

Community Services, Business and Planning Policy Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 23 March 2020

Portfolio: Place Shaping and Planning

The Report Of: Councillor Matthew Green, Cabinet Member for Place Shaping and Planning

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1 City Plan

City Plan 2019 – 2040 Examination In Public

- 1.1 Following submission to the Secretary of State in November 2019, the City Plan is currently undergoing examination in public by two independent Planning Inspectors. The timetable for the examination is now controlled by the inspectors – they have indicated the public hearings are expected to take place in late spring/early summer.
- 1.2 Before the hearings start, the inspectors go through an information gathering phase and it is normal practice to ask the local authority for further evidence on specific policies in the plan. The Inspectors have most recently requested further detailed information regarding Westminster’s housing supply, Supplementary Planning Documents and clarification on the general conformity of the City Plan with the London Plan.
- 1.3 Assuming the Plan is found to be sound by the Inspectors, we will then be able to adopt the new City Plan and start implementing it.

Planning Review

- 1.4 A full report providing a detailed update on the Planning Review Programme is included on the agenda for this Committee meeting.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 1.5 As of 29th January 2020, the Council has collected £72.445m of CIL since the Charging Schedule came into effect in May 2016. This represents a further £5.294m collected since the last report to the previous committee.

- 1.6 The Cabinet CIL Committee has previously agreed funding allocations of £42.567m for infrastructure projects: £41.836m from the Council's 'strategic' CIL portion, and £0.731m from the CIL neighbourhood portion. The Committee met on 21st January 2020 and allocated a further £7.856m from the Council's strategic CIL portion to fourteen projects. The Committee will meet on 6th April 2020 to decide on the next round of allocations.

2 Place Shaping

Strand Aldwych Project

- 2.1 Work has been progressing on developing the designs through Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) Stage 3. This design stage is due to complete at the end of March 2020. The project team are preparing for a programme of public engagement after Easter followed by the statutory consultations for planning and traffic management. Work has begun on developing a Management Model for the space, which started with stakeholder workshops in November 2019. Additionally, the Business Plan for the project is being refreshed

Paddington Place Plan - North Paddington Permeability Strategy

- 2.2 An initial scoping document has been completed by the Council's Place Shaping team for North Paddington, which will set the direction of travel for the emerging North Paddington Permeability Strategy (NPPS). A tender has now gone out to form a consulting team to develop the NPPS between February and June 2020. This design stage will establish a strategy for the area, along with a programme of feasible projects to be taken forward.
- 2.3 Place Shaping Officers are currently setting up the process, governance and engagement strategy for the wider Paddington Place Plan. The Place Plan will be fully scoped in 2020 following the outcomes of the Paddington Area Transport Study. A dedicated Paddington Place Plan website will also be launched.
- 2.4 As one of the City's primary opportunity areas, the Place Plan will tie together the existing development, planning policy and key development sites outlined in the emerging City Plan (2019 – 2040), through a holistic vision for Paddington. Following this, the plan will propose a series of strategies and design proposals that will deliver immediate and longer-term change, reflecting and responding to the area's remaining challenges and opportunities.

Harrow Road Place Plan

- 2.5 The Harrow Road District Centre is recognised by the Council as a priority area for change and improvement. The Place Shaping team are continuing with various streams of work to bring forward projects identified alongside local residents and stakeholders as part of the Harrow Road Place Plan that will deliver immediate and longer-term improvement.

- 2.6** The Council has reached round two of the Greater London Authority's Good Growth Fund, requesting £2.3 million of match funding. The application was submitted in early February and provides a suitable opportunity to draw together multiple projects relating to key areas of priority within the Place Plan.
- 2.7** WCC are currently developing a holistic strategy for Maida Hill Market focusing on a range of short, medium- and long-term projects. Projects that offer immediate impact will be prioritised and delivered in the next year. It is anticipated the focus will be two-fold, providing infrastructural support to the market and opening-up an underperforming space linked to a neighbouring school. This has the potential to deliver a new shared civic space, supporting disadvantaged groups and providing a resource such as food growing that has links with the market, assists public health ambitions and presents educational and cultural opportunities.

