



## What is the Economic Development Office?

The job of Wandsworth's Economic Development Office (EDO) is to help Wandsworth's businesses, especially small businesses, to start and grow.

We provide a voice for them at a local, regional and national level, and create the conditions for investment and a thriving local economy. We aim to maximise the potential of the Borough's five town centres, regenerate deprived areas, help our residents get jobs, and encourage the development of a strong voluntary sector.

The EDO contributes to making the Borough safer and more prosperous, particularly through working with partner organisations, and as part of the longer term Community Strategy.

*'We want to build a prosperous and vibrant community in Wandsworth'*

### To find out more

Contact us for an informal discussion about your specific needs:

**(020) 8871 6884**

email: [edo@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:edo@wandsworth.gov.uk)

[www.wandsworth.gov.uk/business](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/business)

The website has a full list of contact names, email addresses and telephone numbers.

Download key documents from our website such as our Fact File, Business Charter and Voluntary Sector Charter.

If you have difficulty understanding this in English, please contact:  
Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649

English

إذا واجهت صعوبة في فهمه باللغة الإنجليزية، فيرجى الاتصال بـ:  
Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649

Arabic

যদি আপনার এটি ইংরেজিতে বুঝতে অসুবিধা হয় তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে এখানে যোগাযোগ করুন:  
Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649

Bengali

如果你看不懂英文版，請聯繫：

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Chinese

Si vous avez des difficultés à comprendre ce texte en anglais, veuillez contacter:  
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French

અગર તે અંગ્રેજીમાં સમજવી મુશ્કેલ લાગે તો મહેરબાની કરીને  
Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649 પર સંપર્ક કરો.

Gujarati

W razie problemów ze zrozumieniem tekstu w języku angielskim prosimy o kontakt z:  
Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649

Polish

Se tem dificuldades em compreender isto em Inglês, por favor, contacte:  
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Portuguese

Hadday kugu adag tahay inaad ku fahamto Ingriis fadlan la xiriir:  
Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649

Somali

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Spanish

இதை ஆங்கிலத்தில் புரிந்துகொள்வதில் சிரமம் இருந்தால் நீங்கள் தொடர்புகொள்ள வேண்டியது:  
Wandsworth Interpreting Service: (020) 8672 1043/3649

Tamil

اگر آپ کو انگریزی میں اسے سمجھنے میں دشواری کا سامنا ہو تو براہ کرم رابطہ کریں:  
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Urdu



