



**SOUTH LONDON
PARTNERSHIP ECONOMIC
RECOVERY ACTION PLAN**



LEADERS' FOREWORD/EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SOUTH LONDON IS A FANTASTIC PLACE TO LIVE IN, WORK IN AND VISIT.

We have long-standing, deep-rooted and diverse communities, who take pride in coming from or living in the different and distinctive towns, villages and districts across our boroughs. With a wide range of offers, people choose to move here because they are attracted by the quality of life, amenities, good schools, open spaces, culture and leisure opportunities, housing, character, sense of place and strong communities.

Proximity to central London – with its world class range of work, culture and leisure opportunities - and to the UK's two main airports have also always been locational advantages for south London. But our areas also have distinctive characters and offers that compliment each other and make a significant contribution to the overall vitality and viability of the UK's capital.



Cllr Gareth Roberts
Leader, Royal Borough of
Kingston upon Thames

Chair, South London
Partnership



Cllr Hamida Ali
Leader, London
Borough of Croydon



Cllr Caroline Kerr
Leader, Royal Borough of
Kingston upon Thames



Cllr Mark Allison
Leader, London
Borough of Merton



Cllr Ruth Dombey
Leader, London
Borough of Sutton

Their attractive residential offers and significant areas of green space and riverside mean our areas are sometimes mis-characterised as 'dormitories'. But our sub-region has always accommodated significant levels of economic activity. As well as being home to 1.2 million Londoners, we contributed £32 billion to the capital's economy in 2019 and had 440,000 jobs.

There have, however, been some long-standing barriers to fulfilling our economic potential and ensuring equality of economic opportunity for our residents, notably:

pockets of deprivation that are often overlooked in overall statistics and, despite overall comparatively low unemployment in the last five years, challenges for particular groups especially economically inactive people who want to work, some ethnic minorities, and those with health or disability challenges;

higher levels of in-work poverty than the London average of 20% in all our boroughs, with Sutton highest at 44% of employees earning below the London Living Wage;

lower jobs growth, with an increase of just 0.4% in the last 5 years (2015-2019)

a productivity challenge that means that at £31,144 our per head contribution to the London economy in 2019 was nearly one third less than the London average of £47,534 – due to a greater representation of less productive sectors and lower average productivity in our businesses compared to their sectors across London, in part linked to a greater dominance of small businesses and self-employment; and

a long-standing public transport deficit, particularly for orbital connections between key town centres, resulting in high levels of congestion and dominance of car use, with consequent impacts on air quality and the climate, and on business productivity and residents' access to jobs.

440,000

Jobs

£32 billion

Contributed to the capital's
economy in 2019



**THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC HAS HAD
AND IS CONTINUING TO
HAVE A HUGE IMPACT
ON OUR RESIDENTS,
BUSINESSES AND
SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

32,000

**jobs were expected to be
lost over 2020 and 2021**

We are proud of how our councils, communities, businesses, voluntary and community sector, and wider partners have responded to adapt to changing restrictions, support the most vulnerable, and contribute to the progress that has been made in getting through the pandemic. Alongside the ongoing health and social challenges, the economic impacts of Covid across our sub-region are significant and are creating a compelling need for a different level of response:

Our sub-regional economy is estimated to have contracted by **12.1%** in 2020 – compared to **10.4%** across London and **11.4%** for the UK;

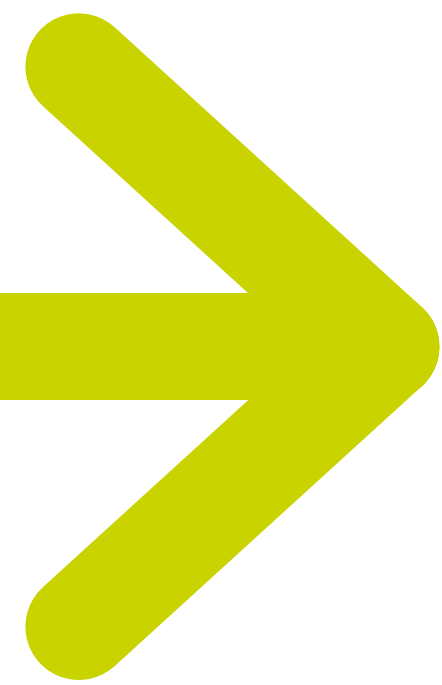
32,000 jobs were expected to be lost over 2020 and 2021;

Unemployment is forecast to peak at **6.4%** in summer 2021, some **41,000** people – one third of unemployment is expected to be in **16-24** year olds, we face the highest sub-regional levels of unemployment for over 50s and at **13.2%** the second highest sub-regional proportion of unemployment for ethnic minorities; and

A significant rise in benefit claims reflecting growing financial pressures on some families. In May 2021, over **15%** of our working age population was claiming Universal Credit. In-work poverty is also increasing with **37.9%** of our forecast peak Universal Credit claimants expected to be in work.

Acceleration of pressures on retail, increases in home working and changes in travel behaviours are also being seen – the impacts of which will continue to emerge over time.





The roll-out of vaccines and progress through the Government's reopening roadmap means we are all turning our focus to how to support economic recovery, alongside maintaining an agility to respond proportionately to the further evolution of the disease. In so doing, we also want to take opportunities that arise to address long-standing challenges like the climate emergency, productivity challenges, and inequalities.

Each of our councils is working hard with local communities and partners to support our residents in the face of public health and economic challenges from Covid-19, and with businesses, investors, landlords and anchor institutions to support them to survive, recover and move forward from one of the most significant economic shock of generations.

But we also recognise that our economies face some common and shared challenges, or challenges that cross boundaries. The South London Partnership is a long-standing sub-regional partnership of our boroughs through which we collaborate on issues where this can help us secure better outcomes. This sub-regional Economic Recovery Action Plan sets out our areas of focus for collaborating to support local economic recovery and help our sub-region collectively contribute to London's overall economic recovery. It fits into the London Economic Recovery Framework, through which we will continue to collaborate with other boroughs and partners around London, and the Mayoral bodies.

We are committed to using our powers, influence and resources to work together on these common agendas. Our Action Plan sets out the work we are doing to address these priorities. We will keep it under review as the economic impacts of the pandemic continue to unfold and evolve it as appropriate in the light of that and our progress.

We will work positively with partners across the sub-region and more widely to convene, harness and support all contributions to South London's economic and wider recovery. We will particularly work with Anchor Institutions such as NHS bodies, universities and colleges who have a key role to play locally and across the sub-region. And we will continue to build engagement with large and small businesses and key business representative organisations like Chambers of Commerce and BIDS, and voluntary and community sectors, as well as embedding sub-regional work into Boroughs' local recovery plans and activity to ensure it is part of wider local engagement and responsive to local needs.

We will also collaborate with other sub-regions, London and wider partners to share best practice and work together on common issues. And we will seek support and investment from the Mayor of London, Government and other bodies to unlock South London's economic recovery and future vitality.

OUR SUB-REGIONAL PRIORITIES

1 HELPING RESIDENTS INTO GOOD WORK

Supporting those who have lost jobs as a result of the pandemic to get back into good work with any upskilling, reskilling or other support to adapt to the changing labour market, but also keeping a focus on those who have long faced challenges in getting into good work and addressing inequalities, including in-work poverty.

2 SUPPORTING INNOVATION

To improve business survival and renewal and increased productivity, and stimulate growth in knowledge-based businesses and jobs to provide more higher skilled and higher paid work closer to home for our residents.

3 IMPROVING SUB-REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY

Continuing to press for improvements to address our long-standing public transport deficits and improve digital infrastructure to increase connectivity, support sub-regional growth, and provide viable and attractive alternatives to car journeys as part of our response to climate change.

4 ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Sharing best practice and collaborating on common challenges to contribute to the climate emergency response and support a green economic recovery.

5 REVITALISING HIGH STREETS AND ECONOMIC AREAS

Sharing best practice and collaborating on common challenges facing our high streets, town centres and other areas of economic activity to support their adaptation and future vitality.

SLP DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

THE SOUTH LONDON PARTNERSHIP (SLP) IS A SUB-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP OF FIVE OUTER LONDON BOROUGHES: CROYDON, KINGSTON UPON THAMES, MERTON, RICHMOND UPON THAMES AND SUTTON.

It is a vehicle for the boroughs to collaborate on common challenges and issues that cross boundaries to help improve outcomes for their places, residents and businesses.

Our key areas of work are around the economy – including innovation and business support, skills and employment, and infrastructure – and health and care. Over the last year, the partnership has also supported collaboration between the boroughs on Covid-19 response.

Our work includes representing and lobbying for the collective interests of our boroughs, convening and collaborating with partners in our sub-region, working with regional and national policymakers and delivery organisations to ensure they reflect the issues and opportunities in our boroughs, connecting with key bodies beyond London to address issues that cross boundaries and bidding for and securing delivery of joint programmes.



SLP CURRENTLY HAS AROUND £28 MILLION OF PROGRAMMES:

(more details at [Appendix B](#)):

Better Working Futures – the SLP Work & Health Programme: tailored employment support for the long-term unemployed or those with health or disability challenges;

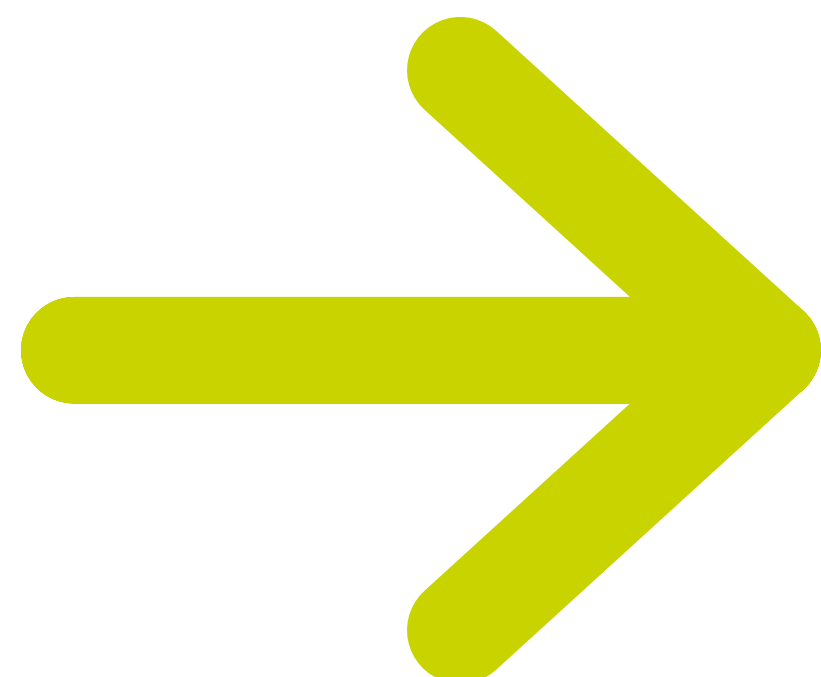
Job Entry: Targeted Support: employment support for those who have been claiming employment benefits for more than 13 weeks, as part of the response to the economic impacts of Covid-19;

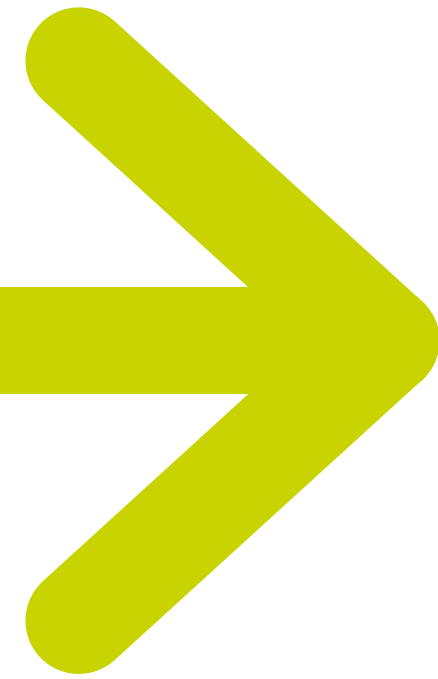
B.I.G South London: stimulate business growth and job creation through innovation by connecting them to expertise in universities and creating seven new workspaces;

InnOvaTe (Internet of Things): piloting the use of sensors to capture and use intelligence to inform action to support local businesses, generate economic growth, improve the climate and air quality, and help people live safely and independently;

Constructing South London: SLP Mayor's Construction Academy Hub: to improve pathways into construction jobs, particularly for ethnic minorities and women, and develop green construction skills;

SLP Digital Infrastructure Enablers: to accelerate the roll out of full fibre digital infrastructure and 5G readiness.