Victoria Place Plan

- 2.8** In order to effectively plan for opportunities within the Victoria Opportunity Area, the Place Shaping Team are in the processes of bringing forward a Place Plan for Victoria.
- 2.9** As part of this work, the Council is working alongside the 'Victoria Partnership' consisting of Victoria BID, Network Rail, the GLA, TfL, landowners and the local community to develop a new concept masterplan for the area immediately around Victoria Station. This piece of work is known as 'Future Victoria' and an architect-led team has been commissioned to help develop the masterplan which will look at the area, ensure that current missed opportunities are reviewed, and sets a framework that guides development for the benefit of all.
- 2.10** The projects key aims are:
- To make the station and interchange easier to use.
 - Improve the quality of the streets and spaces around Victoria Station. Set out a framework which guides good growth so that it brings benefits to the area.
 - Enhance perceptions of Victoria, making it a place that you want to go to.
- 2.11** Two public workshops were held on the 15th of January and 5th of March to. These will be followed by a Public Workshop in April 2020. The purpose of these workshops is to ensure local people have an opportunity to input meaningfully into the project and emerging ideas at key stages. A public exhibition will be held in late May to present the concept masterplan and seek final thoughts and comments for integration.
- 2.12** As part of the wider Place Plan, the Place Shaping team are also working with Ward Councillors and community groups to develop other important projects that have been identified in the local area. These include Victoria Street Piazza, Kings Scholars Passage, the public realm around Victoria Street and improvements to the green spaces around Tachbrook Estate and Lillington and Longmore Community Centre which is in urgent need of attention.

Thames Riverfront Place Plan

- 2.13** The Thames Riverfront Place Plan focuses on five kilometres of the City of Westminster Thames Riverfront, aiming to enhance the natural environment and public realm to deliver a unique and world-renowned destination.
- 2.14** Place Shaping team has been establishing the scope for the project following the direction set out by the emerging City Plan. A capital bid was submitted towards the development of the strategy in 2020 and seeding quick wins emerging from the strategy over the following two years.
- 2.15** This project seeks to:
- Reconnect the City of Westminster to the Thames Riverfront;
 - Make the Thames Path more inviting for different users: local community, regular users and visitors;
 - Reflect the inner boroughs' culture and assets while creating a legible, accessible and attractive public realm;
 - Value views, landmarks and heritage by activating cultural and commercial character of the area;
 - Address climate emergency, promote sustainable travel patterns and better air quality, health and wellbeing;
 - Benefit from and enhance the potential of current plans and projects in development.
- 2.16** Whilst the team is developing the vision and strategy for the overall Place Plan and defining its governance, it is also formulating ways to engage with stakeholders and shape the long-term vision for the area.
- 2.17** To start engagement, the 'Empowering platforms: reimagining the Thames Riverfront' design competition was launched in partnership with Northbank BID as part of the London Festival of Architecture 2020. It is expected that the winning proposal will reimagine a more inclusive, accessible and stimulating way of experiencing the river and the riverside and deliver a 3-month summer intervention on strategic locations of the Thames Path.

3 Neighbourhood Plans

FitzWest Neighbourhood Plan

- 3.1** The FitzWest Neighbourhood Plan is the third neighbourhood plan (after Knightsbridge and Mayfair both of which have been made by the Council) to be formally submitted for formal examination. The Plan will now be subject to scrutiny by an independent examiner. If found to be sound, the Plan will be put to a referendum, with the local community deciding if the Plan should be made and become part of Westminster's Development Plan.

Other Neighbourhood Plans

- 3.2** Two other Neighbourhood Plans have recently been formally consulted on by neighbourhood forums: Pimlico and Soho. The Council has provided comments on these draft Neighbourhood Plans and awaits formal submission when the Neighbourhood Forums are ready to do so.
- 3.3** The Council also continues to support neighbourhood forums in their applications to be re-designated, as under neighbourhood planning legislation, designations expire after five years. Most recently, Belgravia and Fitzrovia West Neighbourhood Forums have been re-designated, and consultation is underway on the re-designation of St James's Neighbourhood Forum.

4 Public Realm

- 4.1** Over 30 public realm schemes are being delivered on the ground at any one time, with further work being continually undertaken on design and development of new schemes. Work is progressing on a number of Local Safety Schemes, developer schemes, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funded schemes and the Local Implementation Plans (LIP) programme of work.
- 4.2** The major public realm schemes are progressing on time and on budget.
- 4.3** Of the larger public realm schemes, the initial phases of Queensway have been completed. Phases 3 – 6 are now on site and due for completion over the next year.
- 4.4** Works have started at Christchurch Gardens and completion is due later this year. Work on Berkeley Square commenced in July 2018 and is nearing completion.
- 4.5** Work on improvements to Hanover Square were begun but had to stop due to the adjoining Crossrail site not completing on time. Work is set to recommence in the summer this year.
- 4.6** Baker Street Two Way was completed last year. Post-monitoring will be undertaken in October this year and the report is due shortly. The scheme has been shortlisted for the London Transport Awards.
- 4.7** The Strutton Ground scheme has been completed with an opening event late last year. The street is already looking transformed and provides easier access for all due to the new flush surface.

