

# Speech: TheCityUK National Conference 2018

## **Introduction**

This is an important event...at an important time.

As we leave the European Union, we are faced with exciting choices and possibilities.

It is a moment of national renewal, where we are affirming our faith in the British people and businesses to take advantage of the opportunities our new relationship with the EU, and yes, the rest of world, will present.

And let me be clear – the deal we strike with the European Union will mean we take back control of our laws, borders and money, and it will protect our economy, security and precious union.

The theme of today's conference – "Going for Growth" – in many ways sums up this government's ambition for Britain – not just economically, but socially, so that all parts of our country, all communities, can thrive, with no-one left behind.

## **The role of the city in the 21st century economy**

And cities are central to this ambition.

For millennia the city has been a unit of economic and social solidarity.

From ancient Athens and Rome, to modern day London, Beijing and New York. Throughout history, to individuals and businesses, the city simply made sense.

But it hasn't been a story of ever upward progress, of continuing growth and expansion.

Think back to the 1970s and 80s and how cities suffered from declining populations and slowing economic growth.

As the economy has become more globalised and technology revolutionises the way we do business, the state has found new ways to support the city and in turn the last 20 years I think have seen a global renaissance in the city as a place to live and work.

Government has been working to give places the tools to take advantage of these opportunities.

We've created city region mayors – with new powers to boost jobs and skills, to build homes and improve travel – and devolution deals such as the West

Midlands, which will see over £1 billion invested over the next 30 years.

It's also why we're backing 26 City Deals in England and 7 across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland – and are keeping up the momentum, with the recent Budget announcements regarding the £350 million City Deal for Belfast and £150 million for the Tay Cities Deal.

We have continually backed cities because the contribution they make speaks for itself.

Birmingham has the highest number of new start-ups outside London and the wider West Midlands, as a whole, is the fastest growing region in the UK for goods exports.

Leeds has seen its economy expand by just over a third during the last decade and, in 2016, saw the fastest rate of private sector jobs growth of any UK city.

And Glasgow is also booming, generating more than £20 billion in economic output last year.

## **Dealing with the challenges of success**

And yet, with the growth and productivity of our cities, come new challenges borne of this success.

If we want to ensure our cities continue to grow their potential we need to evolve policy to meet these challenges.

Weak skills, low wages and stagnating productivity, for example, all speak to a world in which work needs to be much more rewarding.

When work is alienating and lacking in meaning it creates a void in the individual which is filled by frustration and disengagement.

That is why a key part of our national [Industrial Strategy](#) and local growth plans is to help make work better for all, so that each individual can reach the full measure of their potential.

But we must ensure the right powers are held locally to ensure every place and person can forge their own destinies, address their own specific challenges and support local communities.

Since 2010 we have devolved power from Whitehall, rightfully handing it to local leaders and businesses, who have used it to improve the lives of their communities.

And we're taking it a step further.

I'm pleased to confirm that our new devolution framework will be published shortly and with it we will begin a new conversation about our emerging neo-localist agenda.

This new strand of policy will set out a direction for devolution post Brexit.

It will support areas to collaborate to help drive greater sub-national trading activity.

And it will challenge places to harness the opportunities new technology provides and, yes, for cities in particular, show just how much smarter they can be as a result.

The new devolution framework will build on the successes of the past, helping to ensure our cities remain the drivers of national economic growth, as well as connecting our towns and villages to that story too.

As my colleague the Business Secretary Greg Clark noted when the first Industrial Strategy green paper was launched, “economic growth doesn’t happen in abstract, it happens in particular places.”

## **Cities are already leading the way**

Here in the Midlands this won’t be news to you; over 220,000 people are employed in the financial and related sectors.

So it’s little wonder that HSBC decided to base its UK headquarters here, in Birmingham’s Enterprise Zone – and highly fitting, too, given that the core of HSBC’s UK business goes back to the Birmingham and Midland Bank, founded in 1836.

The North, similarly, is a big draw for these sectors.