Given the seismic impact of the pandemic on all economies, in autumn 2020 we commissioned Oxford Economics to help us understand the impacts of Covid-19 in our area. Their report, 'The Future of The South London Economy Post Covid-19', was published in January 2021¹ and is available on our website.

Together with other analysis including Volterra's study on unemployment² in different parts of London and Metro Dynamics work for London Councils³, this has informed a review of our priorities to ensure we are maximising our sub-regional contribution to local and Londonwide economic recovery. We have also contributed to and taken account of the London Economic Recovery Framework in identifying the priorities that have most resonance and potential for our populations and places.

Oxford Economics concluded that while the pandemic has represented a significant shock to the SLP economy, it will not significantly shift its composition. It has, however, accelerated some changes like the decline of retail and the increase in digitisation, amplified inequalities and created some other changes like where people work. These amplify some challenges, but also create opportunities for a part of London that has a strong quality of life offer and highly qualified population, but whose local economy – while significant - has punched below its weight in recent decades.

This SLP Economic Recovery Action Plan therefore sets out our priorities for sub-regional collaboration. It shows how our existing programmes have been aligned to contribute to economic recovery and identifies key areas where we will develop further action, including by working with partners in the sub-region and more widely.

Given that none of us can be sure of what the next year holds, and how the impacts of Covid-19 will materialise in reality, we will progress the actions identified in this plan while keeping a close eye on what is happening in practice. And we will review the priorities in the light of these changes and our progress.

Sarah Sturrock

Director, South London Partnership



¹ The Future of the South London Economy Post Covid-19, Oxford Economics for South London Partnership, January 2021 southlondonpartnership.co.uk
² A Detailed Study on Unemployment in London, Volterra Partners LLP for London Councils, March 2021 londoncouncils.gov.uk/our-key-themes/economic-development/employment-support/detailed-study-unemployment-london
³ London's Economic Recovery: Building Sustainable Renewal, Metro Dynamics for London Councils, April 2021

SOUTH LONDON'S PRE-COVID ECONOMY

£32bn

economy in 2019

(at 2018 prices)

440,000

Jobs

52.8%

working adults educated to NVQ4 (degree) level or above

historically lower than London average levels of unemployment

4.1%
in 2019

VS.



3.9%

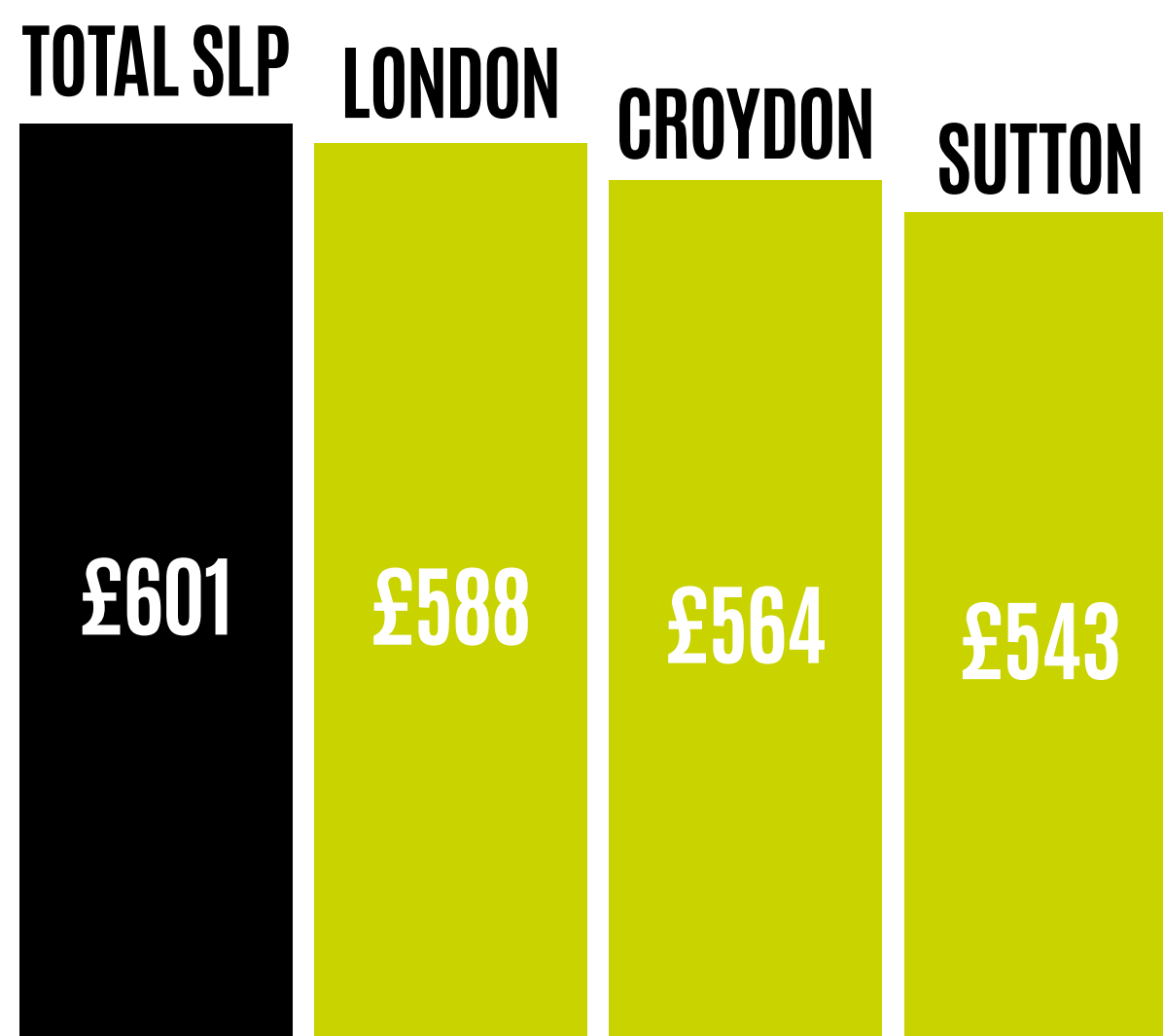


4.4%

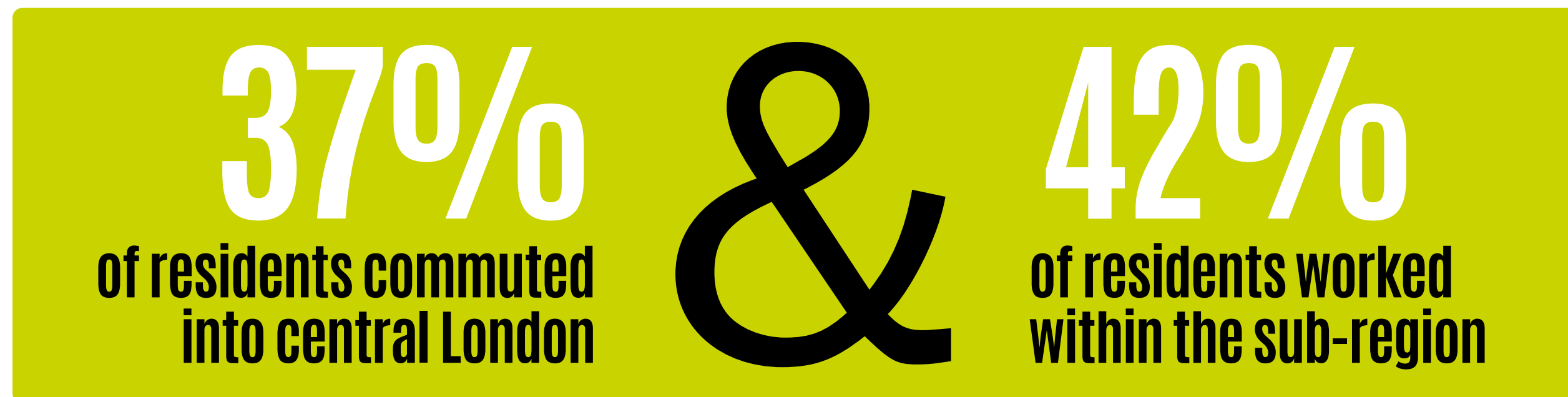


£502

median workplace weekly earnings



median residents' weekly earnings



Top employment sectors:



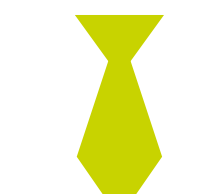
Wholesale and retail



admin and support services

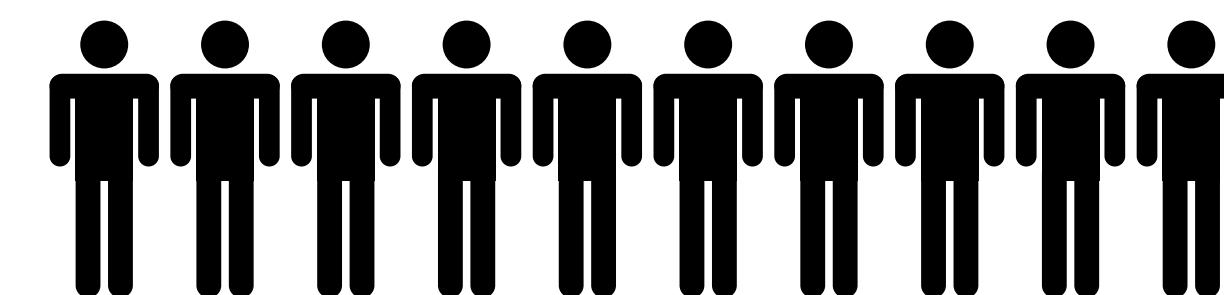


health and social work



professional services

OVER 93% OF FIRMS ARE 'MICRO' SIZED



ie >10 employees - London 91%

high levels of self-employment -

15.9%

of SLP+ workforce, compared to 13.0% across London and 13.1% nationally;

1 IN 4

jobs generated since 2010 were self-employed

65%

of residents live in areas with the poorest levels of public transport accessibility (PTAL 1 & 2)¹



45%

of journeys made by car

GDP per capita

£31,144

n 2019 - over a third below the London average of £47,534

in 2019, each SLP job generated on average

£69,917

compared to £75,874 for London as a whole

1. Transport for London measures the accessibility of public transport in places down to 100m grid squares through the Public Transport Accessibility Levels (PTAL). The measure reflects the walking time to a public transport access point and the reliability, number and levels of service. Level 0 is very poor access to public transport and Level 6b is excellent access.

