

**UK2070 COMMISSION
THE TEESSIDE TASKFORCE**

Freeports, Steel, Carbon and Hydrogen

An Inquiry into a New Economic Vision for the Teesside Economic Region

Purpose

The UK2070 Commission is an independent inquiry into city and regional inequalities in the UK. Chaired by Lord Kerslake, it has been set up to conduct a review of the policy and spatial issues related to the UK's long-term city and regional development.

The UK2070 Commission has set up a Taskforce in support of the long-standing aspirations for the wellbeing of the Teesside. This will depend upon a major increase in number and quality of employment opportunities in the region. As highlighted in the findings of the UK2070 Commission, this is critical to delivering the levelling up of social conditions and lifetime prospects of the communities in Teesside. This is also of national importance to the economic future of the UK in recalibrating the capacity, performance and resilience to risk of all its major regions, including Teesside.

Context

1. Government's goals of economic recovery and a just transition to a zero-carbon economy need to be rooted in the levelling up of economic performance and social conditions across the UK. It requires those communities which drove the world's first industrial revolution to be at the forefront of the next industrial revolution, Industry 4.0. In meeting this challenge the North East of England, and Teesside in particular, are recognised as a national priority for action.
2. If these ambitions are to be achieved there needs to be a fundamental uplift in the levels of productivity, skills, education, social mobility and income in Teesside. For example, it has been estimated that in the Tees Valley area that to level up productivity, skills and employment rates would involve a 10% increase across the board, plus a doubling of the rate of innovation. If this were achieved it could be expected that its overall contribution to the UK economy could increase by 40%.
3. There is a range of existing proposals for restructuring the local economies through steel-based industry, decarbonisation and the creation of a Freeport. This desire to re-establish Teesside's national manufacturing role builds on recent studies, projects and programmes. This collective ambition needs to be brought together and be on a scale commensurate with the challenge not only of transforming the quality of life of Teesside but also its contribution to transforming the UK economy.
4. The UK2070 Final Report sets out a 10-Point Action Plan (see Annex) which is of direct relevance to these goals. A UK2070 Taskforce has therefore been convened to translate the Government's goals for transforming economic productivity and social conditions into specific targets and programmes of action. The Taskforce is supported by the Tees Valley Combined Authority and Mayor's Office. It therefore makes a Call for Evidence from all interested parties, from 29th October to 4th December 2020, and will submit its report to Government by Spring 2021.

Scope of the Taskforce

5. The Taskforce will seek to establish scope for joint Outcomes Frameworks to transform social conditions, life prospects and the potential national contribution of the Teesside economic region to the re-industrialisation of the UK economy.
6. It will have particular regard to the local implications of the UK2070 10-Point Action Plan, particularly in relation to:
 - Decarbonising the local economy;
 - Transforming the levels of local and national connectivity to jobs and services;
 - Creating a national centre of excellence, especially for the steel and port related industrial ecosystems;
 - Job creation in environmental projects and on health, caring and education supporting the local foundational economy;
 - Harnessing the cultural and environmental assets of the area;
 - Removing barriers in terms of housing and access to public and private funding; and
 - Future Skilling, with regional networks, innovative training & educational performance.
7. The Taskforce will draw together propositions to create sustained investment and open up new market opportunities through existing programmes and new initiatives and funding streams and. In doing so, it will have regard to the potential for:
 - Catalytic, locally tailored and entrepreneurial interventions including the need for enhanced local capacity and institutions;
 - A new regional policy within which a national Teesside area flagship programme would sit and its outreach to and potential benefit for smaller towns and marginalised communities;
 - A renewed and sustained form of contract between the local democratic institutions and the UK governments, including greater devolution of day-to-day responsibility; and
 - A programmed framework for devolution.
8. The Taskforce will take into account of the uncertainty and opportunities created by the COVID-19 crisis and the new trading relationships with the European Union and other countries post-Brexit, especially, relating to:
 - New business behaviours with more localised or diversified supply chains;
 - Key local sectors of the economy, particularly, steel, port, HE and cultural sectors;
 - Changing relationships in terms of the work-life balances and the role of public transport.

