

Summary of the Industrial Strategy White Paper

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Key messages for LEPs

1. The Industrial Strategy

1.1 The Industrial Strategy is organised around five foundations: Ideas; People; Business Environment; Infrastructure; and Place.

2. Grand Challenges

2.1 Within the strategy are four grand challenges to the UK identified by government:

- put the UK at the forefront of the artificial intelligence and data revolution;
- maximise the advantages for UK industry from the global shift to clean growth;
- become a world leader in shaping the future of mobility;
- and harness the power of innovation to help meet the needs of an ageing society.

2.2 To respond to these grand challenges, business, academia, civil society and the government must work together, bringing their expertise and entrepreneurial spirit, to drive us all towards success.

2.3 For each grand challenge, the government will ask leading figures from industry and academia to act as expert advisors, led by a 'Business Champion'. Working alongside ministers, these figures will be responsible for engaging a diverse range of industry voices and raising the profile of the challenge.

3. Local Enterprise Partnerships

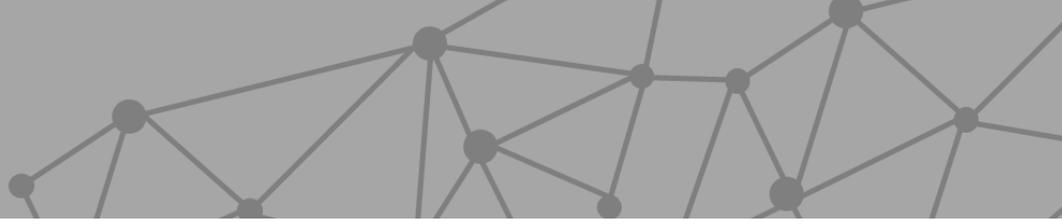
3.1 The government remains firmly committed to Local Enterprise Partnerships. From next year, the Prime Minister will chair a biannual 'Council of Local Enterprise Partnership Chairs'. This will provide an opportunity for Local Enterprise Partnership leaders to inform national policy decisions.

3.2 The government is reviewing the roles and responsibilities of Local Enterprise Partnerships and will bring forward reforms to leadership, governance, accountability, financial reporting and geographical boundaries.

3.3 The government will agree and implement appropriate structures for holding Local Enterprise Partnerships to account. The government will work with Local Enterprise Partnerships to review overlapping geographies and ensure people are clear as to who is responsible for driving growth in their area.

3.4 The government recognises that in order to deliver their role effectively, Local Enterprise Partnerships need financial support. The government will make additional financial resources available to Local Enterprise Partnerships that demonstrate ambitious levels of reform following the review.

3.5 The government will consider agreeing approaches with towns on how the government, local councils, Local Enterprise Partnerships and businesses can work together to deliver growth in that area. (p223)



4. Local Industrial Strategies

- 4.1 Local industrial strategies will be long-term, based on clear evidence, and aligned to the national Industrial Strategy. They will identify local strengths and challenges, future opportunities and the action needed to boost productivity, earning power and competitiveness.
- 4.2 Mayors will lead on local industrial strategies in combined authorities and will be supported by LEPs.
- 4.3 LEPs outside CAs will lead on the development of local industrial strategies (p220).

5. Devolution

- 5.1 The Government has agreed a “minded to” devolution deal with the North of Tyne authorities, which will be subject to the consent of local partners. This will see £600m of investment in the region over a 30-year period and create a new mayor to be elected in 2019 with control over economic levers including planning and skills (p222).
- 5.2 The government will devolve the adult education budget to mayoral areas in 2019. This will help mayors to ensure learners can gain the skills that local businesses need (p103).

6. Skills Advisory Panels

- 6.1 The government will work with Mayoral Combined Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships across all areas of England to establish Skills Advisory Panels. These will enable mayors and Local Enterprise Partnerships to support employers, education providers and local government in identifying current and future local skills needs shaping the provision and funding of post-16 education and training and careers guidance (p230).

7. Data

- 7.1 The government is working to improve collaboration on data sharing between agencies, for example, between HM Revenue and Customs, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Growth Hubs to support the objectives of the Industrial Strategy (p157).

8. Growth Hubs

- 8.1 The government will ensure all businesses have access to a local Growth Hub. Over the last three years, the government has established and tested Growth Hubs in every Local Enterprise Partnership area in England. The government will build on this programme, providing continued funding to enable Growth Hubs to bring public and private sector partners together, such as UK Research and Innovation, the British Business Bank, Tech Nation, investors and universities.
- 8.2 The government wants Growth Hubs to carry on building their reach, developing peer-to-peer networks, connecting businesses to the best support available from the private and public sectors. The government will work with Local Enterprise Partnerships, Growth Hubs, universities and the private sector to support high potential businesses to scale up.
- 8.3 All businesses choosing to set up a Primary Authority partnership will have access to assured advice, with support from Growth Hubs. The government will support Local Enterprise Partnerships in translating and co-ordinating regulatory frameworks that focus on local business needs, simplifying the way regulation is delivered (p182).

9. Sector Deals

- 9.1 Sector deals have been agreed in life sciences, construction, artificial intelligence and the automotive sector. Discussions are ongoing with the creative industries and industrial digitalisation sector.
- 9.2 The government would expect, where relevant, local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships, Prosperity Boards, development agencies (such as Scottish Enterprise), other local business membership organisations and universities to be involved where they have an interest in furthering the success of a particular sector (p193).

10. Institutes of Technology

- 10.1 The first call for Institutes of Technology will be launched shortly. The institutes will sit alongside the four flagship employer-led National Colleges, which are delivering high-quality skills training for the digital, creative, nuclear and high speed rail sectors (p103).

11. Infrastructure

- 11.1 The Transforming Cities Fund will provide £1.7bn for projects that improve connectivity, reduce congestion and utilise new mobility services and technology. It will transform local productivity in city regions, for example, by linking the towns around our cities to city centres, and to each other. Half of this funding will be allocated through a competition for transport projects in cities, with the remainder allocated to the six combined authorities with elected metro mayors.
- 11.2 The establishment of Sub-National Transport Bodies, the development of Combined Authorities, enhancement of Local Enterprise Partnerships and the introduction of local industrial strategies will further strengthen the capabilities of communities to identify their infrastructure needs and to work with central government to deliver them (p138).

12. Higher Education Innovation Funding

- 12.1 Higher Education Innovation Funding (HEIF) in England enables universities to engage with businesses and improve the commercial skills of their staff. The government expects universities to continue to use HEIF to help address the needs of local innovative businesses and contribute to regional development, including collaboration with their Local Enterprise Partnership (p80).

13. Competitive Strength in Places Fund

- 13.1 The government is launching a new competitive £115m Strength in Places Fund to support areas to build on their science and innovation strengths and develop stronger local networks. The fund will support collaborative programmes based on research and innovation excellence in places right across the UK which can demonstrate a strong impact on local productivity and enhance collaboration between universities, research organisations, businesses, local government and Local Enterprise Partnerships in England (p85 & p234).

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