

Levelling-Up White Paper

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Summary

The white paper looks at how the government can go about developing six “capitals” and says that levelling up is about ensuring that every area in the UK has access to these six capitals.

- Physical capital – infrastructure, machines, and housing.
- Human capital – the skills, health, and experience of the workforce.
- Intangible capital – innovation, ideas, and patents.
- Financial capital – resources supporting the financing of companies.
- Social capital – the strength of communities, relationships, and trust.
- Institutional capital – local leadership, capacity, and capability.

Headline Commitments

Governance

- Central government decision making will be streamlined, and all departments will be made accountable for progressing the levelling up missions.
- Local decision makers will be empowered.
- A statutory duty will be introduced to publish an annual report analysing progress and a new external Levelling Up Advisory Council will be established. The Council will support Ministers by advising on the design, delivery and impact of levelling up policy. The annual report will update the public on progress against the missions so that levelling up is subject to rigorous external scrutiny, including by Parliament.

Productivity, Jobs and Living Standards

- Government will reform outdated EU rules restricting investment from pension funds and others so more investment will move into long-term capital assets.
- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) will aim to invest at least 55% of its total domestic R&D funding outside the Greater Southeast by 2024-25.
- The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) will increase National Institute for Health Research investment outside London, Oxford, and Cambridge.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) will expand the regional footprint of the Defence Science & Technology Laboratory (Dstl).
- Increase total domestic public investments outside the Greater Southeast by at least a third over the Spending Review period and at least 40% by 2030.
- £100m of investment in three innovation Accelerators, private-public-academic partnerships which will aim to replicate the Stanford-Silicon Valley and MIT-Greater Boston models of clustering research excellence and its direct adoption by allied industries. These pilots will be centred on Greater Manchester, the West Midlands, and Glasgow City-Region.

- Simplify the EU-inherited public procurement rules to prioritise British businesses.
- Enhance digital connectivity through Project Gigabit and the Shared Rural Network so that by 2030, the UK Government and private sector will deliver nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.

Skills and Education

- 55 new Education Investment Areas (EIAs) in places where educational attainment is currently weakest.
- Establish the UK National Academy, a new free digital education service that will support pupils from to acquire additional advanced knowledge and skills.
- Essentially eliminate illiteracy and innumeracy. By 2030, the aim is that 90% of all primary school children in England will achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.
- Local Skills Improvement Plans, together with supporting funding, will be set up across England to set out the key changes needed in a place to make technical skills training more responsive to skills needs.
- Introduce the in-Work Progression offer to help people on low incomes address barriers to better employment opportunities.
- Launch a new National Youth Guarantee so that by 2025 every young person in England will have access to regular out of school activities, adventures away from home and opportunities to volunteer.
- Provide more support to the state school sector to increase Combined Cadet Force participation.

Health and Wellbeing Outcomes

- The DHSC will shortly publish a White Paper designed to tackle the core drivers of disparities in health outcomes.
- Take forward recommendations from Henry Dimbleby's independent review towards a National Food Strategy including piloting Community Eatwell and a school cooking revolution.
- Introduce a new Tobacco Control Plan and set up at least 100 Community Diagnostic Centres in England by 2025.

Housing and Planning

- Regenerate 20 towns and cities by assembling and remediating brownfield land.
- Powers for local authorities to require landlords to rent out long-term vacant properties to prospective tenants, such as local businesses or community groups.
- Consult on developing a National Landlord Register.
- Bring forward measures to reset the relationship between landlords and tenants, including through ending section 21 "no fault evictions".
- Consult on introducing a legally binding Decent Homes Standard in the Private Rented Sector

Local Government

- £50m from the Safer Streets Fund every year of the SR21 period to give Police and Crime Commissioners and local authorities in England and Wales the resources they need to tackle crime.
- Deeper devolution deals with the West Midlands and Greater Manchester combined authorities. These deals will act as the blueprint for other mayoral combined authorities (MCAs) to follow, with bids for more powers welcome.
- Invite nine areas to agree new County Deals and seek to agree further MCA deals, extending devolution to much more of England.
- A new independent body will be set up to drive transparency for local people and publish rigorous, comparable data on performance.
- Work with Local Government Pension Funds to publish plans for increasing local investment, including setting an ambition of up to 5% of assets invested in projects which support local areas.

The 12 Missions to Level Up the UK

1. By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
2. By 2030, domestic public investment in R&D outside the Greater Southeast will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
3. By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
4. By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
5. By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
6. By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
7. By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.
8. By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
9. By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.



10. By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.
11. By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.
12. By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.