Manchester’s banking, insurance and professional services employ over 51,000 people and its financial quarter, Spinningfields, boasts Barclays, BNY Mellon and RBS alongside Deloitte and the recent arrival of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

Leeds is also proving a winner – as the home of international law firm Reed Smith’s new Global Solutions service and also Channel 4’s new national HQ.

Which all reinforces this government’s great vote of confidence in our vibrant, thriving cities – and also in the regions to which they belong.

I’m incredibly proud to represent and support these regions as Midlands Engine Champion in Cabinet to ensure they become even better places to live, work and invest.

The recent Budget reinforced that mission, with very welcome announcements on:

- £165 million for Birmingham, to support the Commonwealth Games Athletes Village and unlock 5,000 homes as a lasting legacy,

- £8.5 million to support Coventry when it hosts the UK City of Culture in 2021,
- and, crucially, a refreshed Midlands Engine Strategy to be published next year.

A strategy that will be grounded in strong, hard evidence about the region – underpinned by the [Midlands Engine Observatory](#) that's just been launched.

This will initially focus on a wide-ranging independent economic review of the Midlands.

Because we need to do more to understand the needs and ambitions of our city-regions if we're to back them to really succeed – indeed, if we're to back our country to succeed.

I've seen for myself, first-hand, what that means since I was appointed to my role.

In July, here in Birmingham, I heard first-hand about the ambitious plans for Curzon Street and the new HS2 station – which will turbo-charge the region's already great transport links and prime central location.

In August, I was in the East Midlands, at Lincoln and Loughborough Universities – just 2 of the 20 universities that make the Midlands a magnet for cutting-edge research and teaching excellence.

While I was there, I also saw how companies like Laing O'Rourke are leading innovations in modular housing to help us build more homes.

And in October, I undertook my first Midlands Engine Trade Visit, accompanying Sir John [Peace] and West Midlands' Mayor Andy Street, to India; travelling to Delhi and Pune and meeting key partners in the automotive and engineering industries – key sectors for both the Midlands and Maharashtra State.

A trip that was a great success, reinforcing the global reach of the brilliant products and services the Midlands offers and the exciting opportunities that lie ahead – opportunities that will see us forging new links.

Links that will see us increasingly talking about not just London-New York, but also Birmingham-Mumbai and Manchester-Hong Kong.

Because there is so much more our places can do to support their economies and transform their environments.

That is why our new devolution framework will help local areas take advantage of the opportunities leaving the European Union presents and build stronger bonds of kinship between people and communities.

I want to ensure that every area, every community, can seize the opportunities that will flow from that.

Because too many people feel like they didn't benefit from the old arrangement and that decisions weren't made in their interests.

This means thinking differently about how we invest; how we plan for our infrastructure, how we ensure new technology and the opportunities it brings can fit in with our cities, towns and villages.

This is why we're developing the UK Shared Prosperity Fund – a programme of investment to tackle inequalities between communities – to take effect after Brexit.

The aim is to drive up productivity, underpinned by evidence of what works at a local level, with Local Industrial Strategies playing their part to help communities maximise the Fund's long-term impact.

We will be consulting widely on its design shortly and I urge everyone with a stake in creating stronger, more prosperous communities to contribute.

## **Conclusion**

Because it's these communities – the dynamic businesses, the bold entrepreneurs, the millions of talented, hard-working people – that hold the key to our future.

Communities that when they come together – as strong, confident cities anchored into strong, confident regions – with the backing of our financial and professional services, are unbeatable – both socially and economically.

I'm delighted to be working with you to celebrate and support them, knowing that when they succeed, we all succeed.

And that, as we leave the European Union, we harness the new opportunities available to us, enhance our skill base and productivity – seize the potential.

That we approach the future with an optimistic outlook of how we will forge a new direction.

Building upon innovation, technology and, yes, the strengths of our great cities, regions and the character of the British people.

Where everyone has a stake, everyone has a role and truly create a country where no-one is left behind.

