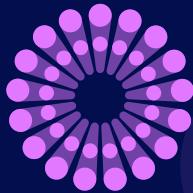


# London Growth Plan: nine-month update



LONDON  
GROWTH PLAN

MAYOR OF LONDON

LONDON  
COUNCILS

## Highlights from Laura Citron OBE, Growth Mission Lead

Dear Team London friends and colleagues,

We're now nine months in and it's exciting to see London mobilise behind our growth plan.

We created the plan to give us all a shared direction of travel. If you're doing something towards it, please [email us](#) and shout about it. You're welcome to use the London Growth Plan logo on your relevant activity – get the [toolkit](#).

An update against each of the year one actions is shared below. Please join the [WhatsApp channel](#) for weekly updates and opportunities to get involved.

Some of the big things that have happened since my last update, starting with the autumn budget...

- **New towns and housing.** Crews Hill and Chase Park identified as two of the most promising new town sites, and the DLR extension to Thamesmead confirmed to unlock thousands of new homes and jobs.
- **Tourism levy.** The Treasury is consulting on new powers for mayors to charge a levy on hotel stays to fund growth.
- **Funding for local councils.** Seven London boroughs already rely on emergency borrowing. The Fair Funding Review – although less bad than initially proposed – will hit some boroughs' finances very hard.
- **Funding for the Greater London Authority (GLA).** The move to a more flexible Integrated Settlement is helpful but the end of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – with no replacement – has cut off the main source of funding for economic development activity in the capital.
- **Venture capital investment is up.** It has grown significantly compared to last year, and London leads the world for investment in AI for life sciences.
- **Crime is falling.** Crime in London is down across the board. The Metropolitan Police has been particularly focused on street robbery in the West End and retail crime, both of which hamper growth.
- **Strategies and plans.** The London Growth Plan prompted a number of more specific strategies and plans, starting with the Inclusive Talent Strategy, local growth plans and a new three-year strategy for London & Partners.

## Coming up between now and March...

- **Getting (better) organised.** Reviewing all the growth-focused public/private advisory boards, task forces and similar to see if we can be more efficient, effective and inclusive.
- **London storytelling.** Creating London's official narrative for our priority sectors and bringing Team London together to tell our story around the world. In the meantime, **London's strengths** are the key talking points.
- **London Infrastructure Framework** refreshed to set out what London needs for the next decades in water, energy, transport, waste, data centres and digital connectivity.

Thank you everyone for all you are doing to make London the world's best city (**it's official!**) – even when the going feels tough.

Wishing you all the best for the end of 2025,

Laura



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## Inclusive talent strategy

	One-year actions	Three-month update	Status
1	<b>Publish the Inclusive Talent Strategy</b>	The Inclusive Talent Strategy was jointly launched by the Mayor of London and London Councils with £147m investment to transform London's skills system into an engine of growth and opportunity, helping unlock at least 150,000 high-quality jobs.	✓
2	<b>Pilot the new integrated approach to help economically inactive and young Londoners</b>	All five of London's Get Britain Working trailblazers are now in delivery, including four managed directly by the sub-regional partnerships and one youth trailblazer managed by the GLA. National approval has been granted for a second year to extend delivery and deepen learning.	●●●
3	<b>Start to change the way London commissions adult education</b>	The 2025-26 Adult Skills Fund Delivery Plan requires providers to align training provision with the London Growth Plan and Inclusive Talent Strategy. The London Talent Pathways Fund will support about 21,000 Londoners annually to access vocational skills, with pilot sector boards shaping provision to meet employer demand.	●●●
4	<b>Launch a new fund to reduce key skills gaps holding back growth</b>	In addition to the Inclusive Talent Strategy-related funding, Wave 6 of the Skills Bootcamps for Londoners programme secured £30m funding (including £3m from the Department for Education for construction skills) to support more than 8,000 Londoners in 2025-26 to gain in-demand skills in high-growth sectors including digital, green and construction.	●●●
5	<b>Deliver a London Youth Guarantee to reduce the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training</b>	Two London youth trailblazers are in delivery, supporting approximately 2,000 young Londoners who are not in education, employment or training as part of the London Youth Guarantee. The GLA is also developing a core Youth Guarantee Offer for rollout in 2026.	●●●

✓ Done

●●● In progress

●● Not started

## Borough delivery highlights

Following its October launch, boroughs are now embedding the Inclusive Talent Strategy locally, with Southwark, Lambeth, Croydon and Hackney leading the way in developing aligned delivery plans that respond to local labour market needs.

