

Supporting the Development and Levelling Up of Local Economies

09:00 **Sponsored Breakfast Seminar - Optional pre-conference session**

10:00 **Welcome**
Bev Hurley CBE, Chair of IED

10:10 **What Policies are Needed Next to Support a Levelling Up Agenda?**
The Right Honourable Greg Clark MP
With the Levelling Up White Paper published in early 2022, there is an opportunity to consider the future policy direction and which approach will make the biggest difference within the levelling up agenda.

10:40 **Innovation in the Regeneration of Towns – Panel Discussion**
Mark Gregory, Chair, Professor of Business Economics at Staffordshire University
Professor Cathy Parker, Chair, Institute of Place Management MMU
Jonathan Werran, Chief Executive, Localis
After a decade where the economic growth of the UK has been focused on a number of core cities, the agenda shifted to the left, behind places in general and specifically towns. In many cases these locations have lost their original economic function; the location has insufficient critical mass for other types of activity and/or the changes in retail habits and Covid-19 have broken the High Street. The speakers will give their perspectives on the challenges and some solutions for town economies.

11:10 **Exhibition and Networking Break**

11:40 **Breakout Session 1A**
Delivering Clean Growth – Interventions Required Locally
Robin McAlpine, Common Weal
The commitment to net zero and the climate change emergency should be driving considerable economic change and also offers some local economic development opportunities. The pace of change will need to increase to achieve the stated commitments. This session will consider some of the interventions required.

Breakout Session 1B
Recognising the Impact of Health and Productivity and the Interventions Required
Dr Séamus O’Neill, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Health Science Alliance
The development of Local Industrial Strategies started to pick up on the themes of health and productivity with Greater Manchester, in particular, focusing on the impact of health on regional economic performance. The agenda has been further picked up by the Levelling Up White Paper and this sessions will consider the impacts and what can be undertaken to drive improvement.

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12:20 *Turnaround Time – 5 minutes*

12:25 **Breakout Session 2A**
Inequality of Opportunity in Our Communities
Andrew Carter, Chief Executive Officer, Centre for Cities

Whilst the Levelling Up agenda has set out a broadly place based approach, it is also clear that, at a more granular level, there are communities even within apparently prosperous locations, which are missing out on opportunity. As the UK reaches full employment, the inequality of opportunity is likely to become, not only a significant societal issue, but also a brake on economic performance. The interventions to address the issue are not straightforward and this session considers the position and the potential approach.

Breakout Session 2B
Place Based Impact Investment
Mark Hepworth, Director Research and Policy, The Good Economy

The Levelling Up White Paper identified the scale of institutional investment within the UK and the force for good that could be achieved by spreading more widely, the projects considered for investment. This session looks at the schemes which could benefit and the approach that could be taken with Institutional Investors.

13:05 **Exhibition and Networking Lunch**

13:45 **IED AGM**

13:55 **Roundtable Session 1A**
Can R & D Help Drive Local Innovation and Change the Trajectory of Failing Places?
Professor Richard Jones, Vice President for Regional Innovation and Economic Development, University of Manchester
The UK continues to identify the strength of its research institutions and the innovation created. Successive governments have tried to improve the track record of economic growth driven by this activity but with only limited success. This session will provide an opportunity for a discussion and examination of the issue and the approaches which can be taken.

Roundtable Session 2A
How Do Places Re-emerge When Dominant Industries Decline?
Julie Gilhespie, Group Chief Executive, Tees Valley Combined Authority

For decades, re-inventing the economic function of locations has created issues for policymakers – perhaps most prominently after coal closures in the 1980s and '90s.

Economic re-alignment is likely to impact on more places in the future and one area that has both witnessed and begun to address this change is Teesside. This session will provide an opportunity to address this issue and the aspects that need to be considered.

14:35 **Exhibition and Networking Break**

- 15:05 **The Support Business Requires to Deliver Healthy and Inclusive Growth**
Lindsay Judge, Research Director, The Resolution Foundation
Economic growth will only be achieved through a strong private sector and thriving business base. This session will examine the approach that can be taken in delivering a stronger business support environment – what aspects are required and are what is less important.
- 15:35 **Making the Case for Greater Infrastructure Delivery**
Will Gallagher, Strategy Director, East West Railways
It is clear that infrastructure improvement can unlock potential in places but, in many cases, the cost of delivery can undermine the business case. This session will consider methods of delivery and considerations in capturing benefits to make the case for greater infrastructure delivery to support and drive growth.
- 16:05 **Closing Remarks**
Bev Hurley CBE, Chair of IED
Reflections on the day some of the themes which can be taken forward by the Institute after the event.