



This joint proposal from the Business Board Network and Institute of Economic Development sets out the rationale for establishing an All Party Parliamentary Group on Economic Development for Regional Growth.

Rationale

The government's number one mission is to deliver growth and greater prosperity. That can only be achieved by direct interventions, delivered through genuine partnership working between business leaders and public sector leaders, and informed by what works in practice. These partners must work in lock step at all levels, with a common understanding of the local barriers to growth, what will overcome them, and alignment to the plan for removing them. Solutions cannot take a one size fits all approach nor be imposed from the top down.

To this end, we (BBN and IED) see significant benefits in establishing a Parliamentary forum through an APPG. We have identified a big gap in parliamentary opportunity here which we are missing out on because there is no dedicated APPG which brings business leadership alongside local economic leadership – it is local business that builds local economies!

Bringing real time data and intelligence to help inform and shape the government's policy approach, is critical to delivering effective and timely solutions. The Business Board Network brings together a large group of regional business leaders to the table, from global businesses as diverse as BAE Systems, Arup, Rolls Royce to SMEs - the wealth and growth creators of our economy. The IED brings together experienced economic development professionals from the public and private sectors across the UK responsible for implementing policy in their geographies, and bringing knowledge of, and relationships with, their own local business communities. Together we are a unique and powerful partnership.

Using the combined networks of the Institute of Economic Development and the Business Board Network we can unlock decades of business experience and investment know how in delivering regional and local growth. Our combined networks of business leaders and economic development professionals want to work with Parliamentarians to bring key issues to Government, Parliament and policy influencers based on the collective depth and breadth of knowledge, expertise and experience of our memberships. This expertise can help inform and shape the government's thinking on key issues, exposing the challenges and opportunities, and developing ideas that can accelerate growth.

www.businessboardnetwork.co.uk

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Together we will provide the Secretariat to manage the APPG.

Key Topics

Drawing on the combined experience of both organisations, key issues will be brought to the APPG for discussion and debate, as well as using it to disseminate our reports that focus on driving regional growth, through private/public partnership in place and local context. We envisage these event topics will include:



Role of business and SME's in local growth plans



Skills and funding to drive local economies



Cluster working to drive Innovation



What business support drives growth

Top Five Benefits:

1. **Network and Collaboration:** bringing regional business leaders and economic development professionals together across geographies to support and connect emerging Local Growth Plans, share devolution approaches and support the National Industrial Strategy, Trade Strategy, and skills strategy.

2. **Utilise Business Leaders:** A ready made resource for opinion and thought leadership for APPG to present cases to parliament.
3. **Driving Local Growth Plans:** the only platform connecting business leaders and public sector in partnership across key sectors e.g. education and skills; agri-food, tech and rural economy; AI and innovation; energy and net zero; international trade; advanced manufacturing, town and city regeneration - science innovation and technology; startups and scale ups etc.
4. **Implementing Modern Industrial Strategy:** at a regional/local level, exploiting the above sectors but also with a particular focus on local investment strengths and building specialist clusters such as space tech, defence, autonomous vehicles, gene therapy etc.
5. **Evidence Based:** Ensuring Government, key departments and Ministers understand what works and why. Drawing on the expertise and knowledge from across our combined organisations to ensure government decisions are evidence based and well informed.

Next Steps:

We hope that you agree that this APPG outlined above makes sense and is worthwhile.

In order to establish an APPG, there must be at least 20 members from either House. Four of these must be willing to be a Registered Officer, of which one must be from the government and one from the main opposition; and two must be from the Commons.

Our ask is that you click on these links listing all [MP's](#) and Members of the [House of Lords](#). Please just enter your name on the right hand side if you would be willing to make a direct approach to any of them to ask if they would like to be one of the founding members. If someone has already put their name to someone you know, please still add your own, so that we can discuss and decide who is best placed.

Please can you do this by 21st November, and we will let you know the outcome of this first stage. Thank you.

If you would like to discuss this proposal in more detail, please don't hesitate to get in touch:

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