

# AREA REVIEWS

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**LONDON**

ENTERPRISE PANEL

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## A mandate to reform London's skills system

**In the March 2015 Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced:**

*“Government is devolving further powers to the Mayor of London including over skills...which will allow the Mayor of London to tailor skills provision to London's needs”*

**The productivity plan released in July 2015 states:**

*“The government wants strong local areas and employers to take a leading role in establishing a post-16 skills system that is responsive to local economic priorities. The government will make an offer to local areas:*

- first, the government will invite local areas to participate in the reshaping and re-commissioning of local provision*
- second, following on from this restructuring process, the government will enable local involvement in the ongoing commissioning of provision”*

*The Mayor and London's boroughs are ambitious about reforming London's post-16 skills and education system to contribute to raising productivity, economic growth and enabling Londoners to access the thriving employment market on their doorstep.*

*We need to ensure that the overall success rates of London's post-16 education providers reach the best in the country and that we have a more strategic approach in the delivery post-16 education.*

*We need to protect London's post-16 skills and education funding and deliver reform to ensure Londoners access high quality education including in professional and technical areas.*

*On that basis and in response to this mandate, the Mayor working closely with London's boroughs and the London Enterprise Panel (LEP) through the Skills Inquiry has developed a proposal for greater powers over the skills system in London to more effectively meet London's complex labour market needs.*

# Area Reviews

- Government published guidance note on 8/9;
- Reviews will identify scope to make efficiencies & likely result is rationalised curriculum, fewer larger and more financially resilient organisations;
- The first of the reviews are commencing in Birmingham and Solihull, Greater Manchester and Sheffield;
- Scale and diversity of London requires a different approach (49 FECs and SFCs, 150 independent learning providers, 400 sixth form schools, 40 HEIs).

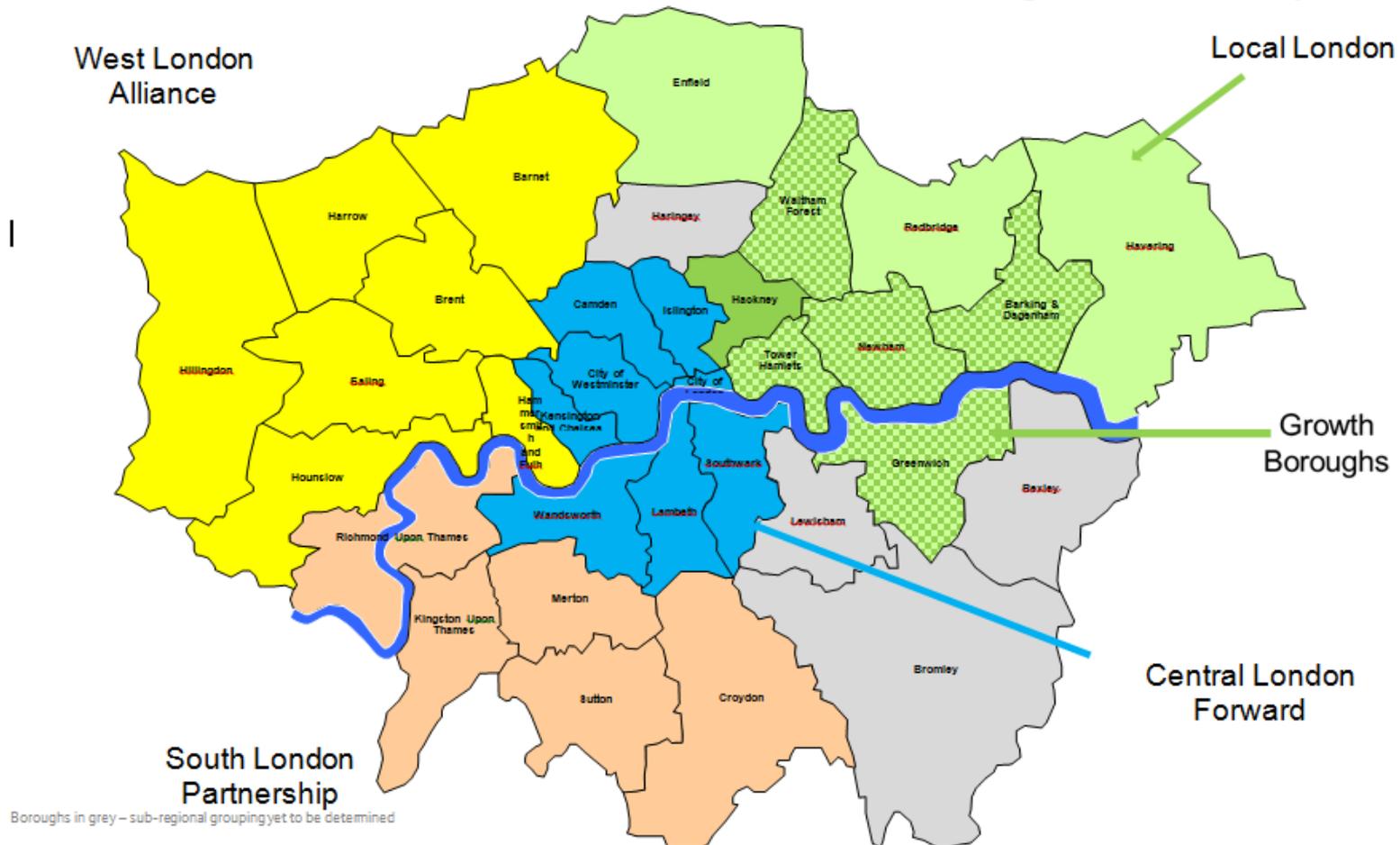
# Developing an approach to Area Reviews

