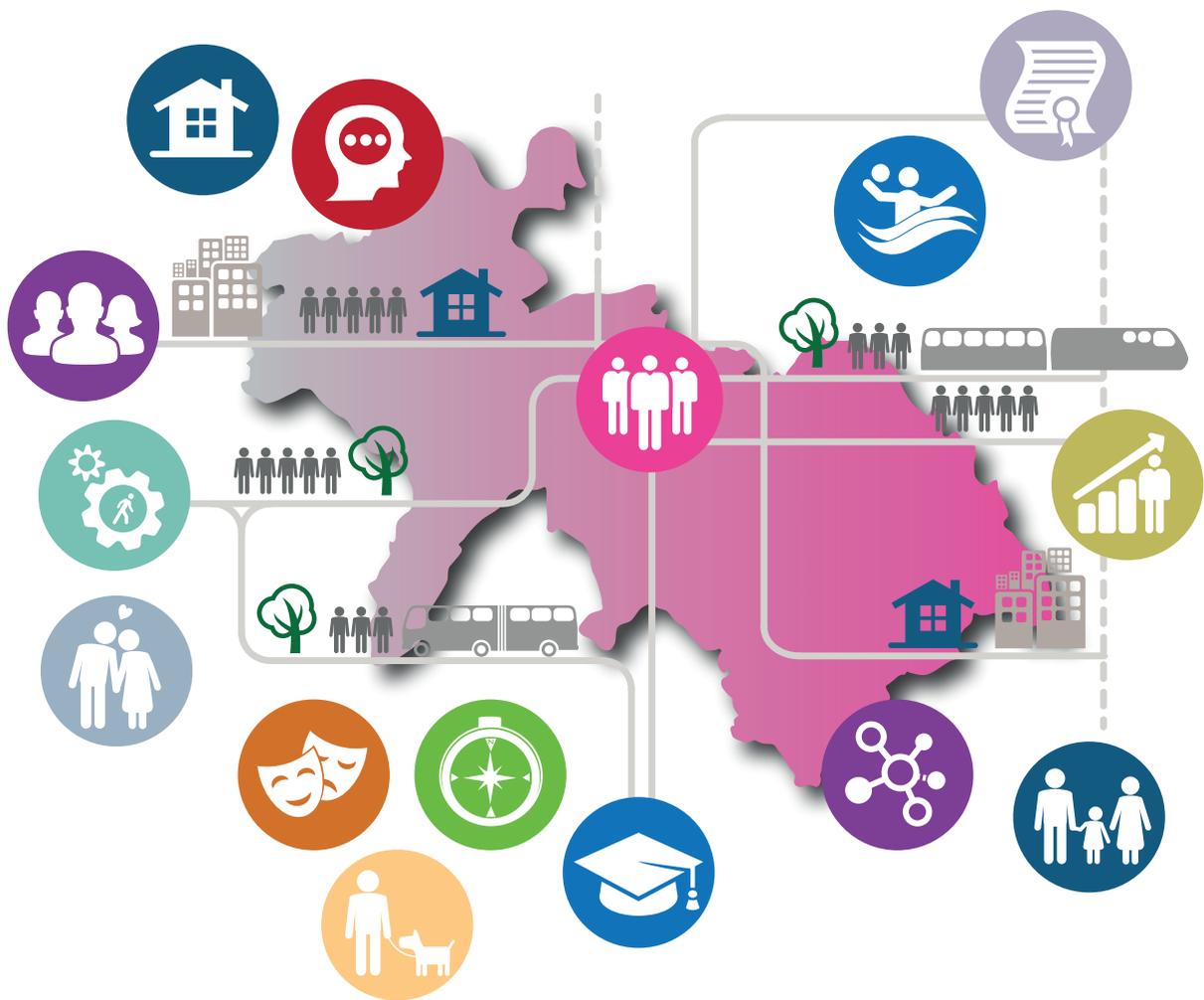
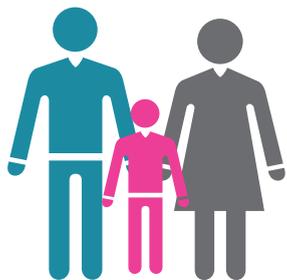