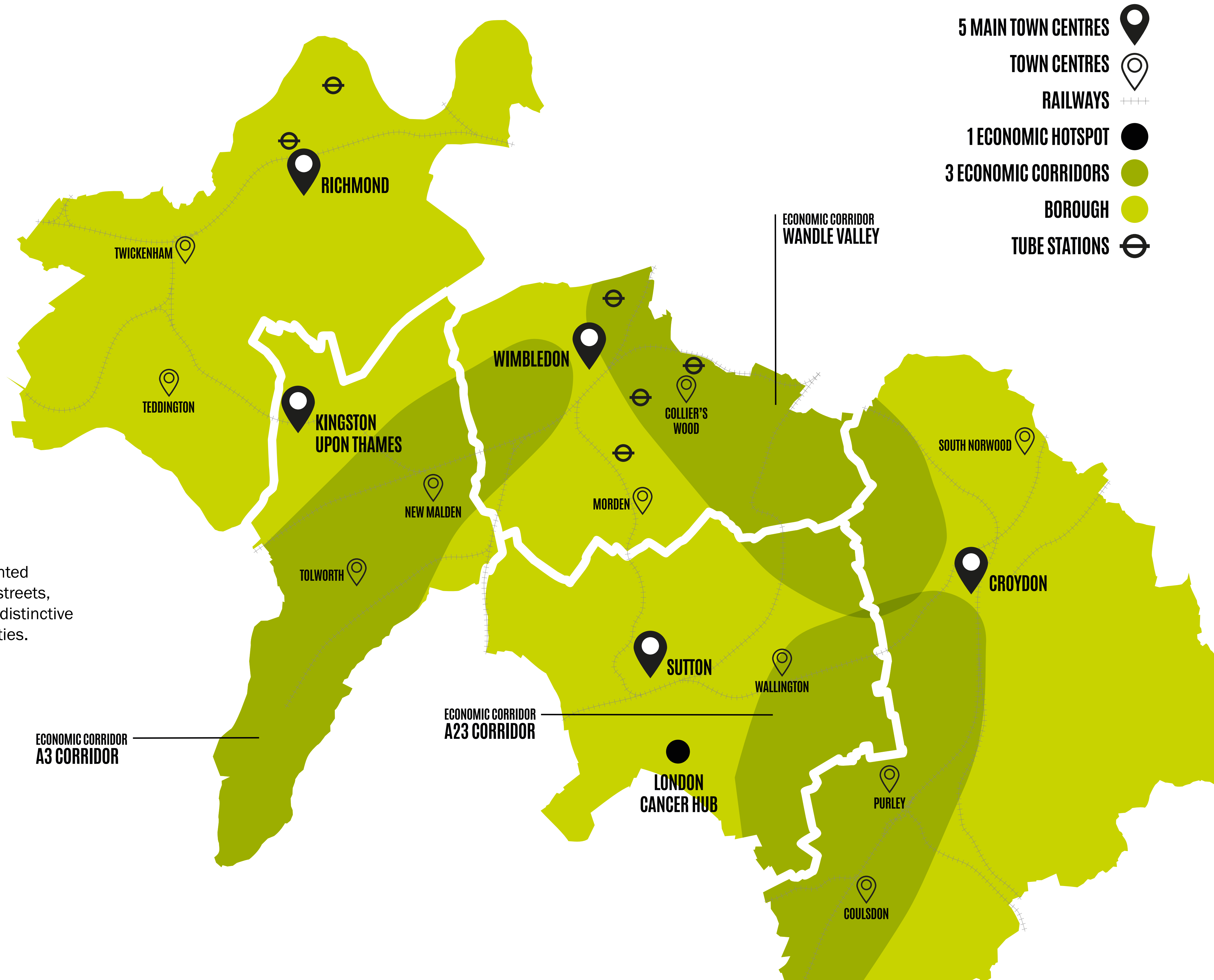
OUR STRATEGIC SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY FOCUSES AROUND:

Five main town centres – Richmond, Kingston, Wimbledon, Sutton and Croydon;

Three economic corridors along which key industrial land is located – the A3 corridor and the A23 corridor which stretch out beyond the Greater London boundary, and the Wandle Valley that reaches up into Wandsworth; and

An economic hotspot at the London Cancer Hub in Belmont.

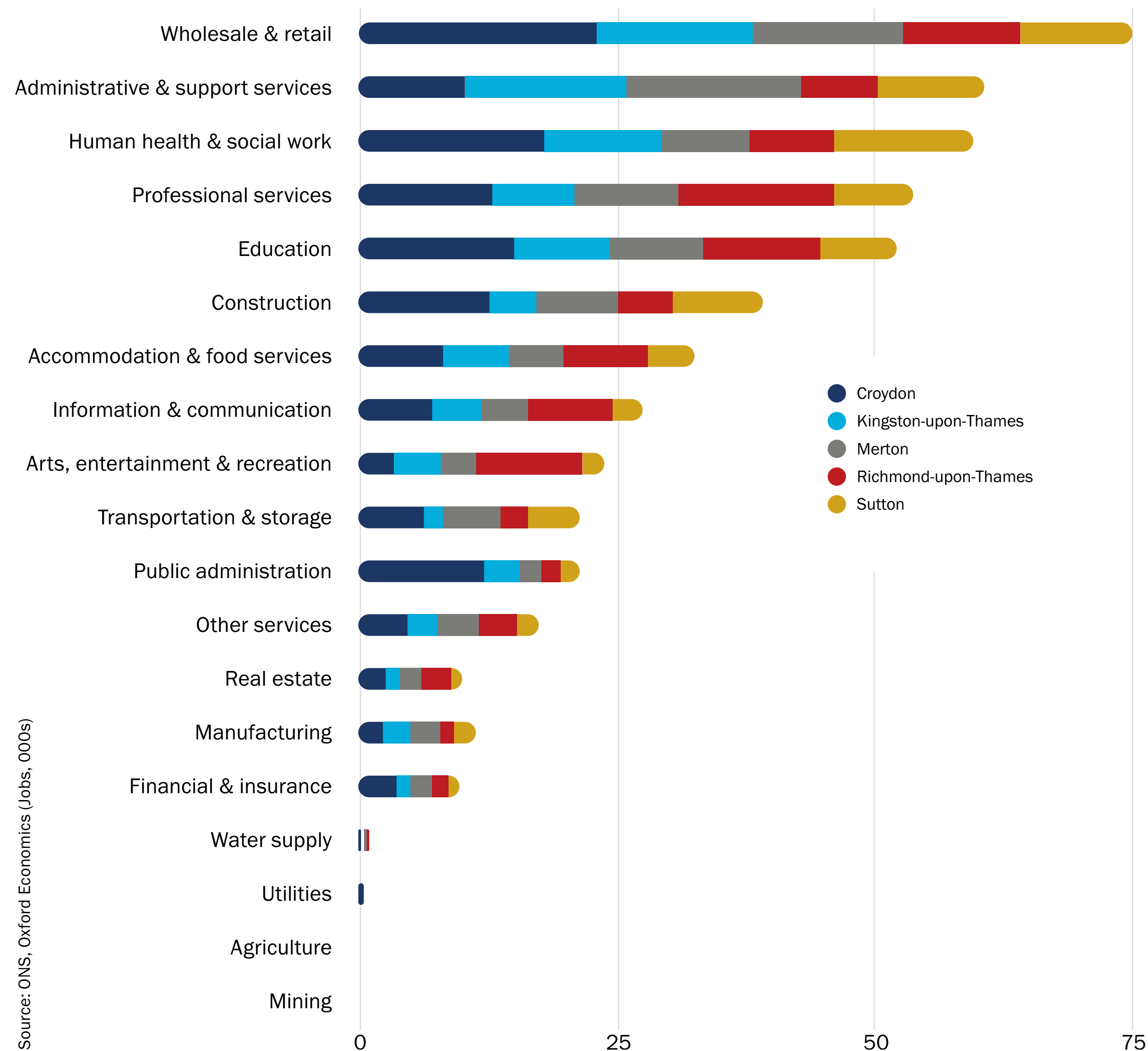
These strategic economic areas are complemented by a network of smaller town centres and high streets, often with suburban train stations, each with a distinctive character and acting a focal point for communities.



- 5 MAIN TOWN CENTRES
- TOWN CENTRES
- RAILWAYS
- 1 ECONOMIC HOTSPOT
- 3 ECONOMIC CORRIDORS
- BOROUGH
- TUBE STATIONS

OUR SUB-REGION WAS HOME TO 440,000 JOBS IN 2019.

Most of these are in sectors that have recently been described as the ‘foundational economy’ – providing goods and services that provide daily essentials for households, like retail, health and social care, education, accommodation and food, etc.



Source: ONS, Oxford Economics (Jobs, 000s)

Between 2015 and 2019, the number of jobs has grown by 1,745 (0.4%). This is considerably lower than the 6.6% rise across London. In our sub-region, jobs growth has been most significant in business services such as information & communication, professional services and administrative support services, and health & care.

Almost half (45% or 1,800 jobs) of SLP+¹ job growth between 2015 and 2019 was within the NESTA definition of the ‘tech sector’, which represents 23,000 jobs in total, with a dominance in computer-related activities. This compares to growth of 23% for London and 19% for Outer London in the tech sector in the same period.

Other specialisms that Oxford Economics identified within the SLP+ economy relative to Outer London (with numbers of jobs in 2019) are:

5,500 JOBS

Creative Industries – creative, arts & entertainment and amusement & recreation

7,900 JOBS

Higher education

2,200 JOBS

Life Sciences – research and experimental development of nature

1,300 JOBS

Financial services – trusts and funds, insurance

12,000 JOBS

Construction Engineering – architectural and engineering activities, technical testing & analysis and specialised design activities

5,500 JOBS

Administration & support – conventions & trade shows and travel agency & tour operators

¹ The five SLP boroughs plus Wandsworth.

OTHER DISTINGUISHING FACTORS OF OUR SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMY ARE:

Despite some major organisations like Mott MacDonald, Lidl, Unilever, the Institute of Cancer Research and Haymarket Publishing being based in the sub-region, and a concentration in Richmond of household name tech businesses like eBay, Paypal, Graze, Gumtree and Not On The High Street, proportionately SLP has fewer large firms – over 93% of enterprises are ‘micro’-sized (9 or fewer workers), compared to 91% for London overall;

This may be connected to a prevalence of self-employment – 15.9% of the workforce in 2019 (105,000 workers) compared to 13.0% for London and 13.1% nationally. This has been increasing as one in four jobs generated in our economy through the 2010s were self-employed; and

High levels of home-working even before the pandemic – 35.6% of workers either usually (5.9%) or sometimes (29.8%) worked from home in 2019 – the equivalent figures for Outer London are 28.8% and London as whole 32.1%