- Mayor to lead area reviews in London working in collaboration with sub-regional groupings of boroughs, FE and sixth form colleges, LEP and government to develop the approach;
- Aim is: to develop and deliver a more resilient, high quality and stable post-16 skills and education landscape in London focused on meeting business and local economic needs.

# Proposed geographies

- Proposal to undertake area reviews in London sub-regionally based on the geographies of existing groupings of boroughs (e.g. Central London Forward, West London Alliance etc.)
- We will give consideration to the provision available in the outer metropolitan area adjacent to Greater London and be flexible to evolving alliances between institutions that may cross over proposed sub-regional grouping areas.

# Indicative Borough Partnerships 2015



# Governance

- The overall review process will be led and overseen by a London-wide steering group chaired by the Mayor;
- Proposed independent post-16 Skills Commissioner for London to advise Mayor;
- London Steering Group and sub-regional steering groups to oversee and steer the area reviews including analysis and options consideration;
- Governing bodies of each individual institution to decide whether to accept the recommendations.
- ETF & JISC implementation support

# Scope of the Reviews

- Reviews will cover both FE and Sixth-Form Colleges;
- In London, it is proposed that the reviews also include independent learning providers, school sixth forms, ACL providers and HEIs **where these organisations choose to opt-in;**

# Analysis

- Current and future economic priorities of the area.
- Current and future demand for education and training at age 16 plus in the area, including longer term demographic change.
- Progression routes for young people from school to other education and training providers.
- An assessment of the level of publicly funded provision which is affordable in London
- With support of expert advice from the FE Commissioner and advisers, identification and assessment of the range of options available to improve delivery of skills

## Proposed Timeline

- London commences the Area Reviews in wave 2 of the government's timeline with the first of London's reviews starting in February 2016.
- It is proposed that the remaining reviews take place concurrently from August 2016 to allow for lessons from the first review to be considered in the approach for the remaining ones.

# Next Steps

- Broad next steps and the proposed timeline for the area reviews are included below:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>2015</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop and agree the approach to area reviews in London</li><li>• London Area Review Information/ launch Event</li><li>• Establish the London Steering Group</li><li>• Appoint a London Skills Commissioner</li><li>• Conduct analysis to inform the area reviews</li><li>• Agree the sub-regional area for the first review</li></ul>    |
| <b>2016</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish sub-regional skills and employment boards</li><li>• Sub-regional boards begin collating and sharing labour market intelligence</li><li>• Sub-regional information events</li><li>• Commence London area reviews, with the first review starting in February 2016, with the others to run concurrently from August 2016</li></ul> |
| <b>2017</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Complete London area reviews and publish final recommendations</li><li>• Commence implementation of the review outcomes relevant to the wider London landscape</li></ul>   |

# Shaping the Approach

- More detailed briefing note to be shared.
- Questions to consider:
  - Proposal to undertake the area reviews sub-regionally based on the existing geographies
  - The make-up of steering groups (sub-regional and regional); Who should be represented?
  - Proposed timeline
  - The scope of London's reviews; how best to include the greater metropolitan area.
  - The proposal to have an independent post-16 Skills Commissioner for London.
  - The proposal to include all post-16 academic and work-based provision.
  - The establishment of Institutes of Technology.
  - What support mechanisms are required to support successful implementation?
  - Any other views, challenges, opportunities that you think are important and should be considered in the approach to area reviews in London.