# THE SOUTH LONDON PARTNERSHIP GROWTH PROPOSITION



# SOUTH LONDON – UNLOCKING OUR ECONOMIC POTENTIAL



**POPULATION**  
**1.1 million**  
 equivalent to  
**4th largest city in UK**  
**£28 billion economy**



**EMPLOYMENT LEVELS**

**76.3%**

South London

**73.2%** London  
**73.7%** UK

**SKILLS LEVELS**

**51%**

Degree level or above

**35.8%** South London  
**38%** UK

**99.7%** businesses are SMEs  
**88.3%** micro-businesses

**BUSINESS SURVIVAL RATES**

**93%**

started 2013 survive 1 year

**90%** London

**49%**

started 2010 survive 4 years

**46%** London

KEY SECTORS



RETAIL



CONSTRUCTION



CULTURE & CREATIVE



FINANCIAL & BUSINESS SERVICES



TOURISM



SPORTS SCIENCES



TECHNOLOGY



LIFE SCIENCES



**SPORTS PARTICIPATION LEVELS**

**41.5%**

play once a week  
 31.8% London

**20.5%**

play 3 times a week  
 18.3% London

**BUSINESS BASE**

**6 times**  
 number of start-ups

than London average



**GREEN SPACE**

**38%**

surface area

**As Leaders of five outer London boroughs, we are committed to working together to add value for our residents.**

We recognise the existing strengths of South London as a place to live, work and thrive. But we know that the economic contribution and potential of this area has often been overlooked. We are committed to changing this.

We are ambitious for our future and the contribution South London can make to London's vitality and economy, as well as to that of the UK overall.

We will work together to build on our strengths, take advantage of our opportunities and overcome the things that are holding our area back. Transport, skills and affordable housing are key to this. Forging effective partnerships with business, the Mayor and others will also be vital.

This prospectus identifies the priorities we will focus on in the next few years – and is an invitation to others to work with us to unlock the economic potential of South London.



Cllr Stephen Alambritis  
Leader, Merton Council  
Chair, South London Partnership



Cllr Tony Newman  
Leader, Croydon Council



Cllr Kevin Davis  
Leader, Kingston upon Thames Council



Cllr Lord Nick True  
Leader, Richmond upon Thames Council



Cllr Ruth Dombey  
Leader, Sutton Council

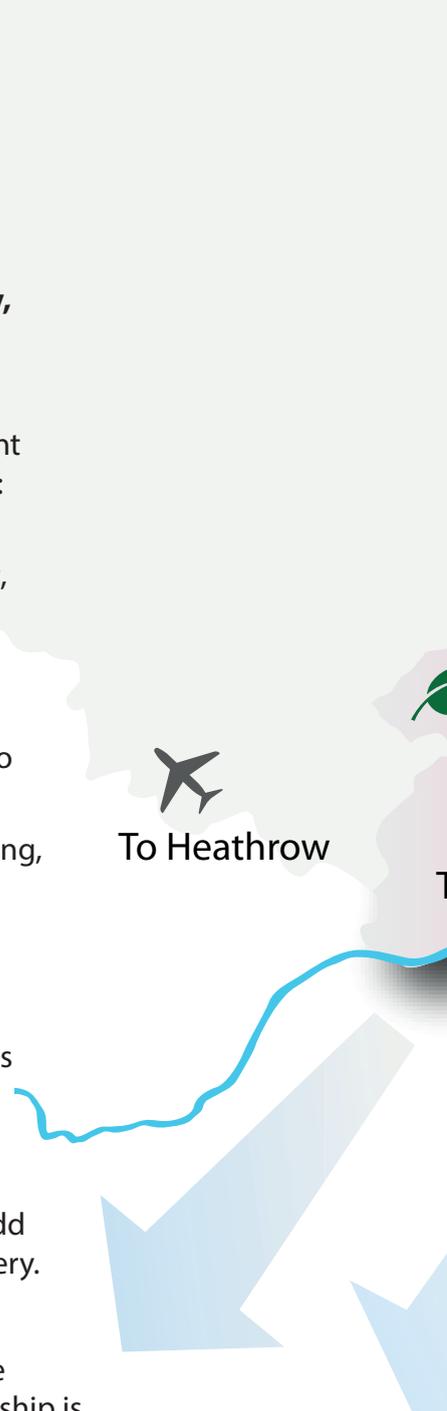
**The South London Partnership covers a vibrant sub-regional economy, already worth £28 billion.**