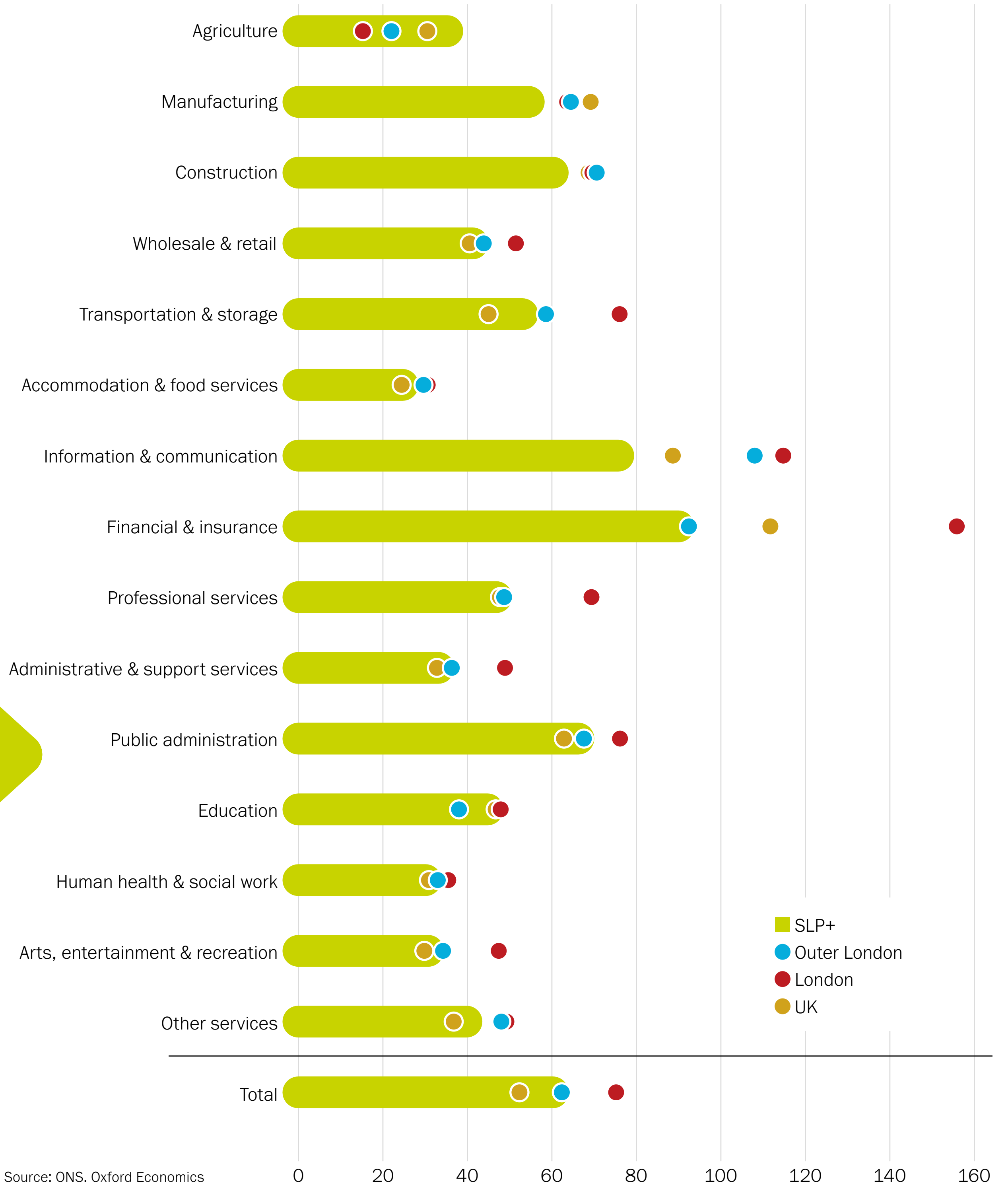
While significant overall, our collective sub-regional economy has punched below its weight for several years. Our sub-regional GDP per capita at £31,144 in 2019 was over one third lower than the London average of £47,534.

This is due to lower productivity. In 2019, each job in South London generated on average £69,917, compared to £75,874 for London as a whole.

Our poorer productivity is one third due to sectoral composition with a greater representation of less productive sectors that support the local population (real estate, wholesale and retail, health and social care, education) and, despite them being important, lower representation in key growth sectors like professional services and information and communication. If our economy reflected the London sectoral mix, this could add 8% to our productivity (£5,100 GVA per person). Richmond is the only SLP borough that is more productive than London overall (with £77,700 GVA per job).



PRODUCTIVITY (£000s PER JOB, 2018 PRICES)



Source: ONS, Oxford Economics

15.9%

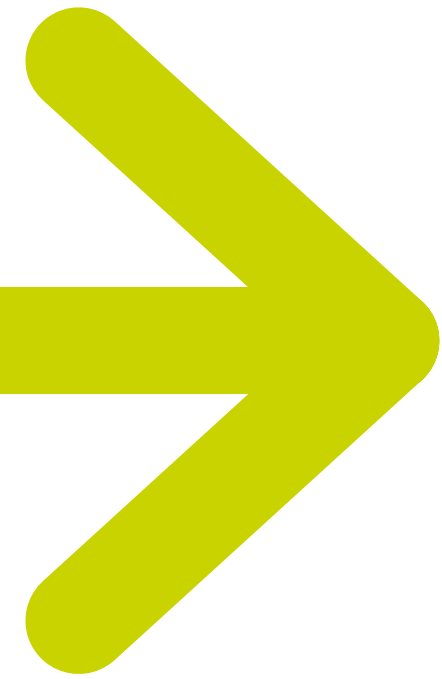
Workforce self-employment in 2019

£31,144

Sub-regional GDP per capita in 2019

£69,917

Generated by each job in South London in 2019



The other two thirds of our productivity gap are due to firms in our area being on average less productive than their counterparts in other parts of the city.

This may be affected by the higher levels of 'micro' businesses and self-employment.

Were our sectors to match London's average sectoral productivity, this could add 17% to our productivity (£10,000 GVA per worker).

Our productivity challenge has impacted on sub-regional economic growth. We saw lower levels of growth than London and the UK average between 2010 and 2019 (SLP+ 1.7% GVA growth per annum, compared to 2.0% for Outer London and 2.9% for London as a whole). Richmond, which benefits from a large and growing professional services sector, is the only one of our boroughs to have out-performed London as a whole with 3.5% annual growth over this period.

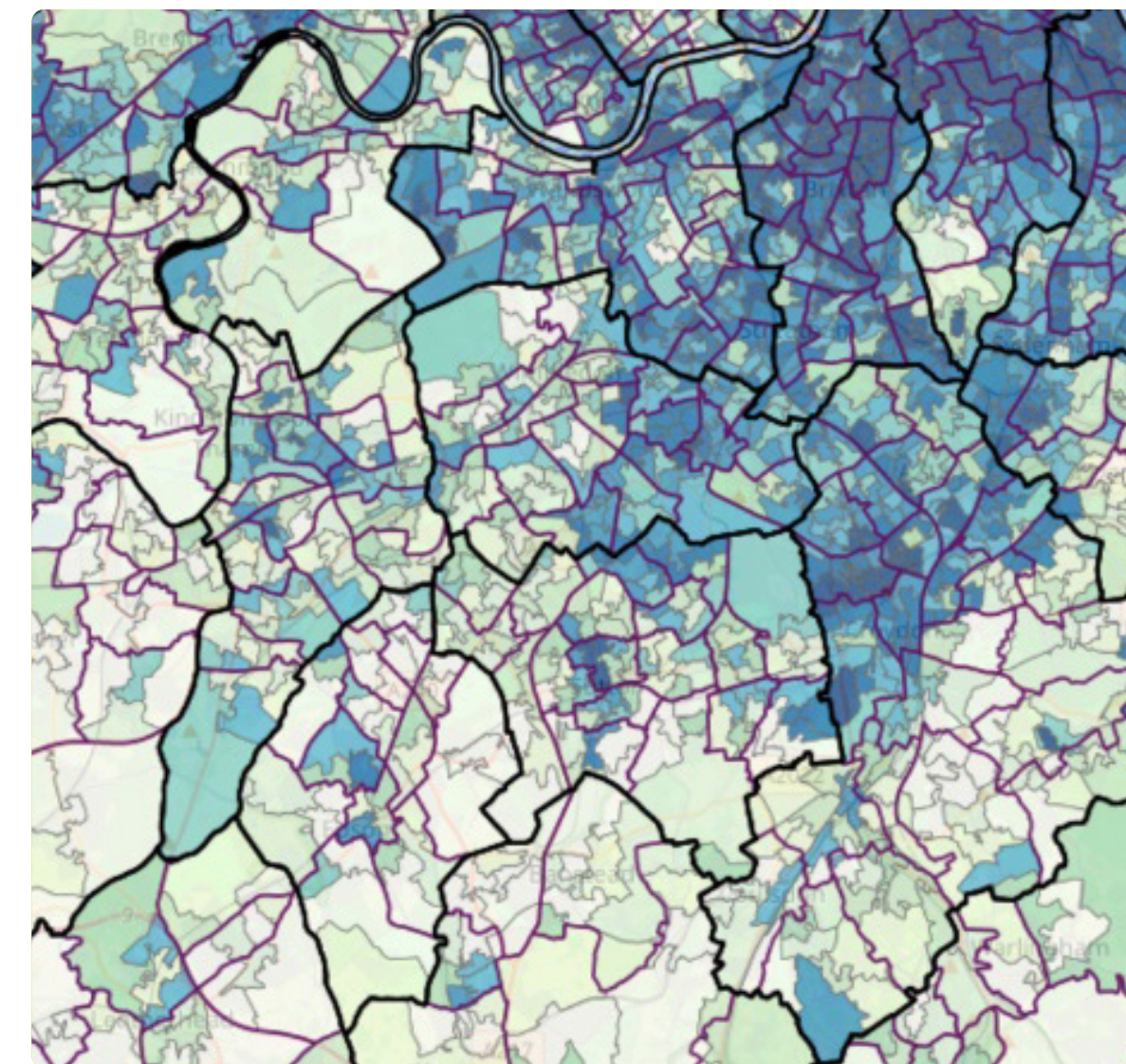
This productivity lag is also reflected in a stark gap between our earnings for workers and those of residents. Median workplace earnings were £502 per week in 2019. Those for residents were £601, with Croydon at £564 and Sutton at £543 lagging the London average of £716.



The high level of residents' earnings is primarily attributable to a highly skilled population with 52.8% of SLP's working age population qualified to degree level or above (London 54%, national 40%). Many of these will be included in the 37% of our residents who commuted into central London pre-Covid for higher paid jobs, while enjoying the quality of life and amenities in our areas for their homes and families. This has also contributed to lower than London average levels of unemployment (3.8% in 2019 compared to London at 4.6% and the UK at 4.0%).

HIGH AVERAGE RESIDENT EARNINGS HAS ALWAYS MASKED PARTICULAR CHALLENGES FOR SOME - INCLUDING:

pockets of deprivation, particularly in Croydon, Sutton and Merton but present in all boroughs, and disproportionately impacting on some ethnic minority groups;



Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 – overall deprivation

significant proportions of economically inactive people who wanted to work;

higher levels of economic inactivity among women and for those with health or disability challenges; and

high levels of in-work poverty – 2018 GLA report flagged all SLP boroughs above the London average of 20%, with Sutton highest at 44% of employees earning below the London Living Wage.

Not only are strong commuting links into central London important in explaining the relative affluence of some parts of our boroughs. Our strongest economic and opportunity areas are town centres with better rail train connections (Richmond, Kingston, Wimbledon, Sutton and Croydon). But overall, our sub-region has the poorest public transport connectivity of any London sub-region. 65% of our residents live in areas with Public Transport Accessibility Levels of 1 or 2.



...while central London is one of the world's best connected places, parts of outer London are cut off from the opportunities the rest of the city has to offer by poor Tube, rail and bus links. Poor transport connections compromise economic fairness by limiting access to jobs, education and training. This in turn can isolate people and communities and lead to a less socially integrated city. Potential development depends so heavily on good connectivity that this not only hampers personal opportunities, but also limits housing and jobs growth."

"...historically south London's growth has been constrained by the nature of its rail connections..."

Mayor of London's Transport Strategy, 2018



THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE SOUTH LONDON ECONOMY

2021
20,700

32,000
jobs forecast to be lost

2020
11,000

men, younger workers, ethnic minorities and the less qualified being most affected – with existing inequalities worsened

13.2%

of peak unemployed forecast to be ethnic minorities
(2nd highest sub-region)

SLP unemployment forecast to peak at **6.4%** in August 2021
(40,000 people)

unemployment rose to **5.3%** in 2020

VS.



