

Prospectus

(Summary)

Purpose of the Commission

“There are deep-rooted inequalities across the UK. These are not inevitable. However we lack the long-term thinking and spatial economic plan needed to tackle them. The UK2070 Commission will seek to fill this gap through a national inquiry and debate on the nature of the problems and set out the actions needed to address them.”

Lord Kerlake, October 2018

Goals Of The Commission

- **To illuminate the imbalances in the nature of economic activity, including the patterns of investment, wealth, taxation and public expenditure, and the related social and environmental conditions across the United Kingdom;**
- **To illustrate the potential of national and regional spatial economic frameworks which enable and support regional and local action and priorities; and**
- **To identify policy interventions and mechanisms for collaboration to address imbalances between regions and nations, such as governance and fiscal instruments including local taxation, land value capture and intergovernmental transfers.**

The UK2070 Commission

The UK2070 Commission is an independent inquiry into the spatial inequalities across the UK, chaired by Lord Kerlake. Its purpose is to deliver change.

The Commissioners

The Commissioners are drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, as well as representatives of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (LI) and the three sponsoring universities of Manchester, Sheffield and UCL.

The Steering Group

The Commission is supported by a Steering Group comprising the LI, three sponsoring universities, The RSA, Turner & Townsend and the Common Futures Network. The coordination of the Steering Group and its chair is provided by the University of Manchester. The Steering Group will co-opt support as appropriate to ensure the assist the delivery of the Commission programme of activities.

The Partnership

The UK2070 Commission was established by the partnership of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the Universities of Manchester, Sheffield and University College London with generous help from the Sir Hugh and Lady Sykes Charitable Trust (SHLSCT), and in collaboration with the Common Futures Network and with project management support provided by Turner & Townsend.

Its work is underpinned by the generous contributions of time, effort and resources by the Commissioners and their respective organisations. This includes support for specific programme activities by AECOM, Barton Willmore, CBI, CU, IPPR(N), LCC, NIESR, NWBLT, The RSA and WMCA (see back page).

The Commission welcomes additional collaboration and sponsorship from third parties.

Background Context for the Commission

The embedded and growing inequalities between the town, the cities, and regions of the nations of the UK lie at the heart of our current social and economic difficulties and must be challenged. This need is heightened by current political and economic uncertainties and the global challenges of technology and climate change. Cities and Combined Authorities are increasingly taking ownership of this challenge through an agenda of devolution. The structural inequalities however cannot be tackled by local action alone.

Communities and businesses need to be given confidence that deep rooted disparities in social and economic conditions will not persist and that their investment prospects and future well-being will not be undermined.

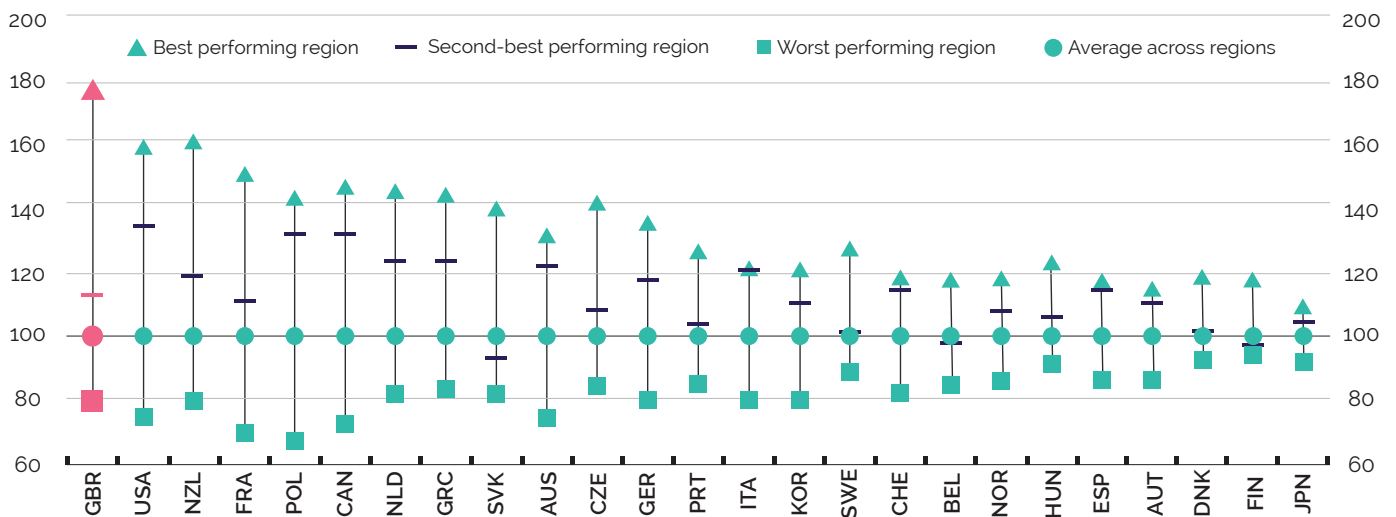
Development policies and programmes and policies must be sensitive to differing needs across the United Kingdom. Longer term consistent shared UK-wide spatial frameworks for action are needed.