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## [Press release: Hampshire hammer attacker to spend longer behind bars](#)

A man who attacked a woman with a metal claw hammer will spend more time in prison after Solicitor General Robert Buckland QC MP, referred his original sentence to the Court of Appeal as unduly lenient.

In the early hours of 14 November 2017, Amadio Osborne invited a 24 year old female into his Hampshire home and attacked her with a hammer. The victim suffered blows to her head and body and was left terrified and fearing for her life.

Convicted of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm with intent, Osborne, 30, was originally sentenced in September to 12 years in prison at Portsmouth Crown Court.

The Court of Appeal quashed the 12 year determinate sentence and imposed an extended sentence of 17 years imprisonment, consisting of 12 years imprisonment, and 5 years on extended licence.

Speaking after the hearing, the Solicitor General said:

This was a premeditated and violent attack, and Osborne poses a significant risk to members of the public. He lured a vulnerable woman into his home and as a consequence she was left terrified, and suffered head injuries. The original sentence failed to take proper account of the seriousness of the offence. I am pleased the Court has now seen fit to increase the prison term.

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## [Press release: Brighton welcomes Small Business Saturday bus tour as minister joins small business owners](#)

- Small Business Minister Kelly Tolhurst joined Small Business Saturday bus tour
- visit coincides with Small Business Saturday on December 1
- in the year following the launch of our modern Industrial Strategy, we are delivering jobs and growth in every part of the country

Brighton Lanes shoppers were treated to a remarkable sight today, Thursday

November 22 2018, as the Small Business Saturday Bus arrived in town as part of its UK-wide tour, welcomed by the Small Business Minister Kelly Tolhurst.

Ahead of Small Business Saturday on December 1, the minister saw first-hand the inspiring ways in which local businesses have used government-backed investment from the Start-up Loans fund and Small Business Saturday to invest and grow for the future.

As part of the visit to the Lanes, the minister reinforced the wealth of resources available for businesses in West Sussex – The Coast to Capital Growth Hub in Horsham is part of the network of Local Enterprise Partnership-led Growth Hubs across England, providing access to information and advice to SMEs, alongside our free Business Support Helpline.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy – and our business environment is amongst the best in the world. In the year following the launch of our modern [Industrial Strategy](#), we are delivering jobs and growth in every part of the country and doing even more to ensure the UK remains the best place in the world to start and grow a business.

The minister met the Mayor of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Dee Simson, who was joined by Brighton & Hove City Council lead member for economic development, Councillor Nancy Platts and representatives from Brilliant Brighton, Brighton BID, the British Business Bank, Federation of Small Businesses, the Coast to Capital Growth Hub in Horsham and Start-up Loans Company.

Small Business Minister Kelly Tolhurst said:

We are dedicated to supporting the UK's 5.7 million small businesses like those in Brighton, which are at the heart of our local communities and the backbone of our economy.

In the year following the launch of our modern Industrial Strategy, we are delivering jobs and growth in every part of the country, and we remain dedicated to supporting small businesses to boost their productivity and growth for the future– something I am passionate about as a former small business owner myself.

Start-up Loans provides start up finance and up to 12 months of mentoring support for businesses. The government recently introduced new laws to make it easier for small businesses to access invoice finance, providing a £1 billion long-term boost to the economy.

A [Call for Evidence](#) is currently seeking opinions to help end the culture of late payments to small businesses which is open to businesses to take part in until November 29.

Michelle Ovens, Small Business Saturday director, said:

We're excited to have the support of Kelly Tolhurst for the Small

Business Saturday bus tour stop in Brighton, which is all about highlighting the positive impact that small businesses have in the town and across the surrounding area.

It is a great chance for local business owners to receive mentoring and showcase their products and services to the local community.

Brighton is a growing vibrant and creative hub, and it is great to showcase the small businesses that provide the foundation to the local economy.

The Small Business Saturday bus tour travelled across the UK, beginning in Blackburn on Thursday, October 25, taking in 30 towns and cities over 5 weeks, ending in London on Wednesday, November 28.

