

Written evidence submitted by Core Cities UK (PEG0317)

1. The UK's 11 Core Cities and 24 of their universities have published a joint declaration '*Unleashing Urban Innovation to Level Up the UK*', in which they commit to work with government to boost post-pandemic economic growth and secure the UK's place as a global scientific superpower.
2. As we look toward post-pandemic economic recovery, universities can be the genesis for both regional growth and international competitiveness. There is an opportunity for Core Cities, universities, business and the UK and devolved governments to work together to create tomorrow's jobs, industries and exports.
3. Our Core Cities and their universities have a long and very successful history of working together on everything from globally successful spin-out companies to hospitals and science parks (See case study for the University of Bristol in annex 2). Following the national response to COVID-19, these partnerships are stronger than ever. Government now has a clear opportunity to build on this success and empower our cities and universities to play their full part in the delivering the post-COVID Global Britain agenda.
4. The 11 UK Core Cities and 24 of their universities have issued a joint declaration offering to work with government (see '*Unleashing Urban Innovation to Level Up the UK*' joint statement in annex 1).
5. Of note, the declaration calls for the establishment of new City Innovation Partnerships (CIPs) to develop targeted local R&D investment programmes. These Partnerships will leverage each city-region's unique R&D strengths, enhance local innovation capacity, and drive local growth.
6. The declaration also calls for greater local flexibility in the delivery of skills, employment and job creation programmes, the introduction of a Cities Trade Package, and a new UK Urban Trade and Investment Strategy to reposition the UK internationally.
7. We hope the Committee will agree the proposals set out in the declaration represent a series of very sensible and measured steps the UK and devolved governments could take to boost post-pandemic economic growth.
8. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss the declaration and its recommendations with members of the Committee in more detail.

About Core Cities UK

Core Cities UK is an alliance of 11 cities – Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield. Its mission is to unlock the full potential of our great city regions to create a stronger, fairer economy and society.

- Core Cities city regions deliver 26% of the UK economy, 20% of trade and are home to more than 20 million people and almost 40% of university students.

- Our story overall is one of success, particularly where policies have been built by local and national government working together, such as devolution, which is getting results across areas including transport, health, economic and jobs growth.
- Our cities' productivity is low by international standards. If all the Core Cities performed at the levels of similar cities internationally, it would add £100billion a year to the UK economy.
- Core Cities UK has consistently argued for greater devolution to cities. We believe devolution is not a panacea on its own, but greater local freedom over public spending and the ability to align services and funds in a place-based manner is a big part of the solution.

University signatories:

Aston University, Birmingham City University, Cardiff University, Glasgow Caledonian University, Heseltine Institute for Public Policy, Practice and Place, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds Trinity University, Liverpool John Moore's University, Liverpool Hope University, Manchester Metropolitan University, Northumbria University, Queens University Belfast, Sheffield Hallam University, University of Birmingham, University of Bristol, University of Glasgow, University of Leeds, University of Manchester, Newcastle University, University of Sheffield, University of Strathclyde, University of the West of England, Universities for Nottingham (Nottingham Trent University & University of Nottingham).

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