

## APPENDIX 1

The LUWP is framed around twelve national levelling up missions, each to be given status in law, to try and shift place driven inequalities and achieve targets by 2030. The Government expresses a wish to shift resources to Britain's communities which are lagging behind national averages for life chances, health and opportunities.

It is important to note that the LUWP does not contain any information on the next round of the Levelling Up fund, neither in terms of revised priorities and importantly the time lines for bid submission. The only reference that is given The LUF will allocate £4.8bn over the period to 2024-25, that Autumn Budget 2021 announced £1.7bn of projects, and that details of future rounds will be announced soon (p238). There is a substantive amount of discussion in the report to suggest that any bids must at least address the 12 national missions.

The 12 National Missions are as follows:

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 Research & Development outside the Greater South East 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 5 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.

### 3. Data, Evidence and Policy Rationale

At its core, Levelling Up is a cross-government, cross-society effort with the objective of narrowing spatial economic disparities. With around 100 pages analysing current geographical inequalities in the UK, the LUWP paints a holistic picture of performance outcomes such as GDP, productivity, wellbeing, healthy life expectancy, education outcomes and social mobility. Contrary to standard growth theory, the LUWP importantly recognises that many areas of the country are not converging with the rapid growth of development clusters like London.

The LUWP combines multiple economic theories in its policy rationale. This culminates in six key forms of capital needed for local economic development:

- Physical capital resources and infrastructure;
- Human skills and education level;
- Social capital including community trust and cultural facilities;
- Intangible assets, primarily innovation;
- Financial resources and investment; and
- Institutional capital in the form of strong local leaders and empowered governance organisations.

Successful Levelling Up policies will increase multiple forms of capital, to spring areas out of low-growth traps and help them to converge or 'level up' with overdeveloped areas (which are disproportionately in London and the South West).

### 4. Foundations for policy criteria

There are two foundational criteria for Levelling Up policies and projects. Firstly, they must be capable of economically and socially desirable, correcting well-defined market failures. Secondly, Levelling Up policies must be proven to be feasible for design and delivery with clear measurable targets. New structures will be put in place to monitoring project progress, including local stakeholder groups and a regional Levelling Up Director who will communicate local activity to the Levelling Up Committee in Central Government.

The LUWP also highlights three overarching, national economic challenges which impact all the 12 missions. Firstly, the climate crisis and corresponding 'green' environmental targets are a priority, such as the UK's goal to hit carbon net zero by 2050. Secondly, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused both short-term and long-term economic challenges which should be addressed. Finally, the Technological Transformation impacts all sectors of our economy, therefore Levelling Up requires adaptation to these new market forces.

## 5. Key National Announcements

The LUWP announces the extension of devolution the UK by inviting 9 new areas to start formal negotiations to agree new County Deals and Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCA). Where these new deals take place, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) will be encouraged to integrate into the new County Deal or MCA. The focus on Devolution represents the first step to reset the relationship between central and local government and put councils at the heart of delivering the programme. Though few resources are yet committed, we hope that further central Government funding will be made explicit.

Two new financial commitments were announced in the LUWP. £1.5 billion in loans will be targeted at SMEs and 'innovative developers' to build new homes, with special priority for projects offering value-for-money, greener homes and housing market diversification. Furthermore, three £100million Innovation Accelerators Silicon-Valley Style will focus Research and Development investment on Greater Manchester, Glasgow and the West Midlands.

## 6. Local and Regional Considerations

Appendix Two is an actual extract from the LUWP. It highlighted developments like the new East Midlands Freeport should create regional economic opportunities, as it intends to boost global trade via customs, planning and tax incentives, meanwhile boosting job creation and Research and Development investment.

The regional inequalities analysis in the LUWP reveals interesting regional insight. For example, East Midlands investments are disproportionately London-dependent, and the East Midlands has the second worst productivity of all the ITL1 regions in England. On the other hand, the East Midlands has the joint second highest life satisfaction, corresponding to high levels of social capital.

Perhaps the most significant proposal is for Nottinghamshire & Nottingham to be one of the nine new county deals alongside Derbyshire & Derby and Leicestershire. The LUWP states the aim to have completed many of these deals by Autumn 2022. This stands to create important governance issues and changes to our existing two-tier council authority structure. Additionally, if a County Deal goes ahead it may incorporate D2N2 in line with the Government Plan of LEP integration.

## 7. Broxtowe Considerations

The LUWP and its data sources reveal that Broxtowe is not a poor-performing Borough in measures such as adult skills, GVA, Median Gross Weekly Pay, social mobility, or healthy life expectancy. Nevertheless, there is still scope for future successful funding bids as the LUWP recognises that 'hyperlocal' spatial inequalities exist and that more data collection is required so that localities do not get left behind. Therefore, there is opportunity to secure funds for parts of the borough with an evident form of capital deficit.

Though there are some devolution questions left to resolve, it is thought that the general direction of travel for both our Kimberley and Eastwood Levelling Up Fund bids is broadly congruent with the LUWP's criteria. Officers will look to align project activity with locally defined capital deficits and other policy objectives to improve chances of success.

## 8. Conclusions

It is hard to see how future rounds of Levelling-Up Funding can ignore the White Paper, the Missions and the foundational criteria. Against these criteria there are some of the Round 1 projects that probably could be said to be “outliers”. It would be overly optimistic to compose a bid that did not explicitly address the missions and criteria. For Kimberley the theme of the bid has at its core Mission 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, there is also a need to replace physical and productive capital. For Eastwood the core of the bid is the Healthy Heart of Eastwood which definitely strikes a chord and Mission 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 5 years. There is also a developing theme around Mission 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. Arguably the bid also strengthens social capital.