In 2024-25, boroughs collectively supported more than 45,000 Londoners through employment and skills programmes – a testament to the scale and reach of local delivery.

Innovative partnerships are driving inclusive outcomes:

Since February, **LIFT** (Islington, Camden and Hackney) has enabled more than 75 residents from underrepresented backgrounds to secure paid roles in the tech, creative and life sciences sectors.

**Croydon** is commissioning strategic analysis to better align adult education with future labour market needs.

**Ealing** has launched targeted work experience and apprenticeship schemes to tackle youth unemployment and strengthen school-to-work pathways.

## Backing our businesses

	One-year actions	Three-month update	Status
6	<b>Create an evidence-based Business Support Strategy</b>	Work is underway to develop a coordinated strategy for SME support in London. Following an independent evidence review and call for evidence to more than 800 stakeholders, an interim paper summarising key findings will be published later this year, ahead of the full strategy launch in early 2026.	● ● ●
7	<b>Launch a new London Tech and Inclusive Growth fund to provide loan and equity funding for high-growth SMEs</b>	The fund is being structured as a Fund of Funds model to support London SMEs, with board approvals expected later this year and legal preparations in early 2026. Work is also underway to scope a complementary equity fund, with a commitment proposal expected later this year.	● ● ●
8	<b>Support scaleups in the growth sectors to expand into international markets</b>	London & Partners' Grow London Global programme supports scaleups to expand into international markets. In 2024-25, it directly supported scaleups to win nearly £500m of additional gross value added (GVA) in export revenues. In 2025-26, the programme will support 260 of London's most innovative scaleups in their international expansion. Companies can apply to join via the <a href="#">Grow London Global website</a> .	✓
9	<b>Explore a large-scale intervention on SME finance, in partnership with the British Business Bank and others in the responsible finance sector</b>	Work is underway to establish a partnership between Grow London Local and community development finance institutions (CDFIs) to launch non-profit SME lending in London, supported by the British Business Bank's new Community Enable Funding Programme.	● ● ●
10	<b>Accelerate the work to make it easier for SMEs to win contracts from London's public sector organisations</b>	London Anchor Institutions' Network (LAIN) members have committed to directing up to 30% of procurement spend to SMEs, diverse-led and London-based businesses. Following the GLA Group Responsible Procurement Policy refresh, LAIN is now improving outreach to diverse-led businesses and developing a supply chain mentoring pilot to increase supplier readiness.	● ● ●

✓ Done

● ● ● In progress

● ● Not started

## Backing our businesses (continued)

	One-year actions	Three-month update	Status
11	<b>Set a City Innovation Strategy for how London's public sector will adopt innovation to solve problems for Londoners and, in doing so, grow frontier sectors like life sciences and green innovation</b>	The City Innovation Strategy is being developed around three pillars: strengthening London's position as a global innovation centre; unlocking growth through public sector innovation; and positioning London for current and future government innovation programmes and private investment.	● ● ●
12	<b>Invest in a new quantum tech incubator in partnership with London universities</b>	The Mayor of London has invested £500,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding in a new quantum tech incubator. UCL, Imperial and King's College London have begun the 12-month project to unite London's quantum community of universities, industry and investors. The project is developing a clear identity for London's quantum ecosystem, unlocking investment for the city's first quantum incubator and accelerator, and positioning the capital as a global hub for quantum innovation and commercialisation.	✓

### Borough delivery highlights

**Hillingdon** is developing a growth plan with a local business support offer, alongside Ealing which is developing sector-specific support under its Good for Ealing programme. Hackney and Croydon are also developing economic development and business support strategies to strengthen local entrepreneurship and resilience.

**Islington** is leading the UKSPF-funded Boosting Life Sciences Social Economy programme with seven London boroughs to support social enterprises in health and life sciences. The programme offers startup and scalable business support to 30 social enterprises and early stage social businesses – the majority of founders being women and of minoritised backgrounds – to expand their impact.

At the sub-regional level, west London boroughs are collaborating with seven local universities to unlock innovation, boost skills and deliver inclusive growth. Development of quantum tech in London has also progressed at a local level, as Croydon continues to partner with the London South Bank University's REACT Innovation Centre in its innovative quantum computing, digital engineering and data systems research, with plans for a quantum technology incubator to create a specialised hub.

