



THE LONDON BOROUGH
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DIRECT LINE: 020 8313 4316 DATE: 5 January 2026

To: Members of the
BROMLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Councillor Yvonne Bear (Chairman)	Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing
Lee Thomas (Vice-Chairman) Ose Akpom	Fairlight Group Economic Development Manager
Chris Burr	London South East Colleges
Zoe Carr	Penge SE20 BID Company
Russell Clarke	Sundridge Investments Limited
Christopher Evans	Community Links Bromley
Adrian Gabriel-Lovell	Jobcentre Plus
Mark Haynes	The Glades
Gary Hillman	N. Hillman & Sons
Mike Humphries	Handelsbanken
Linda King	Bromley Youth Support Programme
Sarah King	FSB
Darren Kirwin	Interim Head of Bromley Adult Education College (BAEC)
Mike Lewis	Michael Rogers LLP
Sarah Lippett	Spalsh Damage
Steve Lipscombe	Ronin Marketing
Helen McIntosh FCIPR	South East London Chamber of Commerce
Lorraine McQuillan	LBB Place Shaping & Local Economy Manager

Lily Mensah	FSB
Yvonne Tomlin Miller	Bromley Adult Education College
Daniel Murray	LBB Head of Economic Development
Sam Parrett	London South East Colleges
Emma Santer	Bromley FC
Robert Sargent	Cobalt Ltd
Clare Searle	Greener and Cleaner
Chandra Sharma	Federation of Small Businesses
Tyler Smith	Orpington First BID Manager
Kelly Stead	Mytime Active
Lorna Strawson	Churchill Theatre
Caroline Tatchell	Splash Damage
Liz Timms	Treval Engineering Ltd
Chris Travers	Your Bromley BID
Bruce Walker	Lansdown Asset Management
Katy Woolcott	London Biggin Hill Airport

A meeting of the Bromley Economic Partnership will be held at Bromley Civic Centre, Churchill Court, 2 Westmoreland Road, Bromley, BR1 1AS on **TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2026 AT 4.00 PM ***

***PLEASE NOTE STARTING TIME**

**Copies of the documents referred to below can be obtained from
<http://cds.bromley.gov.uk/>**

A G E N D A

- 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
- 2 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDING THE MEETING**

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, members of the public may submit one question each on matters relating to the work of the Committee. General questions to the BEP (not relating specifically to the agenda) must have been received in writing 10 working days before the date of the meeting. In this case this would have been by **5pm on 24th December 2025**.

Questions seeking clarification of the details of a report or matter specifically on the agenda may be accepted within two working days of the normal publication date of the agenda in this case by **5pm on 8th January 2026**.

Questions can be emailed directly to the committee clerk:

stephen.wood@bromley.gov.uk

Questions should be no more than 50 words.

- 3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH OCTOBER 2025 AND MATTERS OUTSTANDING (Pages 1 - 6)**
- 4 TAILORED EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT TRAILBLAZER PROJECT (JANE ROGERS, FOUNDER OF 'SUCCESSFUL MUMS'**
- 5 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE UPDATE (DANIEL MURRAY, LBB HEAD OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT)**
- 6 PARTNER UPDATES**
- 7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 8 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The BEP will meet next on 14th April 2026 at 4pm at Bromley Civic Centre

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Agenda Item 3

BROMLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of the meeting held at 4.00 pm on 14 October 2025

Present:

Councillor Yvonne Bear (Chairman)
Lee Thomas, Fairlight Group (Vice-Chairman)
Ose Akpom, Economic Development Manager
Chris Burr, London South East Colleges
Russell Clarke, Sundridge Investments Limited
Christopher Evans, Community Links Bromley
Adrian Gabriel-Lovell, Jobcentre Plus
Gary Hillman, N. Hillman & Sons
Mike Humphries, Handelsbanken
Sarah King, FSB
Darren Kirwin, Interim Head of Bromley Adult Education College (BAEC)
Sarah Lippett, Splash Damage
Steve Lipscombe, Ronin Marketing
Helen McIntosh FCIPR, South East London Chamber of Commerce
Lorraine McQuillan, LBB Place Shaping & Local Economy Manager
Lily Mensah, FSB
Yvonne Tomlin Miller, Bromley Adult Education College
Daniel Murray, LBB Head of Economic Development
Sam Parrett, London South East Colleges
Emma Santer, Bromley FC
Clare Searle, Greener and Cleaner
Chandra Sharma, Federation of Small Businesses
Tyler Smith, Orpington First BID Manager
Lorna Strawson, Churchill Theatre
Caroline Tatchell, Splash Damage
Liz Timms, Treval Engineering Ltd
Chris Travers, Your Bromley BID
Bruce Walker, Lansdown Asset Management
Katy Woolcott, London Biggin Hill Airport

Also Present:

Anthony Crowther, Goldsmiths, University of London
Councillor Shaun Slator

82 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Zoe Carr. Ms Carr provided a written statement which is noted in the minutes, and which was read out at the meeting.