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE



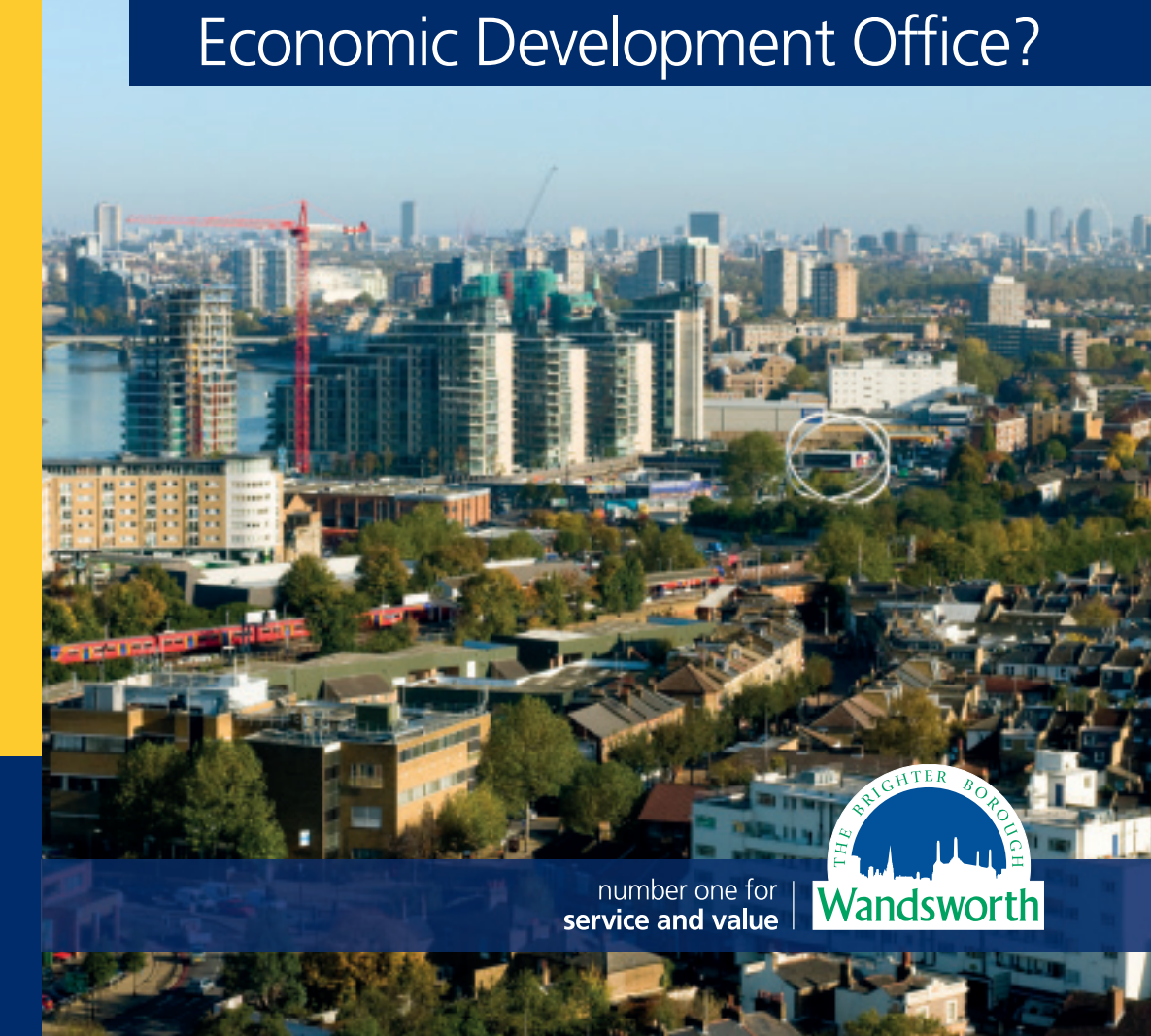
putting the  
Customer First



European Union



## What is the Economic Development Office?



number one for  
service and value



Wandsworth



## What do we do?

We provide information, help and advice

We provide a range of information, help and advice to businesses. We hold frequent Wandsworth business forums, awards and networking events to improve communications between businesses and the council. We try to ensure that council policies and programmes reflect the needs of local businesses. We also lobby the Government and other agencies on behalf of businesses about issues that affect them.

We liaise with local developers to make sure space is available for new and expanding businesses, and we work closely with Business Link London, the Wandsworth Business Support Network and others, to ensure appropriate information and advice is readily available to our businesses. We give advice on how businesses can operate in a "greener manner" and held our third Green Business Awards Ceremony in November 2009.

## Provide loans and grants

Small firms make up 93% of our local businesses – more than the national average – and are a major source of employment. We offer financial assistance in our town centres and other important centres and parades, to enable our small firms to develop. Some of this money comes from our Town Centre Improvement Scheme. In 2008/09 we gave loans and grants worth £262,000, which led to over £1.1 million of private investment and created at least 61 jobs. We also manage the Business Improvement Scheme in Garratt Business Park, Stewarts Road and New Covent Garden. The EDO continues to research and bid for new sources of public funding to help businesses develop.

## Tackle deprivation in parts of Wandsworth

We are working hard to tackle deprivation in Battersea, Tooting and Roehampton. We have drawn up action plans, set up a Job Shop and work with other agencies to improve the employment prospects for residents of these areas. We are also lobbying to ensure residents and local businesses benefit from the development of Battersea Power Station and to ensure a long-term viable future for New Covent Garden Market. Current regeneration partnerships include the Nine Elms Opportunity Board and the Roehampton Partnership.

## Help our residents get jobs

With Job Centre Plus and employers we help ensure local people have the skills for available jobs. We also work with our Children's Services and Adult Social Services colleagues to provide relevant adult education and training for people with disabilities to help them get a job. In 2008/09 the EDO helped 382 people into work (including Job Shop).

Wandsworth already has a very well qualified workforce, nevertheless there are high numbers of less skilled workers in some parts of the borough. We are a partner in new volunteering and skills initiatives that will enable our local residents to benefit from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games. Despite the recent concerns over the general economy, unemployment in the borough has not increased as much as other parts of the country.

## Develop our town centres

We work hard to improve the health and vitality of our five town centres, Balham, Clapham Junction, Putney, Tooting and Wandsworth. We employ town centre managers who work with business-led town centre partnerships to agree a distinct vision and business plan for each town centre.

The plans include implementing security and safety, traffic and parking improvements, marketing campaigns, and cultural events. Each town centre has its own website. We have also carried out environmental improvement schemes. We work closely with partners to attract private sector investment to our town centres. For example, with the developers of the Southside Shopping Centre in Wandsworth Town, we secured investment of £100 million for Southside and the Town Centre.

## Support our voluntary sector

We support the voluntary and community sector to make a significant contribution to Wandsworth's diverse and vibrant community.

We fund the Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency (WVSDA) to run the volunteering service and provide information on volunteering to local voluntary groups and residents. We also fund WVSDA to help develop other voluntary organisations in the Borough and contract with Wandsworth Citizens Advice Bureau to provide general advice to local people on a wide range of issues. Altogether, 3,315 residents were given advice, information and guidance about volunteering during 2008/09.

The EDO also contributes to the London Boroughs Grants Scheme to support the voluntary sector in London.

## Attract investment

We win funds from the European Union, the Government, the London Development Agency and other funding agencies to support Wandsworth's economy. Most of all, we try to attract funds from the private sector to build a prosperous and vibrant community.

Our priorities for the next three years will include ongoing support for business networks, encouraging the creation of more business incubator space, developing a Small Business Concordat (to make contracting with the council more user friendly), and assisting businesses to "Go Green" and reduce their environmental impacts.