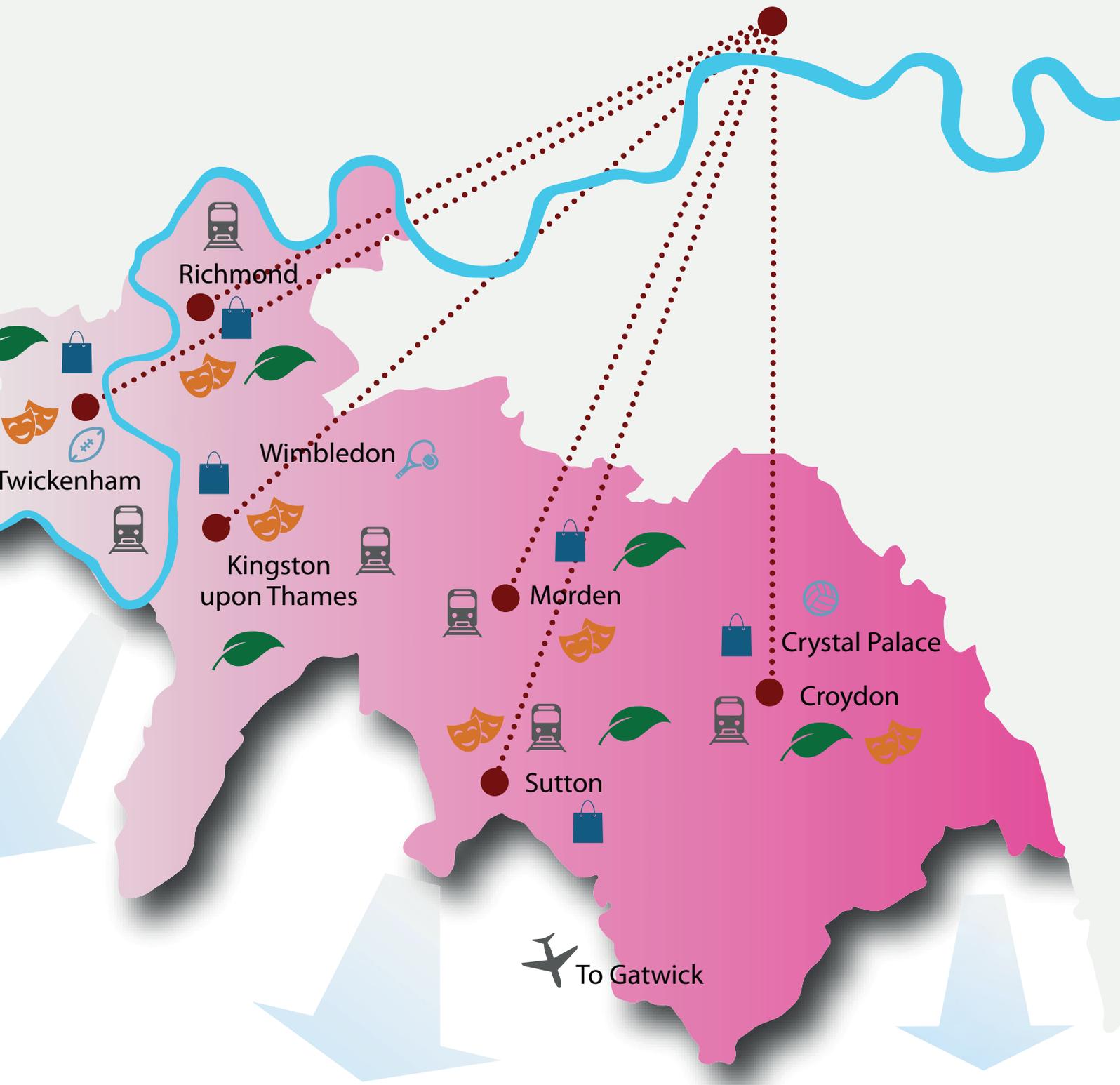
The **strength of its strategic assets** positions this area to make a significant contribution to the future economic growth of the capital and the country:

- a pivotal location between central London, the UK's two main airports and growth corridors including the Gatwick Diamond and South Coast, M3 corridor and Thames Valley
- a world class economic sub region with strengths in tech, life sciences and sports sciences
- a highly skilled workforce – 51% of working age people are educated to degree level or above, compared to 35.8% for London
- a good quality of life offer – with access to green spaces, a mix of housing, good schools and colleges, leisure and culture, heritage and visitor attractions, and strong communities, all of which attract families, workers and businesses
- vibrant entrepreneurship and strong borough relationships with businesses – 99.7% of our businesses are SMEs, 88.3% micro-businesses and six times as many business start-ups per head than the London average, with the four year survival rate for businesses started in 2010 at 49%, compared to 46% for London
- a commitment from the boroughs to work together to innovate and add value to what they could achieve individually and track record of delivery.