Apologies were received from Kelly Stead. Debra Weeks attended as substitute.

Apologies were also received from Mark Haynes.

83 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions were received.

84 MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 1ST JULY AND MATTERS OUTSTANDING

The minutes of the meeting that took place on 1st July 2025 were agreed as a correct record; there were no matters outstanding.

85 UPDATE ON THE BROMLEY ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME

Anthony Crowther from Goldsmiths University of London attended to provide an update on the 'Accelerator Programme.' Bromley Council was launching this together with Goldsmiths. It was the natural progression from the initial Growth Builder Programme. The idea behind the Accelerator Programme was that a limited number (15) of high growth businesses would be involved in a network that would focus on productivity, innovation, networking, peer learning, and which would align with the Bromley Growth Plan. This work was being carried out in partnership with 'Contingent Works' and would be an intensive programme; monthly sessions would be held at Contingent Works where businesses would share challenges, issues and learning, and each business would need to commit to 10 hours per month to be part of the programme. This was a pilot programme and would not be limited to any one sector. The key qualities that would be expected with respect to potential participating businesses and entrepreneurs, were mindset, ambition, and growth potential. The businesses would need to be agreeable to giving and receiving support.

The Chairman asked what sort of problems participating businesses would be looking at. Mr Crowther responded saying that it would depend on the business and that Goldsmiths would take a lead from them. Examples however could be things like using artificial intelligence, developing marketing strategies, digital transformation, and recruitment. It was noted that in terms of turnover, businesses would need to turn over a minimum of over £100,000 per annum and they would need to be trading with a clear growth strategy. Enrolment on the programme would be via an online application. The Chairman expressed the view that businesses would need to be nurtured not just from when they were start-ups but through their entire journey. The aim would be to build and develop the high growth network businesses and to expand the accelerator programme.

The Vice Chairman expressed the view that £100K was a small entry level and that because of this it would not be relevant for his area of business

which was property. He expressed the need for inward investment and suggested that possibly the accelerator programme should be developed over three different levels. The Chairman reminded the partnership that this first iteration was a pilot and suggested that it would be beneficial to have an update in a few month's time.

RESOLVED that the update from Goldsmiths regarding the Accelerator Programme be noted.

86 BROMLEY WORKS/CONNECT TO WORK

Joe Baker attended the meeting to provide an update on the Connect to Work Programme. This was a work programme in England and Wales to help disabled people, those with health conditions and people with complex barriers to employment, to find sustainable work. Connect to Work was the first programme under the Government's new 'Get Britain Working' Strategy. The purpose of the scheme was to help people with disabilities, health conditions and other barriers to work--to find employment. Those enrolled on the scheme would need to be willing and motivated and would receive long term support.

Recruitment was now underway and a hub that could be used as a base was required. Funding had been granted for four years. The programme was seeking businesses to become 'employment champions' and there would be a launch event in February 2026. The hub would most likely be in the town centre, supported by satellite offices to maximise coverage across the Borough.

The Chairman hoped that Mr Baker could come back in the new year with a progress update.

RESOLVED that the update on the Connect to Work Programme be noted.

87 UPDATE ON THE LOCAL PLAN

The Head of Planning Policy and Strategy attended to update the partnership on the Local Plan. It was noted that this was his last meeting as he would be leaving the Council. He said that a Regulation 18 consultation had taken place between July and September 2025, which had received around 220 responses. These responses were being reviewed and would be used to inform the draft Local Plan document. The next draft was intended to be the full submission draft which would go for statutory consultation (planned for summer 2026) and would then be submitted for examination by 31st December 2026 to the Planning Inspectorate. The draft London Plan, which was being reviewed by the Mayor of London, would probably not be consulted on until the summer of 2026.

A partner expressed the view that it would be helpful if planning officers attended on site so that the resultant draft plans would be more realistic.

Mr Johnson queried how beneficial this would be as the matters described by the partner could be dealt with in writing. The Chairman suggested that this query be dealt with outside of the meeting. A brief discussion took place regarding the timing of consultations. It was noted that the current housing target was 774; in the new plan the maximum target for housing could be as much as 3000. It was noted that LBB's Green Belt Review was still being finalised.

