

**RE: Invitation to the Inclusive Growth Network Annual Political Leaders Meeting: Building Back Places:
Towards a Green, Inclusive Recovery**

10.00-12.00 Tuesday 14th or 10.00-12.00 Wednesday 15th September

Dear Cllr Nicholl,

As a member of the Inclusive Growth Network (IGN), I would like to invite you to save the date for a private, online annual meeting of IGN mayors and political leaders that will explore the role of local leadership in delivering a **sustainable and inclusive recovery**. The event will also mark the **one-year anniversary of the launch of the IGN** and explore how the network can facilitate Belfast City Council's inclusive growth priorities in year two. This follows the launch just one year ago, which many political leads participated in to help set the direction of the network.

The event will take place on Zoom on **Tuesday 14th or Wednesday 15th September at 10.00-12.00** (depending on political leaders' availability) to coincide with the run up to party conferences.

With the shared US & UK 'Build Back Better' motto to have become cliché, and the G7 leaders recently committing to "Build Back a Better World" at the latest annual summit, the Inclusive Growth Network brings to the forefront the power of local places to inject new life into the slogan by focusing on solutions centered around the lived experiences of local communities. It is our places and the people within them that bring meaning to such phrases, elevating them above empty rhetoric.

At this meeting, IGN members will commit to a whole system, place-based response to tackling the climate crisis locally. It will explore the practical challenges and opportunities for local leaders to ensure a just transition that leaves nobody behind whilst embracing opportunities to level up the country. Leaders will launch a communique expressing a collective commitment to sustainability that all communities can contribute to and benefit from.

I sincerely hope you can join us for what will no doubt be a clear step forward for collaborative local leadership across the UK on the just transition. As a means to this, we intend to use the opportunity of the annual meeting to **launch a joint communique from all IGN political leads**, to mark a shared commitment to achieving net zero in a way that leaves none of our communities behind. We will be in touch with Barry Rolston in your communications office to arrange this. Please do advise if you would prefer for us to arrange via another member of your team.

I would be grateful if you could respond to Annabel Smith, IGN Senior Network Lead, with your availability on the proposed dates to IGN@progressive-policy.net at your earliest convenience.

Best wishes,



Charlotte Alldritt

Director, Centre for Progressive Policy

About the Inclusive Growth Network (IGN)

The purpose of the Inclusive Growth Network (IGN) is to support areas at the forefront of the inclusive growth agenda with the practical evidence, knowledge and expertise to advance their local ambitions for more inclusive, green and sustainable economies. As we look ahead to year two, we will be working to develop pilots with members to test new ideas and initiatives.

The IGN is hosted by the Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP) and funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF). The IGN national partners also include Metro Dynamics and the Royal Society for the Arts (the RSA).

The national partners have teamed up with 12 areas from across the UK who represent the combined and local authorities who lead on the inclusive growth agenda. The IGN member areas are: **Barking & Dagenham, Belfast, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Greater Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool City Region, North Ayrshire, North of Tyne, Sheffield City Region and the West Midlands.**

Through membership of the IGN, you have access to a facilitated peer network and a package of funded support designed to inform and advance your local activity both during this critical response period from Covid-19 and looking ahead to delivering an inclusive recovery.

About the Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP)

CPP is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to making inclusive growth a reality. This means we focus on increasing productivity and prosperity across the UK, finding practical ways to create jobs, enhance opportunities and tackle decades of regional inequality. In short, we are setting out strategies to deliver on the Government's "levelling up" ambition.

To do this we:

- Conduct data-driven economic analysis to illuminate and address challenges faced by different communities.
- Work with local authorities, devolved administrations and UK politicians and officials to identify where and how national policy responses can deliver better outcomes for places.
- Draw on our Inclusive Growth Network of 12 member places across the UK to develop, test and learn from new approaches and interventions designed to 'level up' on the ground (see more below).

Two principles underpin our approach, at a national and local level: on the one hand, the importance of place in effective policy and investment decision making. On the other the role of social infrastructure (education, health, early years, childcare and youth services etc) in determining economic outcomes. CPP is the research partner for the APPG Inclusive Growth and an external member of the APPG Left Behind Neighbourhoods.

Our Research

Our research covers a range of topics under the banner of 'inclusive growth' – including what this term means and how it is being developed internationally to 'build back better' – both from the last recession (post-2008) and as look to recover from the impact of Covid-19. Specific topics include levelling up, skills and industrial strategies, population health, the role of business and creation of quality jobs. Devolution and institutional reform (local, regional and national) are themes that cut across our analysis and policy development. We develop our work in close engagement with local and national partners and stakeholders (e.g. Whitehall officials, Northern Powerhouse Partnership, Core Cities).

For more information visit www.progressive-policy.net
You may have heard about our last major report on Skills '[Reskilling for recovery](#)'