Terms of Reference of the UK2070 Teesside Taskforce

9. The UK2070 Teesside Taskforce (TTF2070) will undertake an independent assessment of the scale and means for delivering a fundamental uplift in the national economic role, social conditions and prospects for the communities of the Tees Valley Combined Authority Area, in line with the goals of sustainable development and the need for a just transition to zero-carbon.

10. Teesside refers to the area covered by the authorities within the Tees Valley Combined Authority area. The TTF2070 will have regard to the wider economic inter-relationships of Teesside, both pan-regional and national.
11. The following objectives are accepted as central to the policies and programmes for investment in Teesside:
 - To create a national hub for global trade and investment to enhance economic activity across the UK;
 - To promote regeneration and job creation by creating high-skilled jobs in Teesside and its economic hinterland giving priority to the most deprived communities; and
 - To create centres of excellence for innovation by creating environments and economic ecosystems to attract new businesses, investors and innovations.
12. The objectives of the TTF2070 are to:
 - Provide a strategic assessment of the scope and priorities, including new and emerging threats to the shared goals for transforming the economy of the area;
 - Provide a forum for discussion and agreement on recommendations and options for delivery on outcomes and priorities and the identification of risks to a coordinated approach;
 - Identify challenges created by the current ways of working, and consider the potential for more effective future relationships between industry, government and civil society; and
 - Ensure external, impartial and independent expertise and integrated reflections.
13. The TTF2070 will undertake engagement with stakeholder interests including public and private sectors, from local and national government, industry, NGOs and the community. It will seek to establish the extent and alignment of the goals, policies and programmes of these interest groups.
14. The TTF2070 will seek to identify how decision making over programmes of activity can be most effectively deployed to achieve the aims for the local and national aims for the Tees Valley Region and as reflected in the UK2070 10-Point Plan. It will also aim to identify the principles and roadmap for a strategic and coherent programme of activity to ensure that, as far as possible, synergies and benefits are maximised with publicly led programmes.
15. The TTF2070 is chaired by Lord Kerslake, with support from the UK2070 Steering Group. The membership of the Taskforce is drawn from expert advisers from key industrial sectors, port operations, academia and infrastructure (see annexe 2)
16. The TTF2070 will gather evidence through an open Call for Evidence and test the evidence through a virtual Select Committee-style session, in addition to the collation and synthesis of the wealth of existing research and analysis.
17. The TTF2070 will at all times be independent but will seek support from all parties in particular the Tees Valley Combined Authority.
18. The TTF2070 will produce a draft report on its recommendations to be presented to the Tees Valley Mayor, and a final report presented to Government.

Next Steps

19. The Taskforce will be launched on 28th October.
20. Any person or organisation interested in submitting evidence to the Taskforce should do so from 28th October 2020 to 4th December 2020 in 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;
 - 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; and
 - For data protection purposes, individuals submitting written evidence would send their contact details separately in a covering email.
21. Key Dates for the Taskforce include:

● Launch of Taskforce	28 th October 2020
● Call for Evidence	28 th October 2020
● Deadline for Responses	4 th December 2020
● Draft Report	Early February 2021
● Select Committee Examination	Late February 2021
● Final Report of Taskforce	March 2021

ANNEX 1: UK2070 10-Point Plan

- **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.

ANNEX 2: Taskforce Membership

- **UK2070 Commission**

1. **Lord Kerslake**, Chair, UK2070 Commission
2. **Michael Henson**, UK2070 Commissioner and Chair of Teesside Taskforce
3. **Professor Vincent Goodstadt**, Lead Technical Officer
4. **Professor Ian Wray** UK2070 Commissioner
5. **Sioban Campbell**, Programme Manager/Secretariat

- **Teesside Taskforce: Freeports, Steel, Carbon and Hydrogen**

Members:

1. **Chris Beck**, Director of Business & Skills, Tees Valley Combined Authority
2. **Chris Coles**, Turner and Townsend
3. **Joeseeph Dancey**, Endeavour Advisory
4. **Professor Vincent Goodstadt**, UK2070 Commission
5. **Lesley Hawke**, Department for International Trade
6. **Michael Henson**, UK2070 Commissioner (Taskforce Chair)
7. **Chris McDonald**, Chief Executive Officer, Materials Processing Institute
8. **Bill McElroy**, Turner and Townsend