5 Business

Business Westminster Website

5.1 In February, there were 30,640 total page views of the Business Westminster site. Of these, 24,062 were unique page views (first time visitors to the site). Web statistics cover the reporting period up to Sunday, 23rd February. This period saw a 6% increase in traffic. Connectivity continues to be the most visited, with 7,780-page views, accounting for 25% of traffic.

Connect Westminster

5.2 The Connect Westminster voucher scheme continues to support small businesses with grants worth up to £2,000 to upgrade to superfast broadband. Scheme performance to date is as follows:

Approved applications	994
Vouchers issued	819
Funding allocated	£1,875,122.99
Average voucher value	£1,886.44
Registered suppliers of broadband	151
Upload speed uplift (Avg.)	10,319%
Download speed uplift (Avg.)	2,324%

National Voucher Scheme

5.3 The National Voucher Scheme, run by Broadband Delivery UK, continues to deliver. Westminster receives the highest number of vouchers in London. The scheme operates the same model as Connect Westminster, (with a variance of voucher value of up to £2,500). Scheme performance in Westminster is as follows:

Connected	641 (£1,351,646)
In the pipeline	405 (£661,739)
Business connections	705
Residential connections	341

Westminster Enterprise Space Network Programme (WESN)

5.4 Whilst continuing to concentrate on steady growth in membership take-up to the Network, efforts are also focussed on facilitating high-quality and meaningful business support and positive community impact.

- 5.5** The Business Unit & WES have expanded the “drop-in surgeries” offer to enterprise spaces as part of the enhanced business support offer. Drop-in surgeries will take place at PopHub Leicester Square & Huckletree Soho throughout the year.

GLA Accreditation Scheme

- 5.6** The delivery of the Mayor’s Workspace Accreditation Scheme pilot is now underway. The Business Unit and other participating London Councils will meet with the GLA’s Economic Development team to understand how local authorities can better support the workspace provider community.
- 5.7** The Business Unit is pleased that Westminster is the only “cluster area” to be allocated three workspace operators to participate in the pilot. The normal maximum is two. The workspace operators are: Huckletree Soho, Somerset House Studios and PopHub Leicester Square. All three are Council sponsored workspaces. The pilot will run from February to June.

Crowdfunding

- 5.8** The Business & Enterprise Team has successfully facilitated the inception of the Council’s first ever crowdfunding initiative. Crowdfund Westminster will be delivered by the Church Street Regeneration Scheme as a pilot phase for one year. The launch will take place on Thursday 26th March in conjunction with the launch of Vibrant Communities. Residents can put forward community schemes that they would like to try to attract crowd fund investment to. We will monitor and report back regularly on this innovation.

Enterprise Space

- 5.9** The contract for the refurbishment of 470 Harrow Road into the Rebel Business School is now out to tender. A contractor will be selected later this month, with work due to start in April and completion expected in September. A cohort of 20 local residents will receive support and training to develop their businesses from late September. A graduate from the school recently took ownership of a pop-up retail space in Church Street to sell their fashion garments.

External Funding Update

- 5.10** Funding of £500k has been awarded by the GLA Skills for Londoners Innovation Fund. The project is being led by WAES, with the proposal being to support an integrated community learning approach to crime prevention and integration within Church Street. The project will deliver a resilience and prevention programme to residents within Church Street and will include support to the families of those participating.
- 5.11** GLA Small Project’s and Equipment Fund. A funding decision is due by 9th March for £75,500 to support digital inclusion in Westminster. Led by WAES, the proposal is to enhance digital capability, improve teaching and learning tools and learner outcomes through the creation of a multimedia graphics suite and

the upgrading of existing facilities to ensure the service has access to industry standard, specialist equipment.

- 5.12** GLA European Social Fund (ESF) Careers Cluster. Business and Enterprise officers continue to meet with RBKC counterparts to scope a bi-borough “careers cluster” funded via the GLA through ESF. An initial meeting was held with a group of schools’ career leads, governors and internal departments to gauge interest and generate ideas and suggestions in relation to programme design. It is anticipated that the bid criteria will be released in March.