There are spatial frameworks for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland but there is no equivalent one for England. The UK's National Infrastructure Assessment, National Industrial Strategy and UK Environment Plan demonstrate the need for an integrated approach to maximise their impact across different parts of the England and the UK. To address this need the UK2070 Commission will set out an approach to the development of spatial frameworks across all the nations of the UK.

Disparities in the United Kingdom

The OECD 2018 report concluded that most available measures consistently show large and persistent regional differences across the United Kingdom. In particular, the difference between the most and least productive region is one of the largest in the OECD (Figure 1). Poor performing regions "have not been showing signs of catching up over the past few years." This also affects the overall productivity of the nation and its competitiveness and social conditions.

Figure 1 Gross value added (GVA) per worker by region, 2014 ¹
Index average level across regions = 100 ²



Source: OECD report, United Kingdom: Reducing regional disparities in productivity, Jan 2018

The Activities of the Commission

The **UK2070 Commission** aims to:

- reinforce the devolution agenda for cities, regions and nations to maximise their potential for sustainable and inclusive growth;
- add value to the emerging range of national strategies for planning, housing, industry, land use, environment and infrastructure, through greater integration and clarity in their place-based implications;
- develop more inclusive and empowering approaches to national and strategic decision-making; and investment for regions, cities, towns and communities;
- draw on UK and international experience in tackling issues of spatial inequalities.

The **UK2070 Commission** will set out recommendations for an approach to developing effective, inclusive and sustainable frameworks for addressing spatial inequalities in terms of:

- the form and content of the frameworks, including its scope and horizons;
- requirements for leadership, governance and research;
- processes of engagement, delivery and review;
- enhanced regulatory and fiscal regimes including land, value capture; and
- professional competences and capacities.

In undertaking this work the **UK 2070 Commission** will draw upon existing studies and take account of existing and emerging statutory and non-statutory spatial strategic development frameworks, such as those for the South West, Northern and Midlands regions as well as national infrastructure priorities. It will also take on board the spatial policies of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and, where possible, consider the implications of any BREXIT settlement. It will test a range of propositions for cross/collaborative national spatial frameworks, as well as those in the Common Futures Network Prospectus - '**A New Agenda for England and the UK**'.

Programme Stages

The **UK2070 Commission** will engage with the different voices across sectors, interest groups and places, based around the following key stages:

- Launch and Call for Evidence (October 2018)
- A Progress Report highlighting issues and options (December 2018)
- Interim recommendations taking account of the consultation feedback (June 2019)
- The Final Report following a UK Symposium (November 2019)



Commissioners Members Web-link for more detailed information go to <http://uk2070.org.uk/commission/>

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