

# Resources and Public Realm Scrutiny Committee

1<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## Supporting the Economic Recovery

### Appendix 1

The six growth sectors in Brent.

**1. Digital Sector:** In Brent there is a moderate and growing business base, with a slightly lower concentration than London and with the vast majority of businesses of SME size (98%). The sector accounts for 4% of total employment (5,650) with a lower concentration than London and has seen a small decline (-3%) in employment levels since 2013. The Covid-19 crisis has underlined the crucial role that technology plays in our society and our economy. London is one of the world's leading cities for technology, entrepreneurship and digital creativity. The crisis has accelerated digital adoption and the future growth of the tech sector will be key to London and Brent's economic recovery.

**2. Creative Sector:** A moderate business base that has grown in the borough, up by 24% since 2013 and with a slightly lower concentration than London. The vast majority of businesses within the sector are SMEs (99%) with employment at around 5,665 accounting for 4% of total employment. Employment within the sector has increased since 2013 but remains less concentrated compared to London as a whole.

**3. The Low Carbon Circular Economy:** Analysis completed in early 2020 as part of the report 'Growing Brent's Low Carbon Circular Economy'. May 2020, estimated that there are 860 businesses in Brent in the Low Carbon Circular Economy. The number of businesses and employment is set to continue to grow. The report concludes that 'as we move into a period when government and businesses are focused on recovery and adapting to doing business in the 'new normal', that we grasp the opportunity to address the climate emergency'. This is echoed in 'Build and An Economic Recovery Strategy for West London' which acknowledges that 'Covid19 also provides a once in a generation opportunity to re-think our long-term aspirations for West London, kick-starting the low carbon economy'.

**4. Food Preparation and Consumption:** A relatively small but growing business base in Brent, albeit with a higher concentration relative to London. The sector accounts for around 8,750 of total employment in the borough and has increased by 45% since 2013 making it one of the fastest growing cross cutting sectors.

**5. Life Sciences:** A small sector in both employment and business terms accounting for just 1% of total employment in the borough. The sector has a significantly lower proportion of SME size businesses (75%). The sector has seen reasonable growth in the proportion of businesses and employees since 2013 and has concentration levels on a par or slightly above London as a whole.

**6. Knowledge Economy:** The borough has a large and growing business base but with a lower concentration than London and with the vast majority of businesses of SME size (99%). The sector employs around 16,650, having grown by 19% since 2013 and accounting for 13% of total employment within the borough but with a substantially lower concentration