Youth Engagement

- 5.13** STEAM Week 2020. Delivery of this year’s programme of activity began on Monday, 9th March. Over the course of the week 28 events will be held across Westminster, with participation from nine secondary schools, six primaries, two local youth clubs, WAES, and a number of young people supported by the Children who are Looked After team. A sustainable sculpture competition will see submissions from Westminster primary schools displayed in Westminster Reference Library from the 9th-13th March. At the end of the week, a celebration party to thank schools and partners will be held at City Hall, with Cllr Green attending.
- 5.14** The Young Entrepreneurs Market Competition took place on Thursday, 20th February at Church Street Market. Five teams of students from Harris Westminster Sixth Form participated in the initiative during half term. Despite torrential rain and wind, the students remained positive and proactive throughout the day.
- 5.15** The competition criteria covered three areas: sales, customer feedback via QR survey codes and adherence to the brief. The students made sales of £627. The winning team received their sales in the form of vouchers, the remaining £500 will be donated to a charity of their choice.
- 5.16** The Business & Enterprise team will evaluate the initiative with a view to repeating it with other schools or groups of young people.

6 Street Markets

- 6.1** The Markets team has partnered with the sustainable packaging company, Elements, to offer discounted bio-degradable packaging to our traders. This is one aspect of our broader goal to eliminate all single-use plastic from our markets and reduce CO2 emissions by 2022. Elements’ packaging is currently being trialled at Strutton Ground Market. If the packaging is popular with traders, we plan to roll it out to all our markets later this year.
- 6.2** A CIL proposal has recently been submitted for £250,000 to redevelop Tachbrook Street Markets disused toilets into a community kitchen space, and a new trader toilet. If the bid is successful, the funding will cover all aspects of the development which, once complete, will be a financially self-sufficient asset.

- 6.3** After the success of last year's event, the markets team will again be partnering with the National Market Trader Federation (NMTF) to deliver the Young Traders Market regional final. This will take place on Westminster Cathedral Piazza on 29th July 2020. Initial meetings with the NMTF are taking place to discuss the logistics of this event.
- 6.4** Several enhancements are taking place in Church Street to improve the operation of the market and create a pleasant environment in which trading can take place seamlessly. Asphalt infill work has now taken place on the road of the market. This will enable the pitch markers to be accurately painted on street. Pitches are being standardised to 3m x 3m to improve the market's visual appearance and will be clearly marked and numbered so traders can easily identify their own pitch.
- 6.5** A new traffic management order has been implemented at Church Street. This extends the existing traffic restriction from Salisbury Street to Penfold Street and from Penfold Street to Edgware Road and is intended to make these both traffic-free zones on Monday to Thursday. The start time of the parking restrictions has also been amended from 6.30 am to 6.30 pm to assist traders with their set up. New parking signage has been erected in Venables Yard due to conflict between cars and traders.
- 6.6** The collaboration between the Business & Enterprise team, Harris Westminster Sixth Form College and Westminster Markets Team took place on Thursday 20th February 2020. Please see the details above (5.14).
- 6.7** The Tachbrook Street Market consultation has now closed. The consultation gathered opinions on a new layout for the Market in line with the electricity upgrade. The layout has been amended following discussions with London Fire Brigade. This will now go to Licensing Committee for a decision.
- 6.8** Further discussions have taken place with Berwick and Rupert Street traders regarding the storage unit. A full analysis of the number of fridges, crates and cupboards in use has been collated. A technical drawing has been circulated to traders to look at how to best organise the unit. Clear outs of the unit have been ongoing this week and a new roller shutter is due to be fitted in the next two weeks. The work will take place within a 6-month timeframe and during this time traders will not be charged for storage.
- 6.9** A planning application has been submitted to have on-street banners in Tachbrook Street Market to display market branding. The aim is to improve the visibility of the market. If this trial is a success, we will be working with the other markets to have approved branding displayed on each market square.
- 6.10** Following branding workshops with traders, Westco has produced final concept brands for each market that link to the overall Westminster Markets branding. These have been shared with the Cabinet Member and will be shared with ward members shortly.

- 6.11** The dedicated Tachbrook Market Newsletter is proving popular amongst traders. The newsletter also informs traders on how Westminster is delivering the new Westminster Street Markets Strategy.
- 6.12** New European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funding will see the deployment of WIFI networks on all our street markets. In what will be the first fully digitised street markets in London, the initiative will be accompanied by a programme of digital skills training for traders and local businesses.
- 6.13** The Markets team are currently updating all the information on our websites to provide current and accurate information about each market. We are re-designing each of the site maps to encourage more traders to join our markets and make it easier for traders to look for vacant pitches when applying.

