

THE NETWORK THAT SPEAKS FOR URBAN UK

KEY
CITIES
UNLOCKING
POTENTIAL



WE ARE KEY CITIES



With 24 cities of all shapes and sizes across the country, Key Cities is the non-partisan network that represents urban living in the UK. We have a combined population of over 5.7 million people and contribute over £152 billion a year to the UK economy.



5.7
Million

PEOPLE (8.4% OF
GB POPULATION)



2.85
Million

JOBS



£152
Billion

GVA CONTRIBUTED TO
NATIONAL ECONOMY



167,300

BUSINESSES

A UNITED VOICE FOR URBAN UK



We work together

The Key Cities membership is cross-party, and the network brings a unified voice for urban Britain, working to champion places. We work with other cities, towns and organisations across local government and beyond to deliver prosperity and a good standard of living and environment for all.

We produce ideas, research and engagement, both with experts and with

ordinary people across our places. We want a country where no place is left behind and every family and person has opportunities for a better life.

As the Government's agenda focuses highly on economic growth, we want to make sure that local leaders have a strong platform to put their cities centre-stage when it comes to directing investment.

Our members are:

BCP	NEWPORT
BATH & NES	NORWICH
BRADFORD	PLYMOUTH
COLCHESTER	PORTSMOUTH
COVENTRY	PRESTON
CUMBERLAND	READING
EXETER	SALFORD
GLOUCESTER	SOUTHAMPTON
HULL	STOKE ON TRENT
LANCASTER	SUNDERLAND
LINCOLN	WOLVERHAMPTON
MEDWAY	WREXHAM



THE UK WORKS BEST WHEN IT WORKS TOGETHER



What we offer Britain

The members of the Key Cities network are significant urban entities with integrated municipal government, in close touch with the lived experience of their populations. We are uniquely positioned to be able to provide a clear voice for people, organisations and businesses across urban Britain. Our membership covers north and south, inland, port and coastal, and areas with differing levels of prosperity.

Key Cities members are:

Some of the fastest growing local economies in the UK.

Places with major strengths in both manufacturing and exports.

The right size for growth – with available land to expand.

Ideal test beds for economic and social innovation.

Poised to play a pivotal role in the delivery of the Government's economic growth agenda.

Through partnership with central government, business and each other, we are working to deliver:

Higher productivity.

Stronger growth.

A more inclusive economy.

Higher employment in better paid, more secure jobs.

Engagement with people who feel economically and politically excluded.

A better leisure and culture offer for everyone.

Regenerated and sustainable cities with more affordable housing.

PROVIDING OUR CITIES WITH MORE OPPORTUNITIES



What we do

Our Cities hold the key to forging scalable solutions for connected urban centres and to address systemic inequalities rooted in changing industry, commerce and trade. Our cities are compact enough to be agile, large enough to make a difference. We will work with the UK government and others to test practical solutions for social and economic issues affecting our places.

This includes how to increase productivity and wages, improve transport and housing and develop and modernise our industries and firms, creating jobs and prosperity not only for now, but for the future.

This may include invest to save initiatives, testing new models of devolved delivery, piloting new national initiatives or programmes or jointly work on new approaches to grow economies and tackle issues such as low productivity or low social and economic inclusion.

We constructively respond to consultations and emerging policy development by others, both within and beyond Government, across all our areas of work.

We seek to raise awareness of our policy priorities and proposals across both the Government and wider professional and public debate.

We actively engage with the media and other interested parties to ensure our voice remains heard and our profile remains high.

We have regular meetings and dialogue with both Ministers and Government departments across all our portfolio areas. We have an effective Key Cities All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) enabling members of Parliament of all parties to engage with us and our work. We provide briefings and information to government and MP's around our work and proposals.



Cllr Michael Mordey, Leader of Sunderland City Council

"Sunderland City Council is involved with Key Cities because of the opportunity to showcase the value of investing in urban areas, both with other members of the network and through direct parliamentary engagement. Through the Key Cities Learning Programme, Sunderland has hosted leaders from across the network in an exchange of ideas on how to grow our cities for the people that live in them. There are also opportunities to benefit from Key Cities' presence and influence in the policy space – such as speaking opportunities at conferences and direct engagement with Ministers."

Cllr Lorna Fielker, Leader of Southampton City Council and Deputy Chair of Key Cities

"There is much to gain from linking in with other members of Key Cities. The network provides valuable opportunities to share experiences and learning with colleagues from other parts of the country and our collective voice is being heard in central government. Holding the Key Cities portfolio for housing and homelessness means that I am able to advocate for a policy area that I am passionate about and put Southampton's priorities forward, both among the network and through media opportunities. I also look forward to Key Cities producing a commissioned piece of research on the country's housing targets."

Cllr Tudor Evans, Leader of Plymouth City Council

"Our membership with the Key Cities group grants us access to insightful policy discussion and sharing of ideas with colleagues from other cities. Crucially, the network has good linkages with policymakers on a national level and our collective knowledge as leaders of cities does not go to waste. More recently, Plymouth has been able to be a leading voice in an important piece of research looking at the challenges and opportunities faced by coastal communities. Overall, being a part of the network punches above its weight with Government and acts as a strong voice for its members on issues that matter to them."

Our work areas

Our work areas are led by individual member cities across our group. Currently these are:

Climate

Advocating for cities to be equipped with the tools they need to meet Net Zero targets and protect the local environment.

Coastal Communities

Exploring the unique challenges faced by coastal communities and produce new policy to harness their unique opportunities.

Culture

Maximising the economic impact of a rich cultural offer in cities and improving life outcomes, particularly for children and young people.

Devolution

Advocating for further devolution of powers to city leaders enabling them to deliver more for their areas.

Health and Social Care

Ensuring that cities and residents' voices shape and influence health and social care services.

Housing & Homelessness

Support innovative solutions to deliver sufficient, quality housing for all.

Inclusive Economy

Promoting innovative and progressive ways to stimulate local growth.

Skills

Having a skilled workforce in thriving job markets is the key to achieving real growth. Comprehensive skills devolution will help cities to make sure their local industries have the necessary skills they need to thrive.

Sports and Leisure

Sport and leisure provision has the potential to change life outcomes in cities, particularly for young people.

Transport

Support strong local transport links which boost quality of life and growth in cities.



Work with us

We believe that collaboration, sharing ideas and joint working is the best way to achieve success. If you are interested in working with us, or have ideas or a proposal you'd like us to look at around achieving our priorities – **please get in touch.**

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