CONTRACTION OF **12.1%**

in sub-regional economy (GVA) in 2020
London 10.4%, UK 11.4%

HIGHEST

SUBREGIONAL FORECAST UNEMPLOYMENT FOR

OVER 50s



one third of peak unemployment expected to be 16-24 years olds

62,000 ↓

employments furloughed in April 2021 (8% of working age population)

Fallen from 84,300 in January 2021

7.7%

peak Unemployment benefit claimants forecast

(working age population of 59,000 residents, late summer 2021)

38,600

claiming self-employment income support in May 2021

Down from peak of 58,900 in June 2020

94.3%

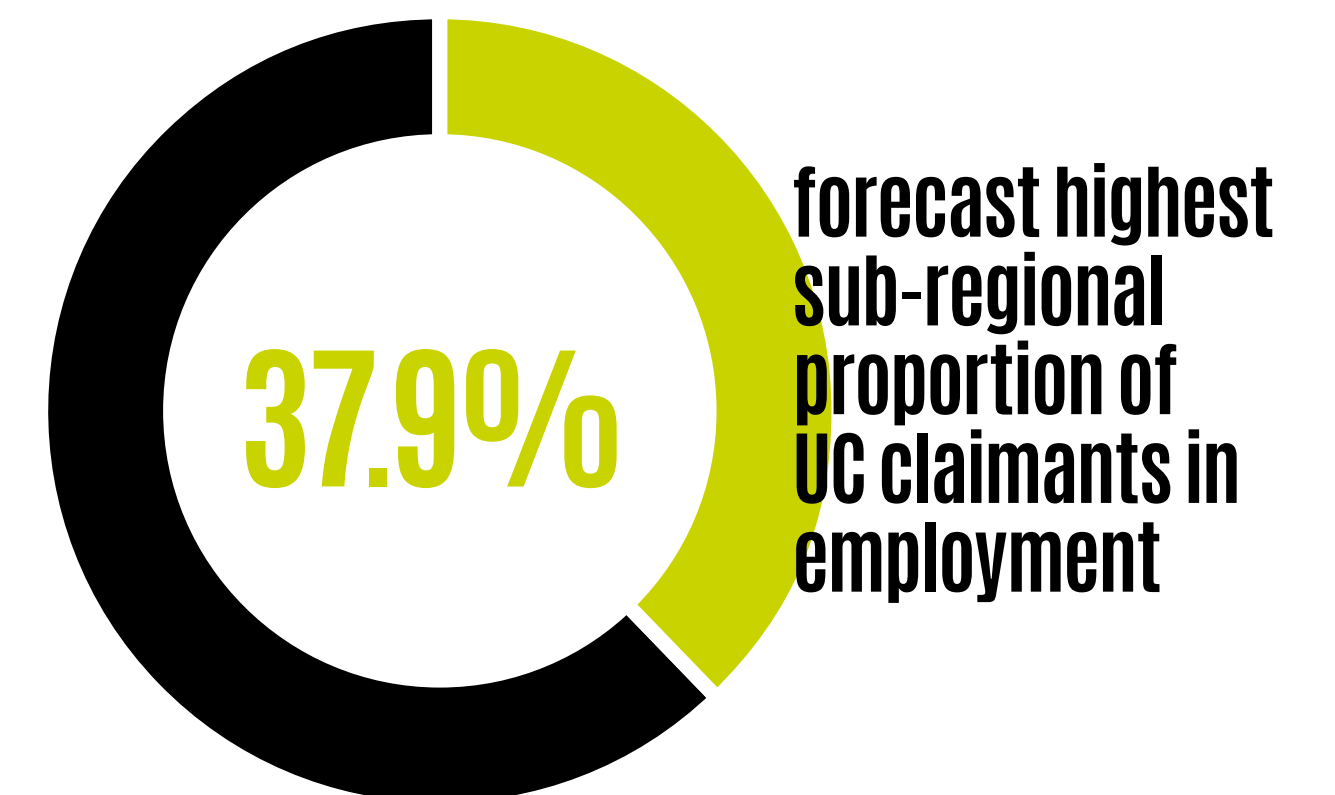
increase in Universal Credit claimants March 2020 - May 2021

AT WHICH POINT

116,774

people (over 15% of working age population) claiming Universal credit

nearly one fifth of residents aged 25-39 were claiming UC in May 2021



LIKE EVERYWHERE, COVID-19 HAS HAD A MAJOR IMPACT ON OUR SUB-REGIONAL ECONOMY.

This has a range of impacts on our economy:

it limits many residents' access to the wider opportunities of the London job market – there are four times as many jobs within 45 minutes' travel of Harrow as there are of Sutton because of the metro-frequency train services in North London. 41% of our residents work within the sub-region;

it drives a high level of dependency on road transport, with 45% of journeys made by car, resulting in high levels of congestion as well as safety, pollution and amenity impacts; and

it is a barrier to businesses' productivity and growth – limiting access to workforce, networking and agglomeration, and increasing costs of business, logistics and distribution.

Over the last year our boroughs have worked closely with businesses, BIDs, Chambers of Commerce and other partners to administer government business support grants, support adaptation to social distancing and various government measures and lockdowns, and then to reopen as these have lifted. We have also worked closely with community and voluntary sector organisations to support individuals and their families facing economic challenges as a result of the pandemic, through Community Hubs, Social Isolation Payments and other support.

But we all recognise that the economic challenges arising from Covid will be across our economy and communities for many years to come.

Unemployment has risen to 5.3% in 2020 and is forecast to peak sub-regionally at 6.4% in August 2021¹. This is the lowest sub-regional unemployment level in London, influenced by the relatively higher number of highly skilled residents in jobs that have been suitable for transitioning to working for home and reflecting our long-standing lower levels of employment.

However, it still represents a significant number of people out of work and is markedly higher than the 4.1% unemployment in 2019.

Within this overall level, there is variation in the impacts on different boroughs, but overall it is forecast that sub-regionally we will see:

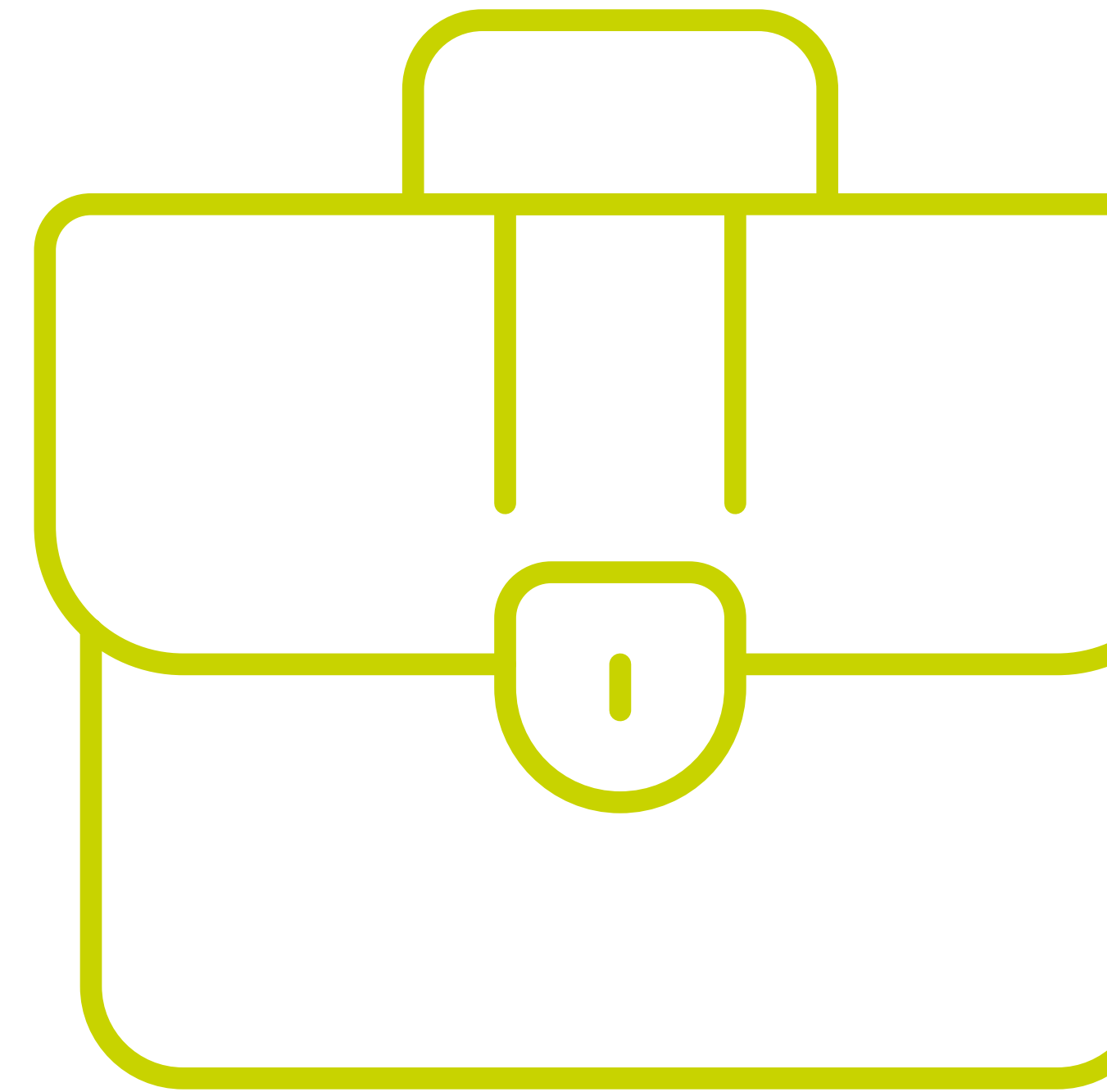
one third of our peak unemployment in 16–24 year olds – the second highest sub-regional rate, and particularly high in Croydon;

the highest sub-regional proportion of unemployment in 50–64 year olds (19% at peak); and

the second highest sub-regional rate of ethnic minority unemployment – 13.2% at the peak, giving us the highest ratio of ethnic minority to white unemployment;

1/3
of our peak unemployment
in 16-24 year olds

19%
proportion of unemployment
in 50-64 year olds



THE PANDEMIC HAS HAD A FINANCIAL IMPACT ON MANY FAMILIES.

We have seen a 95.5% increase in Universal Credit claimants between March 2020 and March 2021, with 15.5% of the working age population (117,636 people) claiming in April 2021. Our sub-region is forecast to see the highest proportion of Universal Credit claimants in employment (37.9%) signalling a significant exacerbation of the pre-existing in-work poverty challenge.

Within the overall UC figures, we have also seen a significant rise in the numbers within this who are claiming unemployment benefits. This is forecast to peak at 70,000 residents in December 2021, 7.7% of the working age population (59,000 people).

