

Cabinet meeting 15th July, 2021

Cabinet Report: Draft Economic Strategy: additions

Cabinet members to note additions to the Cabinet paper circulated on 7th July, which relate to section 5: **Why change is needed**

- 5.1
- 5.3.1
- 5.3.2

The additions highlight issues pertaining to the boroughs disabled residents and how the themes of skills and employability and sustainable place aim to support disabled residents into employment and improve accessibility.

5. Why a change is needed

5.1 The immediate measures to alleviate the economic impact of the pandemic will not be sufficient to address the long-term impact of Covid-19. The pandemic has accelerated a number of structural shifts in Harrow's economy and a long-term economic strategy is needed to address a number of issues, which are summarised below:

- Increasing employment opportunities, particularly for young people, Black, Asian, and Multi-ethnic communities and **disabled residents**
- Exclusion from economic activity for residents **that are disabled and those** with low, or no IT skills and little access to the internet, which has been exacerbated as a result of the accelerated transition to e-commerce.

5.3.1 Skills and Employability

With the aim of:

- Developing skills across the borough
- Increasing employment opportunities, particularly for young people, Black, Asian, and Multi-ethnic communities **and disabled residents**
- Matching skills of our residents to jobs

5.3.1 Sustainable Place Making

Prioritising:

- Improving energy efficiency
- Enhancing sustainable transport infrastructure
- Creating vibrant town and district centres
- Growing the circular economy

The Council is investing in public realm improvements across the borough, which will deliver healthy streets and further enhance cycling and walking routes, **improved access for disabled people, as well as** a balanced use for town centres between retail, employment, living accommodation and a leisure offer.