

DELIVERING PROSPERITY

A new agenda for business and government

To get involved or to find out more visit:

www.cbi.org.uk/domestic-priorities

The CBI's domestic agenda for the new government draws on the views of our members to show that only a partnership between business and government can deliver the shared aim of creating a more prosperous society.

The CBI's Prosperity Agenda covers five priority areas identified with our members across the UK – people & skills, infrastructure, tax & regulation, innovation and trade, as well as the principles governing the EU renegotiation. On all of these we will represent our members views as we work with policymakers over the coming months to deliver a healthy environment for businesses to succeed, create jobs and ultimately, drive economic growth and prosperity.

People and skills

To help provide a UK workforce fit for the needs of today and tomorrow's economy, business and government need to work together on:

- Getting the troubled apprenticeship levy right: with a radical redesign and implementation in 2018, to help build a skills system that works for businesses across the UK
- While recognising public concern, outlining an immigration system that enables businesses to get the skills they need by scrapping the net migration target, and preserving close links with Europe which allow people to come to the UK to work, pay taxes and contribute to our economy and society
- Committing to maintain and protect the UK as a flexible labour market and the independence of the Low Pay Commission
- Government and business working together to support meaningful business-led action on productivity, inclusion and agility.

Innovation

To create the climate and capabilities for firms to innovate, business and government should work together on:

- Government should publicly state its ambition to increase R&D spend in this parliament – with the long-term goal of reaching a combined public/private R&D spend of 3% of GDP
- A new roadmap for the roll out of broadband must be established for beyond 2017, when the current plan expires.

This roadmap should prioritise both business broadband access and connectivity, and consumer access

- Government should publish its UK Digital Strategy and National Innovation Plan this autumn and work with industry to embed both at the heart of a refreshed industrial strategy.

Infrastructure

We need strong foundations for a vibrant economy, this includes business and government working together on:

- Taking a decision on new runway capacity backed up by a clear timetable for action and delivering on capital spending plan commitments on the UK's railway and roads
- Delivering the right set of measures to reach the new target of 1m homes by 2020 – this includes supporting new and existing players to scale up their capacity to build homes of a ranges of types and tenure, giving innovative local authorities the ability to use their asset base to borrow above current limits and developing partnerships which create better ways to release public sector land
- Providing clear and timely actions on energy policy – clarity around the next Contracts for Difference auction and post-2020 Levy Control Framework and delivering an ambitious and credible long-term carbon plan which works for all industries.

Tax and regulation

To ensure we have government structures, policies and regulation promoting enterprise and growth, government and business must work together on:

- Demonstrating that the UK is open for business by committing to a stable and simple tax system across the range of taxes businesses face. This should include a competitive corporate tax rate, and enable investment and innovation through effective capital allowances and R&D tax credits
- Progressing with efforts to reform the international tax system, coordinated and synchronised with other OECD countries
- Urgently renewing commitment to key public services reform programmes and improve commercial capabilities in the civil service to ensure delivery.

Trade

To enable easy and open access to world markets, business and government should work together on:

- In parallel with UK-EU negotiations, urgently clarifying the UK's place in the World Trade Organisation (WTO)
- Focusing on building the capacity and capability within the Civil Service ahead of triggering Article 50 to undertake the negotiations that need to take place with the EU, WTO, and potential new trading partners over the coming years
- Announcing a wide-ranging consultation with business to take place over the next 12 months to set the right priorities for our new economic relationships with the world outside of Europe, including maintaining preferential market access to global markets, in order to enhance the growth potential of UK companies
- Maintaining momentum and ambition on UK exports by developing programmes of targeted support for "potential exporters" that have the same characteristics as exporting businesses. The government's broader policy agenda on industrial strategy and productivity should also be aligned to its work to promote exporting.

A new relationship with the European Union

To create a new relationship with the European Union, government and business need to work together on:

- Establishing a new partnership between government and business of all sizes from across the UK to set out a plan to negotiate the best settlement with the EU
- Retaining the ease of UK-EU trade in goods and services that businesses currently get from membership of the single market, taking into account tariff and non-tariff barriers
- Balancing regulatory equivalence with the EU with flexibility and influence over the domestic environment
- Protecting the economic and social benefits of EU funded projects that support growth.

Unlocking regional growth

To deliver growth and opportunity for all regions, business and government need to work together on:

- Improving workforce skills by transforming the school system, and focusing on in work training and adult skills development
- Clarity and visibility of the existing policies that raise business ambition and promote effective management practices
- Developing a clear pipeline of infrastructure priorities that will improve connectivity both between and within regions to widen the labour market pool
- Ensuring local areas have powers to transform education, target and prioritise infrastructure investment, and provide active business support.

As the UK renegotiates its relationship with the EU and shapes the agenda at home, the role of business has never been more important. So our message to business is this – let's show people that when businesses succeed, good things happen for the economy, which in turns generates broader opportunities for the benefit of all.

How CBI members can get involved

The issues that matter to your business drive us. From practical day-to-day support, through to working together to tackle some of the biggest shared challenges facing the country, we can help your business succeed and contribute to creating a more prosperous UK.

As a member we provide you with the influence, insight and access you need to plan ahead with confidence and grow.

- Influence with the new government and key stakeholders as they make key decisions shaping the UK business and economic landscape
- Insight to help you best prepare for and capitalise on policy decisions as they are made
- Access to likeminded business leaders and key players in the new government through our events

To get involved in any of the priority areas above or to find out more contact 0207 395 8261, or visit:

www.cbi.org.uk/domestic-priorities