## **The Modern Industrial Strategy**

Our modern [Industrial Strategy](#), published last year, set out how the whole of the UK can build on these strengths, extend them into the future, and capitalise on new opportunities. Investing in science and research to keep us at the forefront of new technologies and the benefits they bring. Nurturing the talent of tomorrow – through more outstanding schools, world-leading universities and the technical skills that will drive our economy. And transforming the places where people live and work – the places where ideas and inspiration are born – by backing businesses and building infrastructure not just in London and the South East but across every part of our country.

It has been taken forward at pace over the last year:

- innovative ideas that bring together world-class UK science, research and innovation to develop cutting edge products and services of the future have received an extra £1.7 billion making it the largest increase for 40 years (to £7 billion). That includes £210 million to develop new medical diagnostic tools and treatments, £90 million for the food and farming industry to embrace agri-tech and £184 million for 41 UK universities to train the next generation of world-class scientists and engineers
- 6 sector deals between government and industry have been published – from construction and automotive to nuclear and the creative industries, including £1.9 billion of investment in life sciences and £1 billion for artificial intelligence. They are not only about attracting investment and growth, but also ensuring we have the skilled, diverse workforce we need for the future
- plans for new technical qualifications (t-levels) and to transform the quality and quantity of apprenticeships
- further connectivity of Britain's towns, cities and rural areas, including the first allocations of the £190 million full-fibre challenge fund and £25 million for 6 5G testbeds across the UK
- opened the Transforming Cities Fund with billions of pounds ready to go to projects that drive productivity by improving connections within city regions

- opened the Faraday Institution in Oxford to keep the UK at the forefront of global battery manufacture
- announced plans for a new spaceport in Sutherland
- we now have the fastest growing infrastructure investment across the G7, providing £31 billion of additional capital spending to areas critical to improving productivity
- we have launched the £9 million Centre of Data Ethics and Innovation to act as an advisory body to government and regulators on ethics of data and its use, including for AI
- we recently launched the Patient Capital Fund, which will invest £2.5 billion in our most innovative companies
- we will shortly publish the Business Productivity Review setting out ways to support improving productivity in many of our smaller businesses

## Notes to editors

The regional bus tour runs from 25 October to 28 November. For more information, visit the [Small Business Saturday website](#).

Small Business Saturday is a campaign to promote the value of small business to local communities as well as the economy, reaching millions of businesses and consumers each year. Government has supported this campaign for the past 6 years.

Small Business Saturday is on 1 December 2018.

Visit [gov.uk](http://gov.uk) for information on support for small businesses.

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## [Press release: Government approves Nottingham's air quality plan](#)

The Government today announced it has approved Nottingham City Council's new plan to tackle air pollution in Nottingham city centre.

For the past three years, the council has been working with officials from Defra and the Department for Transport to identify measures to reduce levels of pollution in the shortest possible time and deliver compliance with legal air quality limits.

The plans were assessed by government officials and cleared by Ministers who have issued a Ministerial Direction for the plan to be implemented. Nottingham is the first local authority to have their air quality plan approved as part of the government's wider £3.5bn plan to tackle harmful emissions from road transport across the country.

Environment Minister Thérèse Coffey said:

I am delighted to approve Nottingham City Council's new air quality plan. Air pollution is the top environmental risk to health in the UK and these government-funded plans will clean up the air in the city centre, protecting residents and visitors alike.

The plans have been finalised thanks to hard work and collaboration – a brilliant example of what can be achieved when local and national government work together towards a common goal.

We will continue to work with local authorities across the UK to improve the quality of the air we breathe.

Nottingham's plan will see the council improving air quality by:

- Retrofitting 171 buses with technology to reduce emissions, funded through the Government's Clean Bus Technology Fund;
- Changing the age and emissions policy for hackney carriages and supporting an increase in low emission taxis. £1m from government will be used to provide a licensing discount for drivers, a taxi rank with charging points, fund home chargers and expand the council's 'try before you buy' scheme, which started this week
- In addition, Nottingham City Council has received funding from the Government to support the conversion of its own fleet, including replacing heavy, high polluting vehicles such as bin lorries with electric vehicles.

