

Terms of Reference – Levelling Up Advisory Council: London workstream

1. Context

The Levelling Up Advisory Council (LUAC) is an independent, non-statutory body established by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to support delivery of the [Levelling Up White Paper](#). The LUAC provides candid, expert advice to inform, support and challenge ministers in driving forward the levelling up agenda and strengthening government’s approach to place-based policy and delivery.

Among its programme of work the Levelling Up White Paper included a commitment for the Advisory Council to explore how “London’s complex economic geography and socio-economic spectrum [could] benefit from the UK Government’s levelling up agenda,” bringing together “a range of local leaders, academics and business leaders”.

A sub-group of the Council, known as the London Steering Group, will be formed to support this work.

2. Scope

Two decades on from the establishment of the Greater London Authority this workstream will look to review how the powers and funding devolved to London have been used in practice and explore whether they remain capable of meeting the challenges of the future.

The LUAC will focus in particular on the following three themes:

- Theme 1: London’s relationship with the wider UK: analysing the economic linkages between London’s economy and the broader UK; and London’s role and status as a global city.
- Theme 2: Levelling up London: exploring inequalities within the capital and the challenge of inclusive growth alongside potential policy initiatives to level up the capital.
- Theme 3: London’s devolution settlement: lessons from the last 25 years: exploring the strengths and challenges of London’s current devolution settlement.

This workstream will not attempt to change existing governance structures or accountability mechanisms in London, which are being examined in other fora.

Proposals put forward by the LUAC should not require new funding during the current Spending Review period nor re-open previously agreed positions on major

infrastructure projects. All other proposals should be fully costed. No recommendations shall be binding on HM Government or any other partner.

3. Membership and Ways of Working

The London Steering Group and wider LUAC will draw on its members' experience from across business, academia, the public, private and third sectors.

All members will sit on the London Steering Group in a personal and voluntary capacity rather than as formal representatives of their home organisation or any other affiliation. Members are asked not send deputies in their place.

The group will be chaired by the LUAC's lead member for London: David Skelton.

All members will uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life in conducting their work.

The Steering Group will engage the London Partnership Board and others to advise on specific issues and challenges, as necessary, providing the Steering Group with a range of perspectives related to its work; and acting as a sounding board for emerging thinking.

4. Secretariat

The Steering Group will be supported by officials from across central government, supported by the Greater London Authority and London Councils. The primary function of the Secretariat will be to support the Steering Group by arranging and minuting meetings, facilitating and coordinating papers and providing guidance to members.

5. Reporting and Timetable

The Steering Group's work will be independent of government. It will present a final report to the Levelling Up Advisory Council by summer 2024, following the next London mayoral and assembly elections.

The LUAC will in turn share these findings with HM Government, publishing a final report on GOV.UK. Its recommendations will inform the work of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and broader government in addition to other relevant partners.

The LUAC will retain the option of publishing an interim evidence base ahead of its final report.

All final decisions on content and outputs will be made by the Chair of the Levelling Up Advisory Council, in consultation with members of the Steering Group and wider Council.

Annex – Membership of the LUAC’s London Steering Group

- **Alison Griffin** (Chief Executive, London Councils)
- **Antonia Jennings** (Chief Executive, Centre for London)
- **Andy Haldane** (Chair, Levelling Up Advisory Council)
- **Catherine McGuinness** (Common Councillor and former Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, City of London Corporation)
- **David Skelton** (Levelling Up Advisory Council Member)
- **Geeta Nanda** (Chair of the G15 group of London's largest housing associations)
- **John Dickie** (Chief Executive, BusinessLDN)
- **Lucy Slack** (Secretary General of the Commonwealth and Local Government Forum)
- **Manny Hothi** (Chief Executive, Trust for London)
- **Paul Swinney** (Director of Policy and Research, Centre for Cities)
- **Prof. Kevin Fenton** (Regional Director for London, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities, DHSC)
- **Prof. Tony Travers** (Director, LSE London)
- **Richard Watts** (Deputy Chief of Staff to the Mayor, GLA)
- **Stephen Jones** (Director, Core Cities UK)