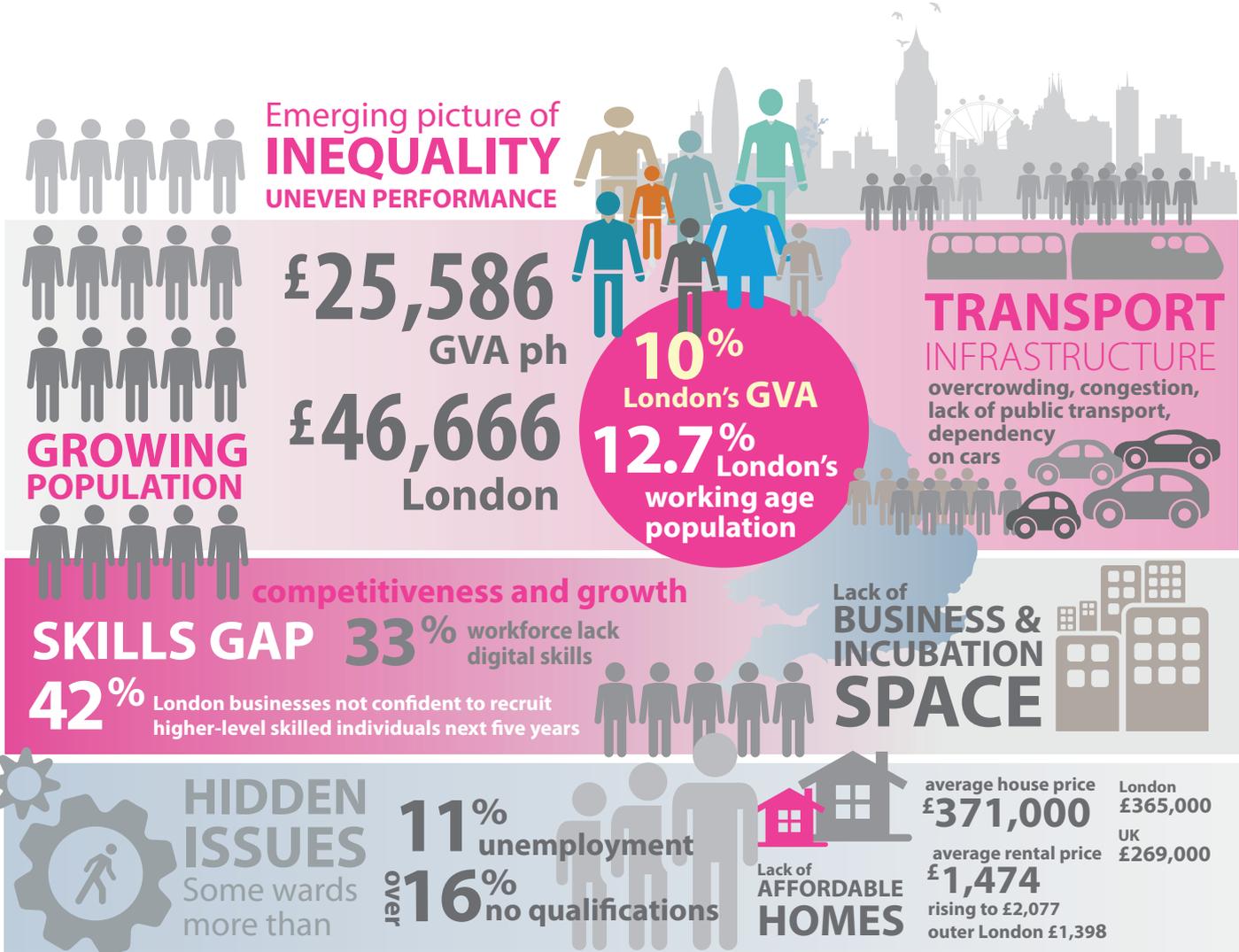
Through collaboration – between themselves and with local public, private and voluntary and community sector partners – the South London Partnership is **committed to accelerating and increasing the potential for economic growth** in this area, beyond what they can achieve individually.

The South London Partnership is **seeking the Government and Mayor's commitment to support and invest** in unlocking economic growth in South London.





# CONSTRAINTS ON GROWTH



### **The main constraints on South London's economic growth are:**

- lack of recognition of and investment in its strategic economic potential for London and the south east
- poor connectivity and lack of infrastructure to support sustainable growth
- skills gaps
- limited land for development, particularly at scale

### **Our Priorities**

#### **Our priorities for collective action to address these constraints and enhance the economic potential of South London on the national and world stage are:**

1. **A programme for economic growth** – SLP will bring together businesses from key sectors (tech, life sciences and sports sciences), with research and education providers and other partners to develop a programme of work to support economic growth.
2. **Skills for Jobs** – SLP will seek devolution of skills commissioning to enable us to better meet business needs and strengthen the pathways through education and learning into jobs.
3. **Making the links** – securing investment in transport infrastructure and improvements in services to address congestion, link workers to jobs and maximise the potential of our location, and secure the wider infrastructure to support growth
4. **More than the sum of the parts** – establishing new ways of working with business and other partners to maximise the potential of sub-regional growth sectors and to attract inward investment and tourism. Our goal is a sub-regional LEP with funding to support this. We will also seek opportunities to use our business strengths to improve public services.
5. **Making best use of our space** – protecting and enhancing land for jobs, while securing affordable housing to support our growing economy, including through collaborating on Opportunity Areas as the focuses for development and unlocking public estate.

# 1. A PROGRAMME FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

**The South London Partnership will bring together businesses from key sectors (tech, life sciences and sports sciences), with research and education providers and other partners to develop a programme of work to support economic growth.**

Retail, creative industries, construction, tourism and leisure and financial and business services underpin South London's economy, and individual boroughs are already working closely with particular sectors and in specific growth areas to support their competitiveness and growth ambitions.