The concentration of lower skilled and lower paid jobs in our sub-region has been particularly vulnerable to the Covid shock. In December 2020, before the third national lockdown, Oxford Economics estimated the impact on our sub-regional economy as:

a contraction of **12.1%** in our sub-regional GVA in 2020 – a greater than that forecast for London (10.4%) or the UK (11.4%). This would wipe out all our growth since 2011. They anticipated a rebound in 2021 and 2022, leading to a return to pre-pandemic levels by 2023 and slowing thereafter – though this may be delayed because of the third lockdown and any other future measures.

continued slower annual growth than the rest of London, with a forecast of an average **1.1%** growth a year between 2019 and 2030, compared to **1.5%** for London;

losses of nearly **32,000 jobs: 11,100 jobs in 2020 and a further 20,700 in 2021.**

The impacts of lockdown have, of course, been felt across our areas – with two key issues dominating the place impacts across our boroughs:

the acceleration of pressures on retail mean that the future evolution and vitality of town centres and high streets is a challenge in all areas; and

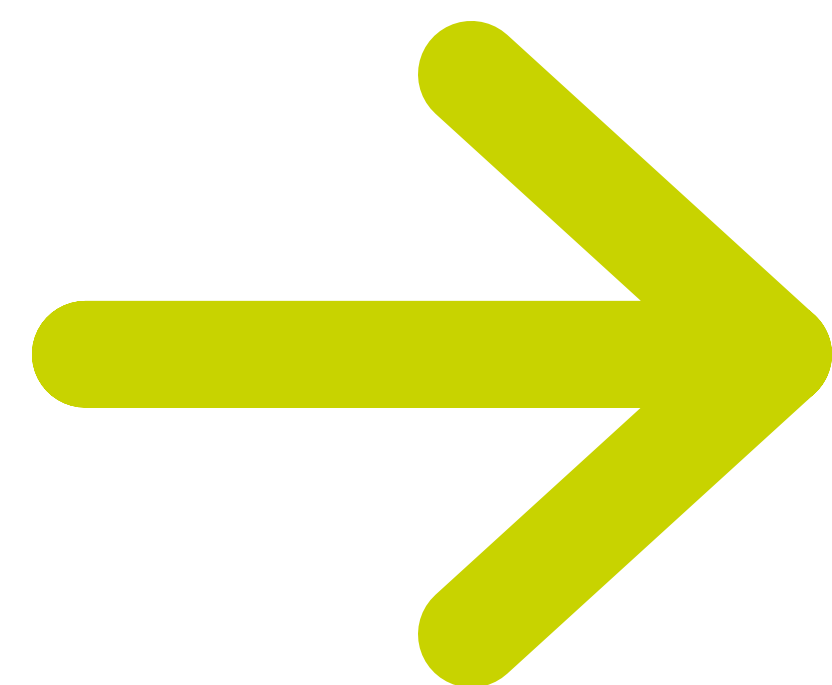
the shift to home working – particularly prevalent in our boroughs given high proportions of office-based commuters who have been able, and the reason for the relatively lower impact that in some other sub-regions - has contributed to a significant increase in the number of people working in South London, except in key town centres that had a material office-based economy.

Our boroughs are also all closely watching the impacts of the lockdowns on people's travel behaviours and particularly choice of modes, as we continue to facilitate active travel choices and reduced car use.

95.5%
increase in Universal Credit claimants
between March 2020 and March 2021

12.1%
Contraction in our sub-
regional GVA in 2020

1.1%
growth a year between 2019
and 2030, compared to
1.5% for London



SUB-REGIONAL PRIORITIES TO SUPPORT ECONOMIC RECOVERY

OUR SUB-REGIONAL PRIORITIES FOR ACTION ARE FOCUSED ON THE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES FACING OUR SUB-REGION - WHETHER LONGER-STANDING OR CREATED OR ACCELERATED BY THE PANDEMIC.

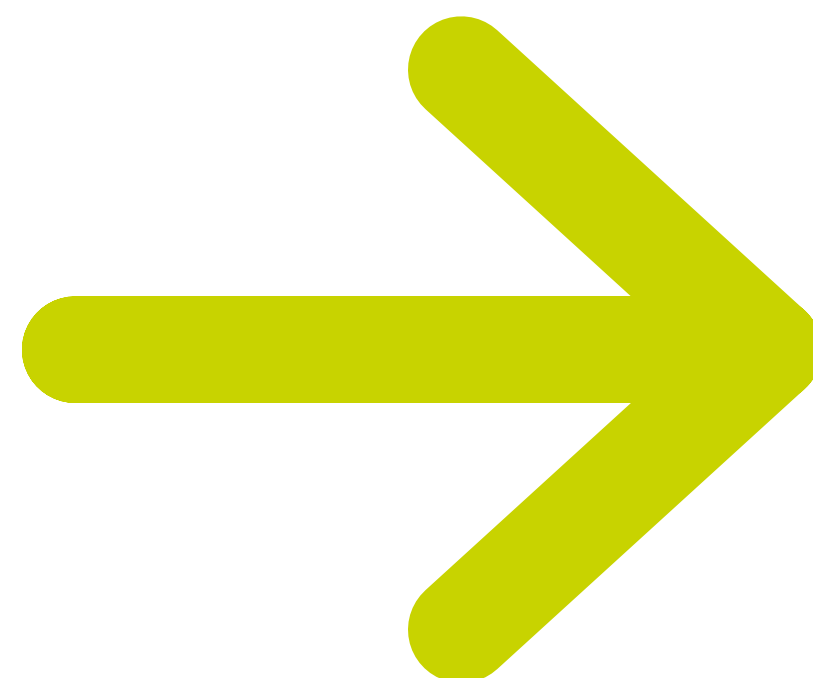
We have identified areas where collaboration will add value beyond what we could achieve alone, that will supplement and enhance our local work across a wider range of agendas.

Our sub-regional economic recovery priorities, are laid out on the following pages. More detail on initial actions in [Appendix A](#).

They fit with and contribute to the London Economic Recovery Framework with its five pillars of Jobs, Businesses, Thriving Neighbourhoods, Connected City and Global City, and two cross-cutting focuses on Achieving Net Zero and Narrowing Inequalities.

This builds on work we were already doing – including refocussing our existing £28 million of programmes to support recovery (more details in [Appendix B](#)) – and identifying new challenges or opportunities where we can make a difference.

In taking forward these priorities, we will want to work closely with local partners and anchor institutions, as well as with the Mayor and his bodies, Governments and anyone else who wants to help.



ONE.

HELPING RESIDENTS INTO GOOD WORK

LONDON ECONOMIC RECOVERY FRAMEWORK: JOBS

We are facing unprecedented levels of unemployment. Even though the UK's economic recovery is proving swifter than had originally been forecast, there will still be a significant impact on individuals and families. This requires a commensurate response.

Other than Croydon, our boroughs have historically had very low levels of unemployment. This means that we have not traditionally had the scale of infrastructure and programmes to support the unemployed that have been developed in other parts of London. Much has been done over the last year to step up the response by SLP and boroughs individually, and to work closely with DWP JobCentre Plus and employment support and skills providers of all kinds across our sub-region to meet the new and different needs.

Many people are facing unemployment for the first time from sectors that are unlikely to rebound to their former capacity, while in other sectors significant workforce shortages are showing through. We face an increased need for reskilling as well as helping those with lower levels of skills to upskill, and for all to understand the opportunities and transferability of their skills and experience.

The SLP Job Entry Targeted Support programme has seen the highest levels of over-subscription and over-delivery of any such programme across the country, demonstrating the strong need for such support.

The complexity for residents of navigating the range of offers of provision and support that are available to help them into work, and for employers to contribute to these and tap into the range of sources to help them recruit suitably skilled workers and develop their existing workforce, have long been identified in South London. It was flagged in our Skills for South Londoners Strategy in 2017 and reinforced by our Skills for South Londoners Board. This problem is exacerbated in the current labour market and as new provision is developed. It also makes it hard to identify gaps in provision and ensure that tailored responses are developed swiftly. The London 'Good Work for All' Mission's focus on developing a 'No Wrong Door' to ensure people seeking work are able to more easily navigate and access the support they need therefore chimes in South London.

Our activity will be undertaken in the context of a changing strategic policy environment. The Department of Work and Pensions is continuing to develop new employment support provision. The future approach to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which will replace EU funding that played a significant role in providing targeted employment and skills support in London for priority groups, will be important. The Government has set out a new agenda for skills in its Skills for Jobs White Paper and Bill, including strengthening links between employers and skills providers and tailored plans to meet local skills needs. The Mayor of London will also be evolving the approach to the devolved Adult Education Budget, worth £340 million in 2021/22, to support the economic recovery across the capital.



OUR KEY FOCUSES WILL BE TO:

- A.** Gather and share intelligence about unemployment and the labour market across the sub-region to support our own and partners' work.
- B.** Secure delivery of our existing devolved employment support programmes (Better Working Futures South London – Work & Health Programme and Job Entry Targeted Support) to ensure clear pathways into support and routes into jobs for priority groups, and through the relationships developed with DWP influence and support the commissioning and integrated delivery of other employment support provision (eg Kickstart, Restart) to meet the needs of our residents and employers.
- C.** Strengthen pathways into jobs in key sectors: construction and health and care initially - and keep abreast of the development of London sector skills academies and respond to relevant opportunities.
- D.** Develop a sub-regional 'No Wrong Door' approach to help people navigate the support they need to get into work.
- E.** Support careers information advice and guidance for our young people by bidding to deliver a GLA-funded sub-regional Careers Hub.
- F.** Support the development of a Local Skills Improvement Plan and other responses to new legislation and national or London funding.

TWO.

SUPPORTING INNOVATION

LONDON ECONOMIC RECOVERY FRAMEWORK: BUSINESS

Given our long-standing productivity challenges, it has been a shared SLP ambition for some time to support businesses to improve their own productivity as well as developing new products and services to increase their resilience and growth prospects. We also want to encourage the development of or attract more knowledge-based and better paid jobs to strengthen our sub-regional economy and provide more opportunities for good work nearer to home. Promoting innovation also provides valuable opportunities to help address wider challenges and improve public services.

This has been the driving impetus behind the development of our BIG South London programme (see Appendix B), which is stimulating an innovation eco-system through strengthening collaboration between our universities, further education colleges, research intensive organisations and businesses, as well as providing seven new workspaces in which creativity and talent can be supported and nurtured.

The Government has placed innovation firmly as one of the cornerstones of its Build Back Better plan. This sits in the context of a growing recognition of the vital role universities have in their local places and economies. An Innovation Strategy and Place-Based Research and Development Strategy will flesh out the Government's way forward and inform future funding.

While London overall has historically benefited from the highest levels of Government innovation investment, this is not equally dispersed around the capital. Of the 41 UK NUTS 2 regions, Outer London – South¹ comes 39th in this ranking of investment by Innovate:UK and the Research Councils - below the Highlands and Islands or Dorset and Somerset. This equates to below £5 a head, compared to £700 a head in Inner London – West.

The CBI's recently produced Regional Scorecards show that this 'investment gap' in R&D extends beyond Government spend, with R&D expenditure per head in Croydon, Merton, Kingston and Sutton at £129, compared to £661 per head for London overall. Increasing investment in innovation will help improve productivity, sustainable growth and create local job opportunities.



OUR KEY FOCUSES WILL BE TO:

- A.** Ensure that the BIG South London programme builds on its positive start to forge a three-way partnership between boroughs, universities and businesses to stimulate innovation that contributes to economic recovery and growth, and attracts increased investment.
- B.** Build on the relationships being developed through BIG South London to position our area and partners to respond to the Government's Innovation Strategy, including exploring the potential to start shaping an Innovation District or other initiatives that could increase public and private investment in innovation and support growth in productive sectors and employment.
- C.** Use our innovative InnOvaTe pilot to support boroughs and wider partners to pilot and research the use of the 'Internet of Things' to help address key challenges and opportunities and share the learning from these.

THREE.

IMPROVING SUB-REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND CONNECTIVITY

LONDON ECONOMIC RECOVERY FRAMEWORK: CONNECTED CITY

Improving public transport is a long-standing SLP priority; overcrowded and infrequent trains, poor orbital connectivity and very limited Tube services are some of main constraints. It remains a key priority, with even greater need for better connectivity across our sub-region to support economic recovery and enable people to access work, learning, services or leisure opportunities without resorting to getting into cars, which have gained in popularity in the pandemic. While we will all need to monitor how future patterns of work evolve, it is widely recognised that some of the changes in where people have worked in the pandemic will continue, creating different transport needs.