Councillor Sally Longford, Portfolio Holder for Energy and Environment, said:

We worked hard on a plan that would reduce air pollution in the shortest possible time for our citizens, and we're thrilled this has now been agreed, along with nearly £1m funding for extra measures to support taxi drivers.

We're looking forward to progressing these schemes to clean up the city's buses and taxis, building on our strong track record in improving air quality through investment in sustainable transport, such as the electric tram, our award-winning electric and biogas bus fleets and cycle network.

Air pollution is a significant threat to public health today, and road transport emissions are a big part of that. We're confident we can deliver our plan and go even further to improve the quality of the air in our city.

While Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) levels have fallen significantly in recent decades, including a 27% drop since 2010, The UK Plan for Tackling Roadside Nitrogen Dioxide Concentrations outlines how councils with the worst levels of air pollution at busy road junctions and hotspots must take action. Due to

the highly localised nature of the problem, local knowledge is crucial in solving pollution problems in these hotspots. This is why local authorities, like Nottingham City Council, take the lead on developing air quality plans, with support and funding from central government.

Work continues on air quality plans in towns and cities across the rest of the UK. Final plans have also been received from Birmingham and Leeds, while 33 other local authorities are still working to develop theirs. Once their plans are finalised and approved by Defra and DfT Ministers, the government will ensure sufficient funding is in place for the agreed measures.

The government is also taking wider action to tackle air pollution:

- Our new world leading Clean Air Strategy which was welcomed by the World Health Organisation sets out how we aim to halve the harm to human health from air pollution in the UK by 2030.
- Through our new Road to Zero Strategy we have set out our ambition for the UK to be the best place in the world to develop and manufacture zero emission vehicles, consulting on plans for every new home and lamppost to be equipped with an electric vehicle charge point.
- We will introduce new legislation to give local government new powers to take decisive action in areas with an air pollution problem.
- We will ensure only the cleanest home burning fuels will be available for sale and only the cleanest stoves will be available to buy and install.
- For the first time, we will take concerted action to tackle ammonia emissions from farming by requiring and supporting farmers to invest in the infrastructure and equipment that will reduce emissions.
- By ending the sale of conventional new diesel and petrol cars and vans from 2040, the UK is going further than almost every other European nation.

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## [Speech: PM statement in Downing Street: 22 November 2018](#)

Throughout these difficult and complex negotiations with the European Union I have had one goal in mind: to honour the vote of the British people and deliver a good Brexit deal.

Last week we achieved a decisive breakthrough when we agreed with the European Commission the terms for our smooth and orderly exit from the EU.

Alongside that withdrawal agreement we published an outline political declaration setting out the framework for our future relationship.

Last night in Brussels, I had a good, detailed discussion with President

Juncker in which I set out what was needed in that political declaration to deliver for the United Kingdom.

We tasked our negotiating teams to continue working overnight and as a result, the text of that declaration has been agreed between the European Union and the United Kingdom.

I have just updated the Cabinet on progress and I will be making a statement to the House of Commons later this afternoon.

This is the right deal for the UK.

It delivers on the vote of the referendum. It brings back control of our borders, our money and our laws. And it does so while protecting jobs, protecting our security and protecting the integrity of the United Kingdom. The agreement we've reached is between the UK and the European Commission – it is now up to the 27 leaders of the other EU member states to examine this agreement in the days leading up to the special EU Council meeting on Sunday.

I will be speaking to my counterparts over that time, including meeting Chancellor Kurz of Austria here in Downing Street later today.

Last night I spoke to the Spanish Prime Minister, Pedro Sánchez, and I am confident that on Sunday we will be able to agree a deal that delivers for the whole UK family, including Gibraltar.

On Saturday I will return to Brussels for further meetings with President Juncker where we will discuss how to bring this process to a conclusion in the interest of all our people.

The British people want this to be settled. They want a good deal that sets us on course for a brighter future. That deal is within our grasp and I am determined to deliver it.