RESOLVED that the update regarding the Local Plan be noted.

88 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The LBB Head of Economic Development stated that the three-year growth plan would continue to be developed and there would be an annual update in January 2026. There were currently seven workstreams in the Growth Plan, and it was the intention to consolidate this. It was highlighted that the work of the Business Development Team was largely funded by grants. The link to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was key. The Team had recently attended a meeting of the 'Let's Grow Bromley' DBT Goldsmith's event along with many local businesses. There would be a visit to the House of Commons on 12th February; there were a hundred places available, and partners/businesses could contact the Business Development Team if they wished to attend. A meeting was planned for 20th November with the South East London Chamber.

- A local company had been appointed to expand and develop the Opportunity Bromley Website.
- An advertising agreement had been arranged with Bromley FC. Progress was being made in marketing the public realm improvements around Elmfield Road.
- A feasibility study was planned with Network Rail to improve access around Bromley South Train Station.
- Contractors would be re-commencing work in the New Year with regards to Prospect House.

RESOLVED that the update from the Business Development Team be noted.

89 PARTNER UPDATES

Zoe Carr had been unable to attend the meeting, but had written in with the following update:

Penge SE20's Business Improvement District has won the "Best Community-Driven BID" award at the 2025 Greater London Enterprise Awards. This award recognises the BID's work in supporting the community, and success in

its community-focused initiatives. Further details can be found on the [Penge SE20 website](#).

Lilly Mensah:

Recently attended a quarterly network meeting with sixty businesses. There was significant enthusiasm shown for getting involved in the Growth Builder Programme.

Chandra Sharma:

There was a feeling amongst local businesses that little was being done to counter shoplifting. The issue of temporary traffic lights was raised, causing problems for local businesses. The Chairman explained that the Council was powerless to stop utilities from undertaking emergency works. The most the Council could do was to prohibit more than one utility company working in the same place simultaneously. It was noted that there would be no compensation provided for emergency works. Mr Sharma said that Start up Bromley now had nine hundred members but was aiming for one thousand. Despite decreases in funding they had still been able to exceed their targets. He said that they needed help from an 'expert' and also general support from the Council.

Sarah Lippett:

The partnership was informed that Splash Damage was now owned by a private equity company. This was seen as a positive turn of events and the company was now in the process of recruiting new staff.

Russell Clarke:

Things were ticking over.

Lorna Strawson:

The Churchill Theatre was getting ready for the Christmas pantomime. The theatre was expanding under the new ownership of Galliard and upgrades were being planned-including plans to refurbish the auditorium.

Debra Weekes:

Some closures had made trading difficult, but My Time Active had made allowances for this and were trading according to budget. The redevelopment of the Walnuts was going well, and it was anticipated that this would reopen in Spring 2026. Staff who were previously relocated from the premises would now be offered the chance to relocate back to the Walnuts. Reference was made to the Well-Being Hub which was based in the Glades. This provided free health checks and was open Tuesday to Saturday.

Christopher Evans

The Volunteer of the Year awards had taken place two weeks previously with approximately two hundred in attendance. Mr. Evans expressed his thanks to the various sponsors. The Deputy Mayor and Deputy Lord Lieutenant had been in attendance. It was noted that a Grassroots Development Worker had now been recruited.

Adrian Gabriel-Lovell

An update was provided regarding employment and rehabilitation programmes with the DfE merging into the DWP. Work was being done to encourage the take up of Pension Credit. It was estimated that half a million people were still not claiming this benefit. Plans were underway to create a youth space, possibly with My Time Active.

Yvonne Tomlin Miller

It was noted that the child care 'Trail Blazers' programme was running successfully. A grant of £500,000 been provided for capital works from the GLA which would help to develop outreach. It would also contribute to the development of the headquarters in Penge, be used to provide more IT for libraries and to develop a pilot voluntary course.

Katie Woolcot:

Work was being undertaken to refurbish and upgrade the old airport hangars to meet new environmental standards. £20 million was being spent on upgrading the runway. Work was continuing with respect to the accreditation programme to ensure a minimum carbon footprint.

Chris Burr:

Engagement with local businesses was now taking place regarding plans for Bromley Town Centre over the next five years.

Lee Thomas:

Business was basically ticking over. Some aspects were good and encouraging. There were the recurrent issues regarding planning consent. Mr Thomas stated that he had 'something in the pipeline.'

RESOLVED that the updates from partners be noted.

90 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

91 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The BEP will meet next on 13th January 2026 and 14th April 2026.
Both meetings will take place in Bromley Civic Centre at 4pm.

The meeting ended at 5.47 pm

Chairman