Gradually increasing levels of cycling and walking have accelerated in many areas and for some people, but it is not clear how these will evolve further and some groups are still unsure or face other barriers to active travel. Yet the climate emergency means there remains a compelling need to find ways to reduce transport emissions, and reducing congestion will also be important to support economic vitality.

The pandemic has also shed a sharper light on the importance of better digital infrastructure. This is a vital underpinning for work be it at home, in flexible workspaces or more traditional premises – not just offices, but also retail, leisure and other businesses or services as digitisation accelerates in most sectors. It is also particularly important in supporting equality and inclusion, as has been seen by the challenges faced by some families in supporting home-schooling during the pandemic or in enabling connectivity and inclusion of more vulnerable or lonely people. But levels of full fibre to premises (essential for the higher speeds needed now and for future 5G development) are low in many of our boroughs, ranging from 3.7% of premises in Kingston to 29.1% in Merton, the only one of our boroughs to exceed the London rate of 21.3%.



OUR KEY FOCUSES WILL BE TO:

- A.** Work closely with Transport for London to monitor and understand changes in transport uses and their implications for existing and new services.
- B.** Strengthen orbital transport links.
- C.** Explore opportunities to collaborate to build on local work to increase active travel.
- D.** Explore collaborative opportunities to accelerate roll-out of electric vehicle charging points and shape approaches to new technologies (eg e-scooters, automated vehicles).
- E.** Accelerate roll-out of full fibre digital infrastructure to support economic activity and address digital inequalities.

FOUR.

ADDRESSING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY

LONDON ECONOMIC RECOVERY FRAMEWORK: ACHIEVING NET ZERO

In the face of the climate and environmental challenges, our boroughs have all declared Climate Emergencies and set targets for reaching net zero. Their Climate Action Plans have set out clear actions to reduce emissions and protect and enhance natural resources, which are being progressed.

This builds on longstanding track records of commitment to and innovative action on the environment and sustainability, from early zero carbon developments like the ground-breaking BedZed housing development in Hackbridge, zero carbon new schools, housing retrofit programmes and programmes to support businesses to adapt their activity to reduce climate impact.

Our boroughs are all parties to the London Councils' Joint Statement on Climate Change and are participating in the development and progressing of the seven climate programmes. We will also consider where sub-regional action can contribute to this.



As a first step, we have agreed a Statement of Shared Principles on Sustainability that is at **Appendix C**



OUR KEY FOCUSES WILL BE TO:

- A.** Share best practice, working together on common challenges, and develop links with key organisations like Connected Places Catapult and other with expertise in this area to support our boroughs, individually and collectively, and sub-regional partners to make a difference on climate change.
- B.** Identify and take forward one or two joint sub-regional projects where we can accelerate delivery through collaboration and working at scale.
- C.** Collaborate to identify and secure funding for climate projects.
- D.** Maximising the contribution of SLP programmes to climate change and sustainability goals.

FIVE.

REVITALISING HIGH STREETS AND ECONOMIC AREAS

LONDON ECONOMIC RECOVERY FRAMEWORK: THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS

Our boroughs are working closely with Business Improvement Districts and other local traders or business and community groups to respond to the challenges facing high streets and town centres that have been accelerated or exacerbated by the pandemic. Many of the complex issues and challenges driven by wider structural economic changes are common, even if the solutions will vary locally.

Our network of industrial areas have long faced strong demand, reflected in low vacancy rates and rising rents. Exploring the opportunities to protect and improve the use of this limited asset is a shared agenda, which benefits from cross-boundary consideration reflecting the economic corridors across our sub-region.

Protecting and enhancing the uses of our economic land is an increasingly important agenda in the face of growing Permitted Development Rights, and chimes with wider concerns across London.



OUR KEY FOCUS WILL BE TO:

- A. Share best practice and collaborate on common challenges facing our town centres, high streets and industrial areas to support their adaptation and future vitality and ensure the space for future economic activity.

APPENDIX A

DELIVERING THE ACTION PLAN

PRIORITY	WORKSTREAM	ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
1. Helping residents into good work	A. Gather and share labour market intelligence to support our own and partners' work	SLP Economic Insights published monthly tracking key economic indicators and other data insights	ongoing
	B. Secure delivery of devolved employment support programmes and influence the commissioning and delivery of new DWP programmes	Secure delivery by Reed in Partnership of Better Working Future: SLP Work & Health Programme – a £13.5 million employment support programme funded by DWP and ESF for the long term unemployed and those with health or disability challenges.	to Mar 2023
		Secure delivery by Reed in Partnership of the SLP Job Entry: Targeted Support (JETS) programme – a £3.5 million programme of employment support for those who have lost their jobs through Covid.	to Oct 2021
		Secure a one year extension of JETS to Oct 2022.	by autumn 2021
		Ensure the new Restart programme across South and East London delivers effective support for SLP residents who have been out of work for over 12 months and integrates efficiently with other provision.	from July 2021
	C. Constructing South London (SLP Mayor's Construction Academy Hub)	Continue delivery of Constructing South London to: identify and provide information, advice and guidance to 1500 residents on construction opportunities help 300 residents onto construction training course and help 110 into work in the construction industry develop and new green construction skills training programme and roll out across the sub-region.	June 2022
	D. South West London Strengthening Communities Anchor Institutions Workstream	Work with the NHS and others through the SWL Integrated Care System Strengthening Communities Board to agree and deliver specific actions to improve pathways into jobs in health and care.	summer 2021
	E. No Wrong Door	Develop a sub-regional Integration Hub proposal to secure funding offered by GLA.	autumn 2021
		Co-design with partnership of skills and employment providers, DWP, voluntary and community sector and boroughs sub-regional actions to contribute to 'No Wrong Door' so our residents can navigate and access the support they need to get into good work.	by end 2021
	F. South London Careers Hub	Bid to deliver the sub-regional Careers Hub funded by the GLA/ESF.	July 2021
G. Support the development of a Local Skills Improvement Plan	Work with businesses and skills providers to support the development of a Local Skills Improvement Plan that is responsive to the needs of local businesses and will help to develop a future talent pipeline who can access jobs in our growth and emerging sectors.	summer 2022	

PRIORITY	WORKSTREAM	ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
2. Supporting innovation	A. BIG South London	Continue to forge a strong innovation partnership between boroughs, universities, colleges and businesses to stimulate the local innovation eco-system and support economic recovery and growth	ongoing
		Deliver the BIG South London pathfinder programmes: Innovation Vouchers and an Innovation Support Programme.	spring 2022
		Co-design and commission the 2022 innovation programme investing around £750,000 in new initiatives and programmes.	by end 2021
		Deliver 7 new workspaces across SLP boroughs.	through 2021/22
	B. Shaping a response to the Innovation Strategy	Work with partners to identify the opportunities for South London from the Government's Innovation Strategy and Research and Development Place Strategy, and how to respond to these.	autumn 2021
	C. InnOvaTe (Internet of Things)	Agree use cases and procure partners to deliver further sensor pilots.	by end 2021
		Share intelligence from pilots and learning from developing and delivering them.	ongoing
3. Improving sub-regional infrastructure and connectivity	A. Improve transport connectivity	Engage with TfL to monitor transport usage implications of changes in work patterns etc.	ongoing
		Review options for improving sub-regional orbital connectivity in current financial conditions.	spring 2022
		Refresh engagement with Transport for the South East about post-Covid shared transport interests.	by end 2021
		Explore opportunities to collaborate to support active travel and/or accelerate roll-out of EV charging points and shape approaches to new technologies.	by early 2022
	B. Improve digital connectivity	Participate in the DCMS Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator project to support co-development of Digital Platforms to facilitate asset mapping and brokerage	from summer 2021
		Recruit two Mayor-funded Digital Infrastructure Enabler posts	autumn 2021
		Facilitate delivery of full fibre digital infrastructure projects including through the TfL Connected London programme	ongoing

PRIORITY	WORKSTREAM	ACTIVITY	TIMEFRAME
4. Addressing the climate emergency	A. Develop sub-regional sustainability projects to position ourselves to bid successfully for future funding opportunities	Agree a SLP Statement of Shared Principles on Sustainability	July 2021
		Collaborate with other sub-regional partnerships on research to clarify the green job potential and skills needs for our area.	Sept 2021
		Secure an SLP Green New Deal Programme Manager joint-funded through the LEAP capacity support offer to co-ordinate sub-regional work including: agree one or two sub-regional sustainability initiatives and take these forward share best practice and collaborate on common challenges identify and secure funding for climate programmes engage with wider partners and experts eg Connected Places Catapult	Oct 2021
	B. Promote sustainability and climate actions through other SLP programmes	Ensure the InnOvaTe (Internet of Things) programme includes pilots to improve data and intelligence to inform borough and partner actions on sustainability and climate change, and shares learning from these.	ongoing
		Explore opportunities to develop an innovation cluster or network on the climate emergency response through our innovation partnership with universities through BIG South London.	by early 2022
		Through Constructing South London improve understanding of the skills needs and the pathways in green construction jobs to support green development within the sub-region, and build green skills into construction skills training	ongoing
		Develop the active travel, public transport and digital connectivity town centre connectivity, and digital infrastructure actions referenced above.	spring 2022
	5. Revitalising high streets and economic areas	A. Sharing best practice and collaborating on common challenges facing our town centres, high streets and other areas of economic activity	Develop and deliver programme of best practice sharing activity between boroughs and with wider partners eg BIDs.
Share best practice in development of new workspaces being supported through the BIG South London programme, including how these can provide a focus for bringing university engagement and other innovation support to high streets.			ongoing

APPENDIX B EXISTING SLP PROGRAMMES



SUPPORTED BY
MAYOR OF LONDON



Work and Health Programme

A £13.38 million five year programme of devolved funding from DWP matched with London European Structural Funds and commissioned to be delivered by Reed in Partnership.

To provide intensive support into sustained employment for people who have been long-term unemployed (over 24 months) or have disability, health conditions or other barriers.

Started March 2018, last referrals October 2022, end of programme March 2024.

Delivery at end May 2021:

| **3,959 people started on programme**

| **1,027 job starts**

| **489 participants have reached the lower earnings target of £3,000**

| **337 participants have reached the higher earnings target of £5,000**

www.bwfsouthlondon.co.uk



A £3.47 million one year programme of devolved funding from DWP to extend Reed in Partnership's Work and Health Programme contract.

To deliver light touch support for those who have lost their jobs through Covid-19 and been in receipt of benefits for at least 13 weeks.

Started October 2020, last referrals September 2021, end of programme March 2022.

Delivery at end June 2021:

| **2,986 people started on programme**

| **774 job starts**

| **599 participants have passed the earnings target of £1,000**



A £4 million three and a half year programme funded through the London Business Rates Retention Pilot Strategic Investment Programme.

To pilot 'Internet of Things' (IoT) small sensor technologies to gather intelligence to inform responses to economic, social or environmental challenges.

From September 2019 to March 2023.

Delivery at end May 2021:

| **24 use cases signed off and in delivery or procurement – including for monitoring of town centre footfall, traffic and cycle lane use, misuse of car parks, air quality, fly-tipping, flood monitoring in gulleys and culverts, and helping vulnerable people stay safely in their homes.**

| **InnOvaTe programme has joined up with the Mayor's www.breathelondon.org initiative and is connecting 131 air quality sensors into the network of pan-London sensors.**

www.innovateproject.org



A £6.04 million three and a half year programme funded through the London Business Rates Retention Strategic Investment Programme.

To build a dynamic eco-system of business, university and community collaboration to stimulate knowledge-based growth in businesses and jobs across the sub-region through:

forging a sustainable sub-regional innovation partnership between universities, businesses and boroughs

£1.5 million programme of innovation support activity

delivering 7 new workspaces in which innovation support activity can be delivered across the sub-region

From June 2020 to December 2023.