✓ Done

● ● ● In progress

● ● Not started

## Building housing and infrastructure

	One-year actions	Three-month update	Status
13	<b>Publish a London Infrastructure Framework which sets out long-term priorities</b>	London Councils and the GLA have progressed work on the London Infrastructure Framework, with Mott MacDonald appointed to support delivery. Following data collection and policy reviews, technical workshops and systems mapping will inform a prioritised framework and shortlisted pipeline, expected in early 2026.	● ● ●
14	<b>Publish Towards a London Plan, the direction of travel on London's new spatial plan</b>	Public consultation on Towards a new London Plan concluded in June. The GLA is now assessing responses and developing a draft London Plan for consultation in 2026.	✓
15	<b>Launch the first wave of rent-controlled Key Worker Living Rent Homes</b>	Following consultation on Key Worker Living Rent Homes, the GLA will publish a response, along with a Planning and Housing Practice Note, summarising the Mayor of London's plans for this new tenure.	● ● ●
16	<b>Work to reduce the time taken for planning applications</b>	The GLA has launched the ATLAS London pilot, providing targeted additional capacity to help unlock key development sites. Further opportunities to accelerate the planning process and enable development are also being explored.	● ● ●
17	<b>Speed up electricity grid connections for major projects by continuing to work with UK government, National Energy System Operator, regulators and utilities companies</b>	Work continues with network companies, developers and regulators to address utility connection delays. Technical input and coordination are being provided on three strategic developments. Collaboration with the UK government's Connection Accelerator Service is helping escalate key schemes. To date, more than 12,600 homes have been unlocked by resolving energy supply and connection constraints.	● ● ●
18	<b>Warmer Homes London to start funding work to retrofit homes for vulnerable Londoners</b>	Warmer Homes London has been established with a Managing Director appointed and its Delivery Plan published. The programme has secured significant retrofit funding from the government's Warm Homes: Local Grant and Social Housing funds, with first installations now complete across both programmes – a major milestone in supporting vulnerable Londoners.	● ● ●

✓ Done

● ● ● In progress

● ● Not started

## Building housing and infrastructure (continued)

	One-year actions	Three-month update	Status
19	Identify London's long-term logistics needs, with industry, to inform the next London Plan and Transport for London (TfL) priorities	Building on an ongoing economic and infrastructure supply and demand study, work continues to identify London's long-term logistics needs to support economic growth, housing delivery and innovation. Progress will be reported in spring 2026.	● ● ●
20	Take steps to support the viability of house building in the short-term, within current planning frameworks	Monitoring of the Planning and Housing Practice Note measures continues, with a proposed increase in the intermediate rent income cap from £67,000 to £74,000 to improve scheme viability and access. The Housing Secretary and Mayor of London have announced new time-limited measures to support housing delivery, with consultation taking place later this year, and implementation guidance to follow.	● ● ●

### Borough delivery highlights

Boroughs are playing a central role in shaping London's infrastructure and housing delivery through ongoing contributions to the London Infrastructure Framework. At a sub-regional level, the West London Orbital has reached a major milestone this quarter, clearing the TfL gate review process and progressing to further technical work.

On housing, boroughs are focusing targeted intervention at unlocking stalled sites. The London Housing Director's Group has launched its [estate regeneration prospectus](#), showcasing borough work to deliver estate regeneration and highlighting priorities to unlock stalled regeneration sites, many of which are stalled due to viability concerns.

✓ Done

● ● ● In progress

● ● Not started

## Investment and promotion

	One-year actions	Three-month update	Status
21	<b>Align London's inward investment activity to the London Growth Plan's growth sectors and places</b>	London & Partners' new three-year strategy is being implemented, aligning inward investment with London Growth Plan priorities. The strategy focuses on investment in the experience economy, frontier innovation and education; better integration of capital and direct investment; and working with local placemakers to secure anchor investors. The City of London Corporation and UK government have also launched a new concierge service for financial services investors.	●●●
22	<b>Explore an innovation investment fund, anchored by London's two Local Government Pension Scheme pools</b>	London & Partners has convened relevant stakeholders to explore an innovation investment fund. The preferred approach is to support deployment of the British Business Bank's new British Growth Partnership in London.	✓
23	<b>Explore a new public-private partnership to attract more international institutional investment into UK venture capital funds</b>	Following stakeholder engagement, there is consensus to support deployment of the British Business Bank's new British Growth Partnership in London as the optimal approach to attract international institutional investment into UK venture capital.	✓
24	<b>Create London's offer for investors in green innovation, artificial intelligence and other growth sectors</b>	The life sciences offer is being refreshed, incorporating feedback and learnings from London Life Sciences Week. Development of the quantum offer is also underway, with AI and green innovation offers to follow in 2026-27.	●●●
25	<b>Refresh London's international brand messaging and encourage more organisations to use it</b>	Scoping work is assessing how London's international brand can be refreshed to better reflect the city's global strengths. Next steps include partner engagement and development of updated assets for wider adoption.	●●●
26	<b>Create a coalition of the organisations with powerful, global London brands to work together to promote the city</b>	A coalition of globally recognised London-linked organisations is being planned to strengthen the city's international profile. Initial outreach and coordination will begin in the coming months to shape the coalition's purpose, structure and shared promotional activity.	●●●