South London has significant, often world-class, assets. Taking a collective approach to linking and unlocking opportunities and support, these assets have the potential to generate further economic growth in the following sectors:



**13,000 jobs**



RESEARCH  
HEALTHCARE  
ADMINISTRATION  
LEISURE

**DELIVERING  
two cancer drugs**

every five years



creating  
**SCIENCE SCHOOL  
for 1,200 pupils**

**68 life sciences  
companies**  
annual turnover  
**£92.3 million**

## Life sciences

The new London Cancer Hub will be a world-leading campus specialising in treatment, education and research in cancer, delivering two cancer drugs every five years. It will create 13,000 new jobs, a 1,200 pupil science school and new space for biotech, pharma, software and equipment manufacturing companies.

South London is also home to other significant assets in the science and life sciences sectors including the National Physical Laboratory and LGC Ltd (the Laboratory of the Government Chemist), and 68 life science companies. And the South London Partnership is working increasingly closely with the NHS.

In a sector where clustering, the locational offer and the availability of skilled workforce are key, we will explore with business, education institutions and others how to maximise the potential for growth and make a distinctive contribution to London's MedCity, link into the London-Stansted-Cambridge corridor and strengthen the competitiveness of the UK's lifesciences economy.



## Home world-renowned sporting venues and events



### Sports science and tourism

South London is the home of two international sporting venues at Twickenham and Wimbledon, as well as a Premier League football club at Crystal Palace. St Mary's University Twickenham and Kingston University have well respected sports science faculties, with a range of access and foundation level training in further education colleges in the sub-region.

We will work with the sector and partners to strengthen the sports science cluster on a national and international scale, and to grow and enhance sports tourism across the sub-region.

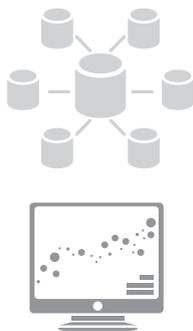


**INNOVATIVE**  
new developments

**tech hub**  
digital media  
incubators

**UK's fastest growing economy** (Croydon)

**6% employment increase in digital creative industries**



### Technology

Croydon has the UK's fastest growing economy with 9.3% growth in the last year, driven by its emergence as a leading tech hub. Other significant developments include Wimbledon Tech Hub, the tech hub and digital media incubator at Richmond upon Thames College and plans for a digital incubator in Kingston. South London is already home to over 6,000 technology businesses, from major companies to small and micro-businesses.

We will work with business and other partners to secure the skills, workspace and environment to make South London a dynamic, networked, technology economy that strengthens London's and the UK's position in these markets.

### The South London Partnership will:

- work with business and other partners to identify and deliver actions to unlock or accelerate growth in these sectors, building their competitive position in the UK and globally

## 2. SKILLS FOR JOBS

**The South London Partnership will seek devolution of skills commissioning to enable us to meet business needs and strengthen the pathways through education and learning into jobs.**

We know that boroughs and colleges are committed to building on existing strengths and addressing current weaknesses to improve job outcomes for residents and better meet business requirements. This will develop a workforce with the skills needed to meet future demand growth sectors.

We also want to work with schools, private training providers and Universities, to help strengthen the pathways through education and training into jobs for our residents.

The South London Partnership will facilitate stronger links between businesses and education and training providers in South London. In doing so, it will be best placed to:

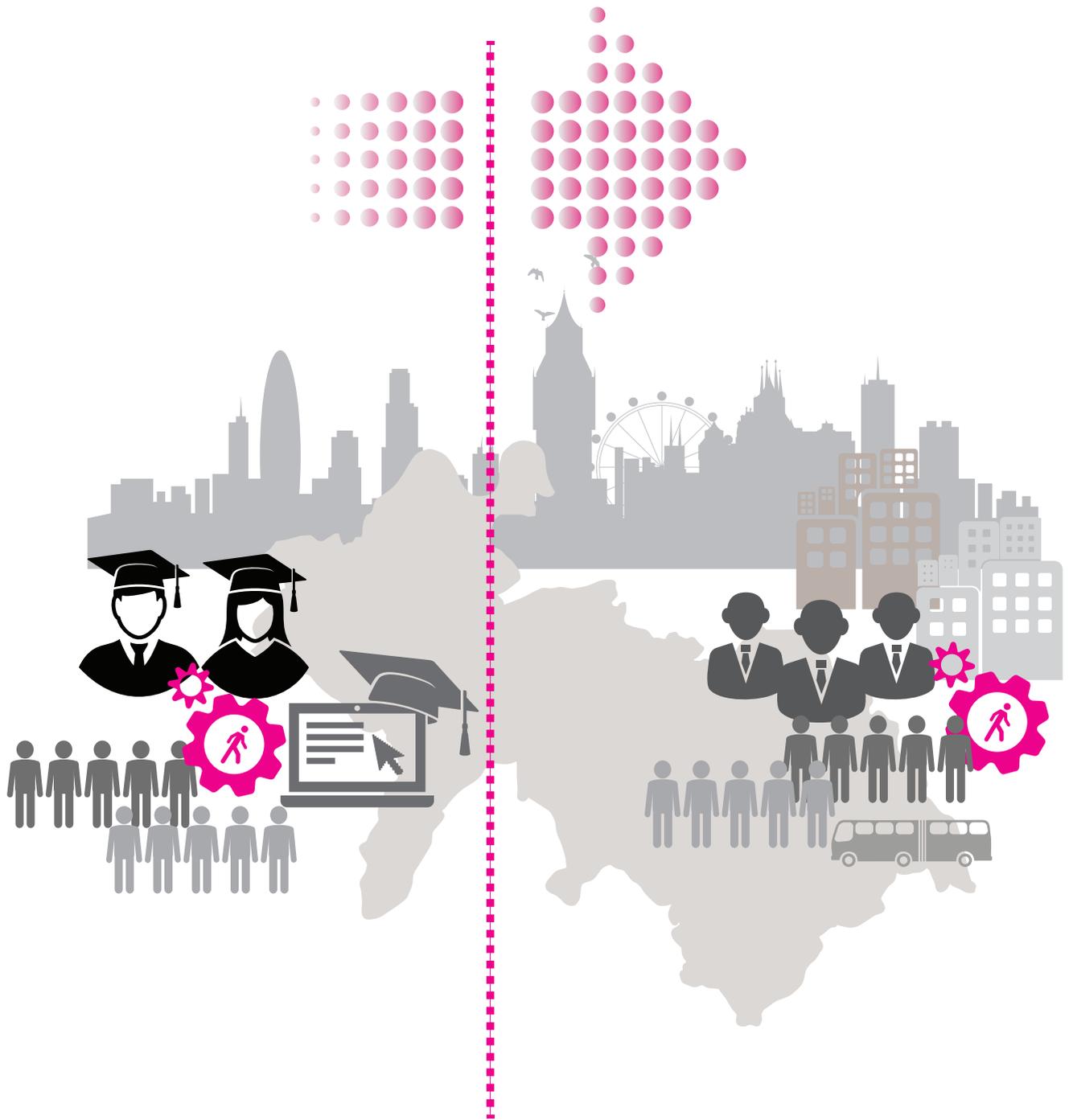
- identify the sub-region's skills needs and gaps
- drive commissioning of publicly-funded skills activity to meet these
- respond to challenges and opportunities, including through changes like the new Apprenticeship Levy
- integrate the skills agenda with wider work, such as employment support, health and care.

**The South London Partnership will:**

- establish a South London Enterprise and Skills Board to develop a sub-regional skills strategy and deliver sub-regional skills commissioning. Membership will include, but not be limited to, employers and skills providers.

