

Modern Industrial Strategy

Purpose

As background to the discussion.

Summary

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, the Rt. Hon. Greg Clark MP, will join Councillors' Forum for this item and will discuss the Government's Industrial Strategy. This session provides an opportunity for councillors to raise questions for the Secretary of State.

Recommendation

Members of Cllrs' Forum are invited to note the background report and, following the Secretary of State's speech, pose questions from a local government perspective.

Action

Officers will take forward actions identified.

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1. On 23 January 2017 the Government published '[Britain's industrial strategy](#)'. This Green Paper, published prior to June's General Election, sets out the Government's plans and strategy for supporting Britain's industrial sectors, improving productivity, driving growth across the country and making British business more competitive. The strategy is made up of 10 pillars (**Appendix C**) which draw together in one place a range of new and existing policy and related funding.
2. The [LGA's response](#), submitted in April 2017, was led by the Environment, Economy, Housing and Transport Board with input from People and Places and City Regions Boards. Our submission welcomed the Government's ambition to drive growth and tackle the economic imbalances in different parts of the country. However, it was felt that at the moment the strategy was too broad and needs the participation of local government to help add a clear vision and clearer local outcomes. In order to achieve this it is vital that local leaders across the country can access the appropriate levers of growth and, in turn, match the economic performance of their global competitors. A full summary of the LGA's response is at **Appendix A**.
3. More recently, the [Conservative Party manifesto](#) made a number of references to a 'modern industrial strategy', including commitments on increasing innovation and productivity, a new Future Britain Funds, skills investment, energy and energy costs and investment in transport and other economic infrastructure. In relation to the role of local areas, the Manifesto made commitments on the role of local institutions, the status of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), future growth funding and Mayors:
 - 3.1 **The role of local institutions and LEPs:** "...we will support local growth through combined authorities, mayoralities and local enterprise partnerships. We will make each partnership and combined authority responsible for co-ordinating their own local industrial strategy in alignment with our national industrial strategy, bringing together local businesses, political and public sector leaders to drive growth and economic regeneration. We will wherever possible deliver growth funding through these organisations. We will give local enterprise partnerships greater weight by backing them in law."
 - 3.2 **Growth funding:** "We will use the structural fund money that comes back to the UK following Brexit to create a United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund, specifically designed to reduce inequalities between communities across our four nations. The money that is spent will help deliver sustainable, inclusive growth based on our modern industrial strategy. We will consult widely on the design of the fund, including with the devolved administrations, local authorities, businesses and public bodies."
 - 3.3 **Mayors:** "For combined authorities that are based around our great cities, we will continue to support the adoption of elected mayors, but we will not support them for the rural counties."

4. The LGA will continue to work with the new Government and councils to both clarify national policy in the wake of the General Election and ensure that councils and local leaders will continue to play a central role in driving local growth and productivity.