

UK2070 COMMISSION**THE TEESSIDE TASKFORCE****An Inquiry into a New Economic Vision for the Teesside Economic Region****CALL FOR EVIDENCE****Purpose**

The UK2070 Commission is an independent inquiry into city and regional inequalities in the UK, chaired by Lord Kerslake. It has set out a 10-Point Plan for Levelling Up the UK (see Annex 1).

In order to promote these recommendations, the UK2070 Commission has set up a Taskforce in support of the long-standing aspirations for a major increase in number and quality of employment opportunities in the region, in enhancing the wellbeing of Teesside. The full Terms of Reference for the Taskforce can be found on the UK2070 website.

In order to help the Taskforce, the UK2070 Commission is making a Call for Evidence from all interested parties. All views are welcome. Contributions and evidence on the four key issues:

- The key issues facing Teesside: economic, social, environmental and political.
- The main opportunities for the Teesside area.
- The resource and institutional requirements to tackle the problems and release the opportunities.
- What successful projects and initiatives have been developed in Teesside that might be replicated.

In addition, the Taskforce seeks answers to the ten specific questions listed in the Annex to this Call For Evidence.

Submissions should be made by 4th December 2020 as an input to a report to be submitted to the Combined Authority and Government by spring 2021.

Any person or organisation interested in submitting evidence to the Taskforce should do so by 4th December to the following email address uk2070commission@turntown.com and:

- State clearly who the submission is from, i.e. whether from yourself in a personal capacity or sent on behalf of an organisation.
- As far as possible comprise a single document attachment to the email.
- If more than 2000 words, please include a summary of the evidence.
- Include a short summary in bullet point form and be in Word format.
- Supply an email address so a copy of the Taskforce's report can be sent to you upon publication.

For data protection purposes, individuals submitting written evidence would send their contact details separately in a covering email.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact UK2070Commisison@turntown.com

Annex: Key Questions for the Taskforce

The existing proposals for a coordinated approach to restructuring the local economies of Teesside are being based on revitalising the steel-based industries, decarbonisation of the economy generally and the creation of a Freeport. The Taskforce will assess the priorities for transforming the economy of the area. It will welcome all contributions on the options of the scope and delivery of this agenda, and the risks and challenges, including those created by the current ways of working.

1. **Current State of Teesside:** What is the scale of economic growth required to level up the Teesside economic region?
2. **Re-industrialised Teesside:** What is the potential for an integrated approach to the proposed three-pronged programme of revitalising steel-based industries, decarbonising the economy and unlocking opportunities connected with the port and its assets?
3. **Other Economic Opportunities:** What other opportunities have significant potential for contributing to the growth of the Teesside economic region, for example, on health, caring and education; supporting the local foundational economy; and on environmental programmes, including harnessing the cultural and environmental assets of the area?
4. **Labour Market:** What are the local skills gap and action needed to future skill the workforce (including regional networks & educational performance)? Does the operation of the local housing market create any barriers to economic development?
5. **Complementary Policy Action:** What other complementary policy interventions are required to maximise the regeneration of Teesside, for example through better access to public and private funding, or programmes for environmental renewal?
6. **Wider Policy Impacts:** What policies and action are needed to spread the social benefits of economic growth to ensure that levelling up is across all communities of the economic region which is dependent on Teesside in the wider region, especially smaller towns and marginalised communities?
7. **Wider Policy Relationships:** What wider economic inter-relationships of Teesside, pan-regional and national, need to be taken into account in the regeneration of Teesside?
8. **Post-COVID-19 Economy:** What uncertainties and opportunities are created for the area by the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, in terms of changing work-life balances and the role of public transport?
9. **Post-Brexit Economy:** What are the implications of the new trading relationships with the European Union and other countries post-Brexit, for example, relating to more localised or diversified supply chains, particularly, steel and port-related sectors?
10. **Institutional Barriers:** What is the potential for more effective future relationships between industry, government and civil society? What are the priorities for further devolution to local government, especially the Combined Authority?

ANNEX 1: UK2070 10-Point Plan (Taken from the [UK2070 Report October 2020](#))

- **A Spatially Just Transition to Zero-carbon** to seize the opportunity to tackle climate change and re-balance the economy, ensuring there is an explicit spatial dimension to the UK's plan to become zero carbon by 2050.
- **Delivering a Connectivity Revolution** investing in a new connectivity revolution, transforming the connections between cities, within cities and beyond cities to poorly connected towns through increasing infrastructure investment to at least 3% of GDP per annum.
- **Creating New Global Centres of Excellence** harnessing increased investment in research and development to create 'hub and spoke' networks of excellence and growth across the country comparable to the economic impact of the 'golden triangle' of London, Oxford and Cambridge.
- **Strengthening the Foundations of Local Economies** by strengthening economies in disadvantaged towns and empowering local leadership to develop economic capacity and promote resilience and wellbeing.
- **Rethinking the Housing Crisis**, recognising housing as part of national infrastructure and ensuring that the supply of new housing is aligned with the needs of the economy.
- **Harnessing Cultural & Environmental Assets** increasing the focus of policy and funding on assets outside of London.
- **Implementing a Comprehensive Devolution** shifting power and funding away from Westminster and Whitehall through a radical programme of devolution and allowing different places to progress through different levels of devolution according to local ambition, need and capacity.
- **Future Skilling the UK** tackling the historic under-performance of the UK on skills through national plans to raise attainment levels, especially in those skills needed to achieve the levels of the best performing places.
- **Levelling UP Access to Funds** tripling the size of the Shared Prosperity Fund for 20 years, with clear spatial priorities, delivering an extra expenditure of £200bn over that already planned.
- **Shaping the UK2070 Future. A National Spatial Plan for England** tasking the National Infrastructure Commission with creating a national spatial plan for England and linking to those in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to guide investment and to support local and regional spatial plans.

Changing the Way Decisions are Made

In order to deliver the above actions a powerful ministerially-led cross- government committee needs to be established with a dedicated team, to oversee delivery and embed levelling up, supported by spatial analysis, flexible funding and new measures of success, including a review of the Green Book appraisal methodology on the way major projects and local priorities are funded and assessed.