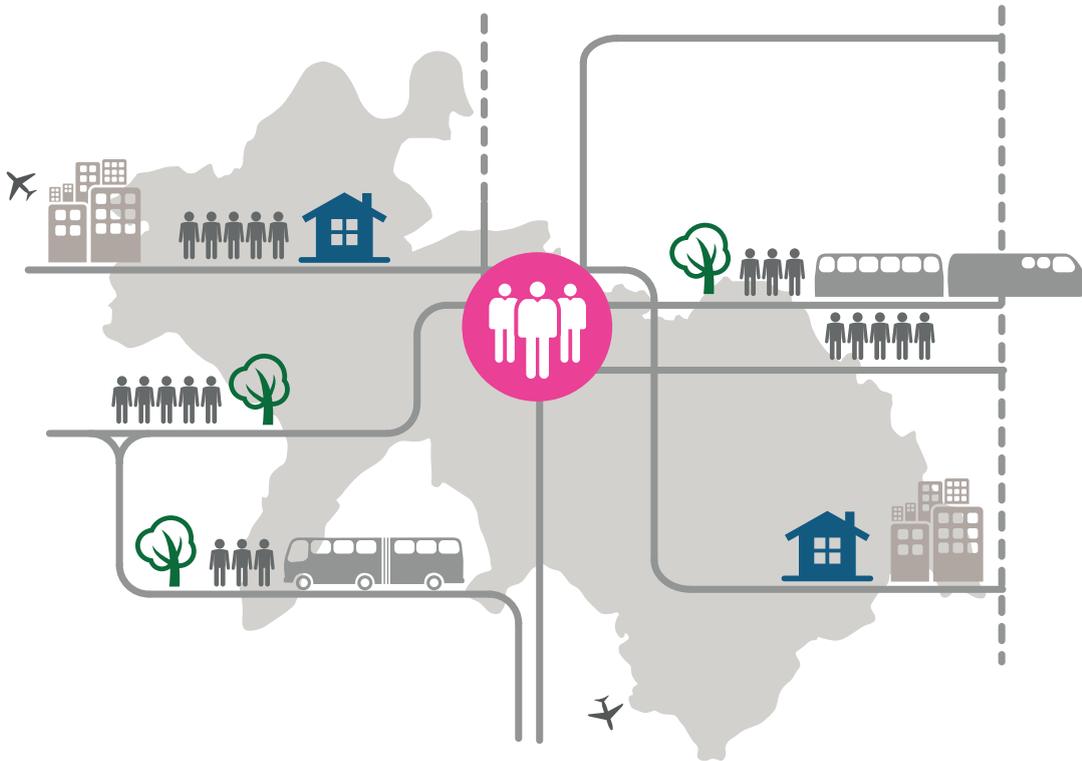
**Our asks:**

1. for Government to devolve commissioning of the Adult Education Budget and 16-18 years education funding, and allow retention of unused Apprenticeship Levy
2. for the Mayor to devolve further education capital funding and any replacement for ESF funding for skills



### 3. MAKING THE LINKS

**The South London Partnership will secure investment in transport infrastructure and improvements in services to address congestion, link workers to jobs and maximise the potential of our location, and secure the wider infrastructure to support growth.**



Connecting people to jobs and businesses to markets is critical to the South London Partnership's economic growth ambitions. Overall, South London has the lowest connectivity of any sub-region in the capital, with high dependency on cars and congestion on roads and public transport.

**The South London Partnership will seek to secure improvements in transport to:**

- address the congestion that holds back productivity now and that will be further exacerbated by the growth already pursued
- enable residents to access employment opportunities in South London and beyond; and
- take better advantage of our strategic location between the UK's two main airports to increase inward investment and improve access to international markets for South London businesses.

We also want to secure the wider infrastructure needed to support sustainable growth – including superfast broadband and social infrastructure like schools and health.

### **The South London Partnership will:**

- make a strong case for investment in transport infrastructure, exploring financing mechanisms and the potential of additional growth, to help unlock the full economic potential of our sub-region, particularly to:
  - a. secure new infrastructure such as Crossrail 2 and extensions of the Tramlink
  - b. increase the capacity, efficiency and accessibility of our transport infrastructure, including through identifying and helping to bring forward schemes for key road and rail improvements to support and unlock economic growth;
- work with neighbouring councils outside London, the Mayor and government to secure improvements in rail services along key growth corridors and across our area;
- work with the Mayor, government, airport and surface transport bodies and other partners in and around London to improve transport access between airports and economic growth opportunities;
- identify wider infrastructure needs to support growth and work with partners to ensure these are met.

### **Our asks:**

1. for Government to:
  - a. recognise the strategic case for improving transport in South London and particularly commit to Crossrail 2 and improvements to the Brighton Mainline, reflecting in business cases their contribution to supporting economic growth as clearly as their role in unlocking new housing
  - b. commit to delivering improvements in rail services in South London and working with the South London Partnership, Mayor and others to do so
  - c. commit national agencies like Highways England and Network Rail to work with South London Partnership and Transport for London to agree a co-ordinated programme of road and rail improvements to support economic growth
  - d. commit to improving surface-transport access to airports from South London
2. for the Mayor and Transport for London to:
  - a. collaborate with the South London Partnership to deliver new transport infrastructure in South London – particularly Crossrail 2 and Tramlink extensions
  - b. work with the South London Partnership to secure improvements to rail services in South London
  - c. agree a five year transport investment programme, in addition to Local Implementation Plans, in South London to support sub-regional growth as part of a co-ordinated programme with national agencies

## 4. MORE THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS

The South London Partnership will establish new ways of working with business and other partners to maximise the potential of sub-regional growth sectors and to attract inward investment and tourism. Our goal is a sub-regional LEP with funding to support this. We will also seek opportunities to use our business strengths to improve public services.



We want to forge a collaboration with business, public sector and voluntary or community sector organisations across our sub-region to create the conditions for growth.

Building on growth sector strategies and other work, we will explore ways to:

- attract further inward investment
- increase visitor numbers and encourage multiple-destination visits
- strengthen the attraction for workers to remain and residents to return to spend more of their evenings and free time in the sub-region.

How we deliver our public services is changing, and working sub-regionally there is an opportunity to exploit the technological capabilities we have for the benefit of all South London residents. We can learn from each other and from our stakeholders and partners, identifying common areas where we can create efficiencies and have greater impact through collaboration. We have strong foundations on which to build, and we want to do more.