✓ Done

●●● In progress

●● Not started

## Investment and promotion (continued)

	One-year actions	Three-month update	Status
27	Coordinate a calendar of high-impact international trade and investment missions	Following the first Mayoral trade mission to Africa with 27 London companies, plans continue for a calendar of high-impact international trade and investment missions. The calendar is expected to be complete by the end of FY 2025-26 to cover FY 2026-27 and FY 2027-28, with buy-in from partners.	● ● ●
28	Turbocharge London Life Sciences Week	<u>London Life Sciences Week</u> , backed by investment from the Mayor of London, successfully showcased the capital's world-leading life sciences ecosystem, attracting more than 2,400 biotech companies and 1,300 life sciences investors. Led by <u>London &amp; Partners</u> , <u>MedCity</u> and the <u>BioIndustry Association</u> , the week generated significant international media coverage and demonstrated London's leading position across the full spectrum of life sciences innovation.	✓
29	Work towards a world-class business visitor centre in central London	Potential sites have been identified and discussions with sponsors are underway to establish a world-class business visitor centre in central London.	● ● ●

### Borough delivery highlights

**Croydon** is aligning its inward investment strategy with the London Growth Plan through a new investment prospectus to showcase local growth opportunities – including commercial, residential and mixed-use sites – alongside emerging growth sector strengths. The development of the strategy will draw upon partnerships with London & Partners and Opportunity London to align development sites and investment opportunities.

**Hounslow** is developing a Green Innovation and Enterprise Hub to support SME growth and access to investment. It has convened strategic partners through business and developer forums to promote west London's growth ambitions.

✓ Done

● ● ● In progress

● ● Not started

## Local places

	One-year actions	Three-month update	Status
30	<b>Support town centres and high streets with stronger neighbourhood policing</b>	Increased City Hall funding has been secured to boost policing, including a 50% expansion of the West End team and 90 additional officers across six high-crime town centres, alongside a wider Home Office initiative targeting 32 hotspots across London.	● ● ●
31	<b>Work to attract investment in major projects to revitalise London town centres</b>	The latest Opportunity London prospectus features town centre regeneration sites including Ealing Broadway, Walthamstow Central, Brent Cross Town, Barking and Edgware town centre, alongside major station redevelopments. Projects are being promoted to investors through global roadshows and events including the London Real Estate Forum, Expo Real and MIPIM.	● ● ●
32	<b>A new High Streets Fund of £20m for boroughs to invest in improving local areas</b>	The £20m High Streets Fund capital has been allocated to boroughs. An additional £600k revenue funding for 12 high streets through the High Street Place Labs programme is now under contract and in delivery.	✓
33	<b>Explore a publicly owned, mission-driven property agent and manager</b>	Two pilot projects have been contracted. Additionally, a number of borough-led High Street Rental Auction pilots have been selected for delivery.	● ● ●
34	<b>Create an action plan for London's nightlife</b>	The London Nightlife Taskforce has taken evidence and is compiling its report for publication early next year.	● ● ●
35	<b>Continue the successful Creative Enterprise Zones programme</b>	Plans are being developed for nine reaccredited Creative Enterprise Zones, with announcements expected later this year.	● ● ●

### Borough delivery highlights

Seven London boroughs will each receive £1.5m during 2025-26 and 2026-27 under the Pride in Place Impact Fund. The fund can be used to create and improve community places, enhance public spaces and revitalise high streets and town centres. Up to £20m will also be invested in Harold Hill East in Havering and New Addington North in Croydon.

**Merton** is progressing plans to regenerate Morden Town Centre, aiming to deliver 1,300 new homes in the first phase. Ealing is supporting the Broadway Connection project to enhance its metropolitan centre.

**Croydon** is piloting facial recognition technology to improve town centre safety, working with the business improvement district (BID) and police. **Ealing, Hackney** and **Croydon** are developing Night-time Economy strategies, with Croydon forming a task group to shape its vision.