7 Employer Relations

Sector Specific Social Recruitment

- 7.1** Council vacancies and suppliers: The Business and Enterprise team is working with Continental Landscapes to recruit for nine new roles. The team have negotiated for all of these opportunities to be ring fenced to Westminster residents. Other work with Council suppliers includes a forthcoming recruitment event with Veolia, an exemplary supplier in terms of their efforts to support local homeless people into employment opportunities. Two London Living Wage apprenticeship roles at G Network have also recently been filled by residents.
- 7.2** Within the Council, our partnership with the Registrars team continues to deliver opportunities for residents. Their most recent commitment includes work trials for care leavers and young people at risk of offending. Two young people have secured paid opportunities at Marylebone Town Hall in the past month. The team is also working with housing colleagues to support the recruitment of nine new customer service roles.
- 7.3** Hospitality & Visitor Economy. In the past month the Business and Enterprise team has trained over 100 local residents for roles, delivering training for residents alongside our employer partners. One of the sessions was with the Hyatt Hotel Group which aimed to help hiring managers learn more about working with young people not in education, employment or training
- 7.4** Horticulture & Green Jobs. Working in partnership with Groundwork London the team are working to deliver a two-year horticultural employment project to support unemployed Westminster residents gain skills, qualifications and London Living Wage roles. The 'Green Team' which is made up of residents has now been at work for approximately three months and the work sites have included improving housing estates, roadside open spaces and parks. A total of 13 Westminster residents have completed the training programme and a further 11 are currently in training.
- 7.5** 'Makers' is a Council led project way to support harder to reach young people into sustainable employment and careers through making and selling luxury

chocolates. Ten young people started on 12th February and all of the 'Makers' have been referred from the Leaving Care Team, Gangs Unit or Youth Offending Team. Three weeks into the project, attendance is at 98% and our Makers are busy preparing for pop up trading opportunities at Mintel HQ (21st March) and Covent Garden Market (26th March).

Social Value and Responsible Business

7.6 The team is currently working to develop Responsible Business Action plans for Oxford Street West (Murphy Group) and Lisson Grove refit (ISG) and with the MCC for the Lords cricket ground redevelopment.

7.7 Recent sponsorship from suppliers and developers includes:

- s106: Year-to-date, the team has secured commitments of £1.4M to support the sustainability of the Westminster Employment Service.
- £7,000 from Capita to support the Makers project (see above)
- The Crown Estate, Marston Holdings & Lowe Build are sponsoring a pop-up exhibition for residents with learning disabilities on the 5-7th May to be held at the Crown Estates' Babmaes Street venue. The exhibition will focus on breaking down the barriers and misconceptions of people with learning disabilities and will feature photography pieces created by Community Access Westminster clients and also a physical display of accessibility items as well as an interactive experience.

7.8 Council Employee Volunteering & Impact. There have been two language café sessions this year, the first was attended by the Lord Mayor and concluded with a tour of the Lord Mayors Parlour and the second one was employment focussed and included volunteers from our employment coaching team who made five referrals. The learners from WAES have given fantastic feedback to these events and the College has nominated the language café for an award from the Festival of Learning.

8 The Employment Gap in London

8.1 A summary of key data from [The Employment Gap in London](#) published by London Councils in Feb 2020 is as follows:

8.2 Key findings for London as a whole:

- Young people from a disadvantaged background in London are not getting the support they need to succeed in the capital's thriving jobs market
- 25% of London's young people are low-qualified;
- London has the lowest take up of apprenticeships of any region

Key findings for Westminster

8.3 In comparison, the findings for Westminster are incredibly positive. The statistics are testament to the work of the Employment and Apprenticeship Teams within the Council, and the Council's business partnerships and

schemes, all of which have contributed to the borough having impressively low NEET statistics.

8.4 Key highlights include;

8.5 NEET/Employment Gap:

- In Westminster, whilst levels of disadvantage are high, the NEET rate for this group is the lowest in the Central London Forward area – lower, in fact, than for their better-off peers.
- This means that Westminster has a negative Employment Gap of -2% – unique among local authority areas
- Disadvantaged young people are therefore uniquely underrepresented among NEET young people in Westminster.

8.6 Apprenticeships:

- Westminster has the highest proportion of apprenticeship starts by disadvantaged people than anywhere else in London, at 59%.

8.7 Higher Education:

- Access to higher education is also high; among the highest in the Central London Forward area on most measures and number one on overall access rate for young people with top GCSEs.
- These are also among the highest levels of access to university in London

8.8 These impressive statistics have resulted from a concerted effort by both the Council and Business Community to support careers for young people who are NEET.

