

Building our Industrial Strategy

Questions for Consultation

Investing in science, research & innovation

1. What should be the priority areas for science, research and innovation investment?
2. Which challenge areas should the Industrial Challenge Strategy Fund focus on to drive maximum economic impact?
3. What else can the UK do to create an environment that supports the commercialisation of ideas?
4. How can we best support the next generation of research leaders and entrepreneurs?
5. How can we best support research and innovation strengths in local areas?

Developing skills

1. What more can we do to improve basic skills? How can we make a success of the new transition year? Should we change the way that those resitting basic qualifications study, to focus more on basic skills excellence?
2. Do you agree with the different elements of the vision for the new technical education system set out here? Are there further lessons from other countries' systems?
3. How can we make the application process for further education colleges and apprenticeships clearer and simpler, drawing lessons from the higher education sector?
4. What skills shortages do we have or expect to have, in particular sectors or local areas, and how can we link the skills needs of industry to skills provision by educational institutions in local areas?
5. How can we enable and encourage people to retrain and upskill throughout their working lives, particularly in places where industries are changing or declining? Are there particular sectors where this could be appropriate?

Supporting businesses to start & grow

1. What are the most important causes of lower rates of fixed capital investment in the UK compared to other countries, and how can they be addressed?
2. What are the most important factors which constrain quoted companies and fund managers from making longer term investment decisions, and how can we best address these factors?
3. Given public sector investment already accounts for a large share of equity deals in some regions, how can we best catalyse uptake of equity capital outside the South East?
4. How can we drive the adoption of new funding opportunities like crowdfunding across the country?
5. What are the barriers faced by those businesses that have the potential to scale-up and achieve greater growth, and how can we address these barriers? Where are the outstanding examples of business networks for fast growing firms which we could learn from or spread?

Improving Procurement

1. Are there further steps that the Government can take to support innovation through public procurement?
2. What further steps can be taken to use public procurement to drive the industrial strategy in areas where government is the main client, such as healthcare and defence? Do we have the right institutions and policies in place in these sectors to exploit government's purchasing power to drive economic growth?

Trade & Investment

1. What can the Government do to improve our support for firms wanting to start exporting? What can the Government do to improve support for firms in increasing their exports?
2. What can we learn from other countries to improve our support for inward investment and how we measure its success? Should we put more emphasis on measuring the impact of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) on growth?

Delivering affordable energy and clean growth

1. What are the most important steps the Government should take to limit energy costs over the long term?
2. How can we move towards a position in which energy is supplied by competitive markets without the requirement for ongoing subsidy?
3. How can the Government, business and researchers work together to develop the competitive opportunities from innovation in energy and our existing industrial strengths?
4. How can the Government support businesses in realising cost savings through greater resource and energy efficiency?