Delivery at end July 2021:

18 Innovation Vouchers awarded to businesses catalysing collaboration with universities across a range of projects

Innovation Support Programme commissioned to deliver support to 80 businesses over the next 8 months

Collaborative joint bidding by partners to support innovation and skills development in South London

An additional university and all three further education college groups have joined the partnership

www.big-knowledge.co.uk



A £440,000 one and a half year programme funded by the Mayor of London through his Mayor's Construction Academy Hubs programme.

To improve co-ordination of construction skills training provision with employer needs and strengthen pathways for residents into construction jobs.

From January 2021 to June 2022.

Delivery at end July 2021:

Partnership established with construction employers and representative bodies, and with FE colleges and other skills providers

First careers fair event

Programme of webinars including targeted at women in construction, small and medium sized businesses, and young people

Development of green constructions skills module for all training programmes

SLP DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE ENABLERS

Two Digital Infrastructure Enabler posts funded by the Mayor of London.

To support SLP boroughs to work with infrastructure providers to accelerate roll-out of full fibre to premises, including through:

Developing internal leadership, expertise and systems within boroughs, including development of wayleaves and other practical measures or tools

Project identification and delivery support, including supporting local delivery of Connected London and developing a forward programme of projects

Engagement with infrastructure providers to unlock market delivery

Identifying and supporting collaboration across boroughs

Best practice sharing in and between sub-regions

For two years from start in post.

Recruitment autumn 2020.

APPENDIX C SLP STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON SUSTAINABILITY AND GOOD GROWTH

BACKGROUND

The South London Partnership (SLP) is a constituted partnership between 5 London Boroughs in South and South West London - Croydon, Kingston upon Thames, Merton, Richmond upon Thames, and Sutton. The aims of the partnership include economic growth and sustainability.

PURPOSE

Recent research¹ highlights the impact of the pandemic on our economy – nationally, regionally and locally, this together with Brexit and the changing nature of the High Street requires attention at borough and sub-regional level. The pandemic has also illustrated some of the opportunities for more sustainable living and the possibility of building back greener and more sustainably.

The SLP wishes to set out its position on sustainability in order to help guide our economic growth and also to seek to attract the right businesses and investments for the sub-region.

The SLP sub-region has a wonderful opportunity to optimise its USP as a part of London with unrivalled access to green space as well as great business locations whether these are town centres, homeworking or industrial / business estates. Together this provides a wonderful opportunity to deliver sustainable living and working. We believe these principles will support the retention and attraction of the businesses and communities to capitalise on this, to grow our economy and to enhance quality of life.



¹ Including particularly for our sub-region: "The Future of the South London Economy Post Covid-19", Oxford Economics, January 2021.

THE 8 PRINCIPLES

- 1** We will lead by example – all of the SLP boroughs have set and are delivering on ambitious decarbonisation targets for their organisations.

CASE STUDY / EXAMPLE:

Through a 10 year “spend to save” investment programme, Merton Council has already reduced emissions on operational buildings and community schools, resulting in a 40% reduction in emissions across the whole LBM estate. 2MW of solar panels have already been installed on 44 council-owned buildings, including 27 schools, and further opportunities to maximise PV assets through battery storage are being considered. The Council has converted 80% of its existing street lighting columns to LED lanterns, and a further 12% are low energy usage. This year the Council has moved to a 100% renewable electricity tariff which supplies low carbon electricity to all operational buildings, street lights and many schools.

To deliver Merton’s commitment of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, the Council is currently developing proposals to further decarbonise its operations, including its estate, fleet and procurements. The delivery of these proposals will help create demand for new low-carbon skills and jobs in the sub-region.

We are also working through various partnerships to promote wider decarbonisation. For example, four SLP boroughs make up the South London Waste Partnership, three of them are four of the Wandle Valley Regional Park councils, and we are all working closely with the NHS through the South West London Integrated Care System.

- 2** We will be ambitious for the sub region and be zero carbon by 2050 – We will work with our communities and businesses to maximise external funding and effect the behaviour change needed to move to a zero carbon future which maintains and improves on the quality of life enjoyed.

CASE STUDY / EXAMPLE

Richmond Council has secured £1.1 million from central government to improve the energy efficiency of people’s homes as part of the Green Homes Grant, which will reduce carbon emissions and help households who are struggling to pay their fuel bills. Between November 2020 and September 2021 this should retrofit over 100 homes.

Sutton Decentralised Energy Network (SDEN) is a wholly council-owned sustainable energy supplier, providing low-carbon energy to homes and businesses in Sutton, and in future more widely.

Croydon Council has worked with the GLA’s Decentralised Energy Enabling Project (DEEP) to explore potential development options for a district heating network to provide cost-efficient means of moving from natural gas to a lower carbon and renewable fuel mix in new and existing buildings. In 2019, Croydon launched a pilot in a high-rise block in Chertsey Crescent to replace ageing electric storage heaters with a ground source heat pump system. The £700,000 project, funded through the ring-fenced housing budget and energy credits from Ofgem, coincides with a £3.2 million refurbishment including new insulation, a replacement roof and windows, landscaping and new parking.

- 3** We will invest in sustainable transport infrastructure – This will be vital to maintaining economic strength as we decarbonise transport.

All the SLP boroughs are investing in sustainable and active transport infrastructure that connects communities, supports business, and reduces carbon and pollution. We continue to push the case for improved tram and train services, including CrossRail2 and a suburban metro service, and other improvements in orbital transport connectivity to support sustainable business growth.

CASE STUDY / EXAMPLE

Kingston Council have invested in cycling infrastructure which is leading the way in promoting more active travel and public health improvements The Go Cycle programme is a major £32M infrastructure transformation project. It is designed to upgrade Kingston’s major highway routes to accommodate the latest cycling infrastructure, while improving the flow of road users, cyclists, and pedestrians, and enhancing the environments through which they travel.

Richmond Council have commissioned a ‘try before you buy’ programme from Peddle My Wheels that includes adapted and cargo bikes to attract a broader range of people to cycling.

Sutton Council are developing a Sustainable Transport Strategy as a Supplementary Planning Document, meaning that it will be a material consideration for future planning and development applications across the borough.

SLP Boroughs are ahead of the London and national average when it comes to electrical vehicle charging point infrastructure. We have delivered hundreds of roadside chargers and will continue to do so to pave the way for decarbonisation.

THE 8 PRINCIPLES

4 We will protect industrial estates as places for green jobs and businesses. Our Planning policies aim to balance the demand for homes alongside the need to protect sites that support business / jobs and particularly the locations of the new economy and the 'green' jobs for the future. The London Plan and our Local Plans will aim to secure their use for the jobs and services of the future.

CASE STUDY / EXAMPLE

All of the South London Partnership Boroughs are committed to protecting the places where local sustainable jobs and economic growth will be generated. We are blessed with a number of Strategic Industrial locations and locally significant industrial sites. In Merton the 35 hectare South Wimbledon Business Area is one of the most highly occupied and successful locations in South London. The Council has worked with the Business Improvement District on transport plans which has led to investment in cycling infrastructure and cycling on the estate. Some of these estates are owned by institutional investors who are in conversations with Local Planning Authorities about how they can transition to deliver the jobs for the future.

5 We will invest in the development of new green skills for the workforce. The Good Green Growth that we want and need will require different skill sets whether it is about skills in air and ground source heat pumps for the 400,000 homes that will require retrofitting, electric vehicle maintenance or digital skills we will need to refocus some of our training capacity away from traditional curricula as we transition to a zero carbon economy.

CASE STUDY/ EXAMPLE

Croydon Council has delivered a Schools Tech Roadshow promoting technology skills and careers across Croydon secondary schools in 2020. The aim was to showcase careers in technology and digital fields to children aged between 11 and 18 to raise awareness and career aspirations of young people in the tech industry. It showed how future jobs and careers are changing rapidly in the digital area as well as providing insight into the routes and skills required for attaining opportunities in these areas. Workshops and assemblies were delivered to c. 1,500 students across 13 schools in Croydon. Working in partnership with major tech companies, the roadshow delivered: apprenticeship talks by Amazon, virtual reality sessions by Sopra Steria, fibre splicing demo and talk by Community Fibre, 3D and virtual reality workshops by Mott Macdonald, speed networking for 300 Year 9 students with Openreach, Amazon, Microsoft, Institute of Engineering & Technology, Levity and Mott Macdonald.

SLP has also secured funding from the Mayor of London to deliver a Mayor's Construction Academy Hub – Constructing South London. This will strengthen pathways for residents into relevant education and training and other routes into jobs in the construction industry. A particular focus of the Hub will be on strengthening understanding of the skills needed to deliver the green construction projects and programmes across the sub-region.

6 We will create a world class partnership between business and academia to drive innovation and sustainable growth

CASE STUDY / EXAMPLE

SLP secured over £6 million to deliver a programme to stimulate innovation to deliver new jobs and businesses and business growth. At the heart of BIG South London programme is the ambition to stimulate a new innovation eco-system through strengthening links between our local universities and businesses and entrepreneurs. Initial analysis across the six original participating universities identified 'Clean Growth' as one of six research expertise themes, which will sit at the heart of the programme as it is developed – both to stimulate further green business development and to assist businesses, the public sector and communities to respond to climate emergency challenges. The rest of our programme's funding will support the delivery of seven new workspaces across the sub-region that will increase the opportunities for those seeking workspace closer to home.

THE 8 PRINCIPLES

7 We will promote sustainable living and the 15 minute city – We will build on the positives that have emerged through the pandemic in particular flexible working and the concept of the 15 minute city. Our town centres and neighbourhood shopping areas will support this and we will work with businesses to support localism.

CASE STUDY / EXAMPLE

Sutton Council has received £11.35 m of the Future High Streets Fund (FHSF) award. One of the key strategic ambitions of this programme will be to reimagine the High Street as a hub in line with the 15 minute city concept. This will create opportunities for shopping locally, introduce more leisure activities, community spaces as well as supporting the creative sector and to implement new cycle lanes and ensure safe pedestrian routes. This will encourage sustainable transport and reduce emissions. Sustainability will be embedded in the Council's procurement for this programme to ensure partners are committed to meeting Sutton's Environment Strategy 2019-25 & Climate Emergency Response Plan.

Merton Council's draft new Local Plan has a Good Growth Strategy at the heart of it. This acknowledges the changes post pandemic that London is facing and the need to balance growth alongside quality of life as well as ensuring we address issues including digital inclusion, tackling health inequalities, promoting healthy living, promoting the best start for young people and adapting to climate change. The plan identifies the neighbourhoods for growth and promotes the principles for the 20 minute neighbourhoods in the borough.

8 Invest in technology / smart city – easier to get work done - the use of technology will be key to sustainable living whether it is access to superfast broadband to support home working and businesses or the use of internet of things devices to provide better data and intelligence and to improve efficiency in the way we navigate and manage the city.

CASE STUDY / EXAMPLE

Croydon Council granted a borough-wide Wayleave to Community Fibre to deploy full fibre broadband to 11,000 council properties across the borough in April 2019. Deployment started in October 2019 and is now 50% complete. The Community Fibre social value offer has provided additional social, economic and environmental benefits, including free connectivity for community centres and hubs, community lounges in retirement and extra care housing blocks as well as a tailored digital inclusion training programme

SLP has secured £4 million for our InnOvaTe programme to pilot 'Internet of Things' technology to capture data and intelligence to support councils and wider partners to hone services and business models. Pilots already under way or in development include several that will support sustainability and the environment including measuring use of cycle paths, traffic monitoring, understanding pedestrian behaviour in town centres, measuring air quality, and monitoring gullies and culverts to ensure early action can be taken if these get blocked.