8.9 There are significant economic opportunities in Westminster, but young people are still not able to take full advantage. The higher NEET rate for non-disadvantaged young people is a concern as is the decreasing number of apprenticeships taken up by young people aged 16-24. Gaps in CEaIG provision across schools particularly in relation to Labour Market Information reveals a disconnect between career aspiration and opportunity

8.10 The report highlights huge variations across London in how well young people do at school, transition between school and work or further/higher education, and how their chances of success in employment are affected by family background. Arising from the disparity evident across London the report recommends a local, granular approach to tackle the challenges faced by disadvantage

9 Westminster Adult Education Service

National Recognition of Achievement

- 9.1** WAES' Chair of Governors, Carolyn Keen, was awarded an MBE for 'Services to Adult Education and the Community'. The recognition celebrates Carolyn's voluntary work and her contribution to furthering the adult education agenda.
- 9.2** HOLEX Policy Director, Sue Pember, was also recognised for her work in adult education. She has worked relentlessly on behalf of the sector and the adult learner. She is seen as a sector leader in adult and further education and gives her time freely to mentor and support service and college leaders.
- 9.3** WAES has joined the most outstanding individuals and institutions that the FE sector has to offer in the shortlist for the 2020 Tes FE Awards. WAES has been shortlisted for the Adult and Community Learning Provider of the Year Award. The winners will be revealed at a gala awards evening at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London on Friday 20 March 2020.
- 9.4** WAES are eagerly looking forward to the Tes FE Awards ceremony on 20th March 2020. At the end of last year, we joined the most outstanding individuals and institutions that the FE sector has to offer in the shortlist for the 2020 Tes FE Awards.
- 9.5** WAES was shortlisted for the Adult and Community Learning Provider of the Year Award. Tes FE editor Stephen Exley said: 'Excellent practice exists right across the further education sector and those shortlisted for the Tes FE Awards are the cream of the crop. Our judges were extremely impressed with the calibre of entries. To be shortlisted is an extraordinary achievement.'

WAES and WCC Apprenticeships

- 9.6** WAES started its first Libraries, Information and Archives Apprenticeships Level 4 Standard in September 2019. There are four Westminster City Council apprentices on the programme. This is a truly collaborative apprenticeship with some of the skills and knowledge instruction being led by an industry expert at WAES and in-house development being provided by the link Westminster City Council manager.
- 9.7** In January 2020, three apprentices started from the Westminster Employment Service on the Customer Service Specialist Standard. They will be on programme for 18 months. This apprenticeship includes specialism and in-depth knowledge of the Service and the customers it serves.

WAES industry Skills-Based Training Fitness Instructing

- 9.8** WAES engaged in an offsite employment-focused programme at Level 3 delivered at Moberly Sports Centre in 2018/19. 19 learners started and were engaged in an 8-week intense programme which saw 90% achieve the

qualification. The course is continuing in 2019/20 with a new cohort of 13 learners who started in January and a further course planned for May 2020.

Growth-Funding Opportunities

- 9.9** A key driver for the WAES 2019-22 Strategy is to grow the business by seeking and securing additional sources of funding, which will enable us to expand our activities with Westminster and other London residents.
- 9.10** WAES is bidding for a GLA funding opportunity for up to £30k. There is now an opportunity to submit a bid to run an ESOL Plus Arts programme, which was submitted by mid-January for delivery in October 2020. This project will focus on London and residents' heritage as a means to support the development of English.
- 9.11** WAES secured European Social Fund money to start a new project with a training provider Rinova and adult and community learning provider Wandsworth Adult Education Service. This project is due to start in February. The project is valued at £400k over three years. This value may increase following further planning. This project is to upskill individuals to enable them to access the hospitality sector by delivering skill-based programmes, ESOL support, and English and maths delivery.

ESOL for Integration Fund

- 9.12** WAES will be applying for the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's ESOL for Integration Fund. The total fund is worth £6,500,000 and aims to support up to 25 local authorities with funding to deliver Pre-Entry ESOL to the local community, focusing on supporting residents to integrate into British society and improve their connection to the local area. Suitable partners for this project are currently being assessed.
- 9.13** The application for the ESOL for Integration Fund closes on 9th April 2020, with successful applicants being notified in May 2020. It is expected that, if successful, delivery for this project will commence in either June or July 2020, with delivery concluding on 31st March 2021.