.5 million visits over the four nights which is an increase on 2016, bringing key footfall into Westminster at what is ordinarily a very quiet time of year.

Green Plaque Scheme

14.7 There are now 120 green plaques around Westminster to celebrate the life and works of individuals and organisations that have made contributions that have, in many cases, extended well beyond our borders.

Upcoming unveilings:

14.8 William Somerset Maugham at 2 Wyndham Place. Somerset Maugham was a novelist and playwright and lived at the property from 1919 until 1923. The plaque will be installed by the end of January.

14.9 Wilton's Restaurant at 55 Jermyn Street. Established in St James's by George William Wilton. Noted for their finest shellfish, seafood and game. Purveyor of Oysters to the Royal Household 1838-1938. The plaque will be installed ahead of a formal unveiling on 10th May.

14.10 Anthony Powell at 9 Shepherd Street where he lived and worked. Powell was the author of the acclaimed twelve volume work 'A Dance to the Music of Time', as well as working as a celebrated critic and reviewer. Installation and unveiling to be confirmed.