**The South London Partnership will:**

- work with business, further and higher education and other partners to develop and drive our programme for economic growth

**Our asks:**

- for the Mayor to include sub-regional representation in the refreshed London Enterprise Panel and other pan-London bodies (eg Homes for Londoners and Skills for Londoners) and explore the potential of devolving powers and funding to sub-regional arrangements where that can best drive growth opportunities



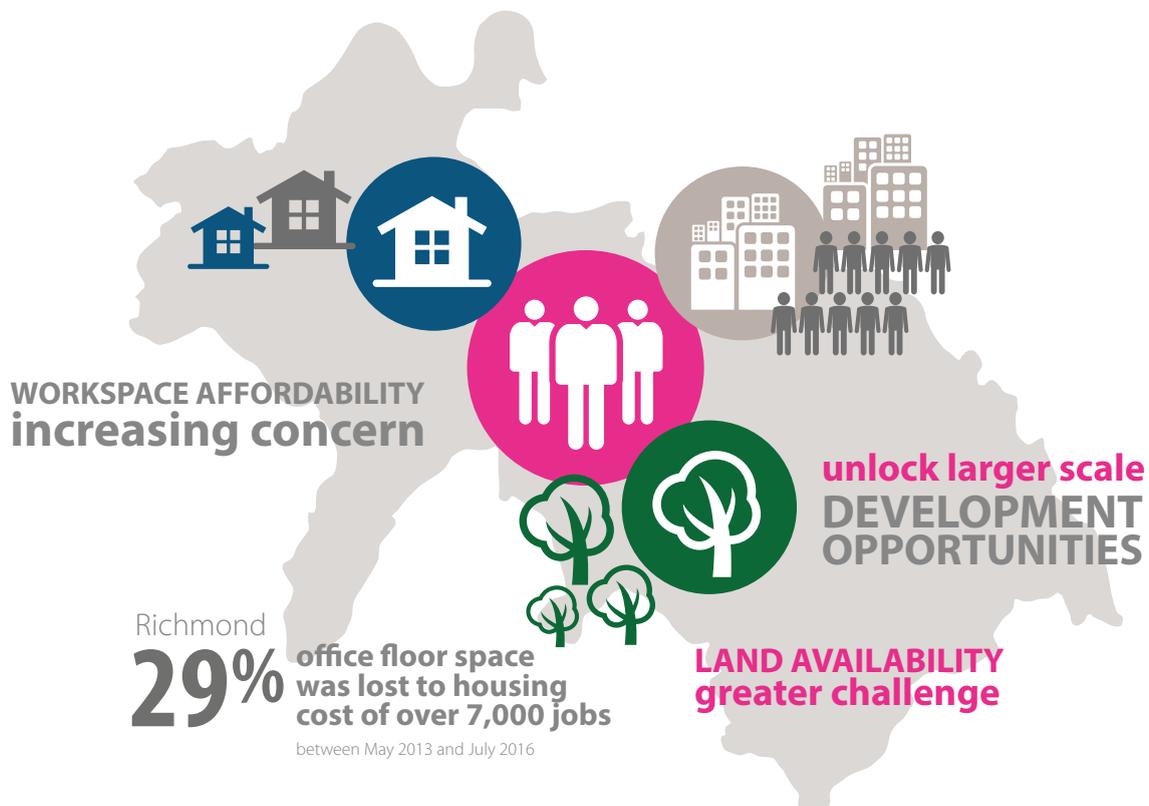
## 5. MAKING BEST USE OF OUR SPACE

**The South London Partnership will protect and enhance land for jobs, while securing affordable housing to support our growing economy. This will include collaborating on Opportunity Areas as the focuses for development and unlocking public estate.**

The South London Partnership will collaborate on the creation of a sub-regional Opportunity Area, or a series of linked areas, to enhance the scale of development opportunities. This will enable us to provide the right kind of space for business growth as well as the housing needed to support the economic growth ambitions of the sub-region.

We are forging a new sub-regional collaboration on health and care with the NHS, including on estates. We will work with NHS partners to identify and secure the estate needed to support integrated care as close as possible to home, and to unlock unneeded NHS estate for redevelopment. We want to explore the potential of One Public Estate and devolution unlocked through the London Health and Care Devolution Pilots to support our goals.

We will also explore the potential for collaboration with the Mayor, Transport for London and Network Rail to develop a One Public Estate programme to unlock land strengthening the case for investment in transport improvements. And we will explore other public estate opportunities eg with the police.



**The South London Partnership will:**

- explore the creation of a sub-regional or series of linked Opportunity Areas in South London, focussed on delivering the office and business workspace, and industrial and housing development needed to support economic growth
- jointly develop with relevant partners sub-regional One Public Estate programmes

**Our asks:**

1. for the Mayor to:
  - a. recognise South London's economic potential in his new London Plan, working with the South London Partnership to ensure land is available to support our economic growth ambitions as well as supporting appropriate housing growth
  - b. explore with the South London Partnership the creation of a sub-regional or series of linked opportunity areas in South London
  - c. commit to working with the South London Partnership to unlock TfL and wider transport estate and police estate for development
  - d. commit to working with the South London Partnership on a One Public Estate approach to accelerate the unlocking of Transport for London and Network Rail land for development
  - e. with the South London Partnership, lobby Government for exemption from Permitted Development rights to convert office to residential uses
2. for the government to exempt the South London Partnership boroughs from the Permitted Development right to convert offices to residential uses

