

CBI BUSINESS MANIFESTO

DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

Foreword

As political stakeholders and business leaders in the UK prepare their plans for the 2024 General Election campaign and beyond, there is an emerging consensus that unites politicians and industry. This is a mission to deliver sustainable growth that can improve the well-being of people today, and for future generations.

The CBI's Business Manifesto – which draws on insights from firms of all sectors, right across our country – sets out a programme of action that the next UK government can take in their first 100 days, 100 weeks, and throughout the Parliamentary term, to turn that mission into reality.

Defining our shared ambition

Over the last 15 years, the UK and wider world have been buffeted by a series of shocks that our economy has had to absorb, from the global financial crisis to the Covid-19 pandemic, alongside the UK's evolving trade relationship with the EU. Global conflicts have also continued to take a profound human, as well as economic, toll.

For many, especially those who can least afford it in our society, this has been a time of unprecedented change and challenge. And we're feeling the impacts on the UK economy, with sluggish productivity growth, underperforming business investment compared to our competitors, and persistent skills shortages. It's why politicians, economists, and business leaders all agree: we must focus on sustainable growth to help our country thrive.

For growth to be sustainable, it must avoid persistent high inflation and it must build resilience in our economy and society, helping us to put the public finances on a more secure footing and improve living standards. It must also enable us to play our part in mitigating climate change and creating a nature positive economy. This includes leveraging our natural capital in ways that restore – not deplete – its biodiversity, and value.

Above all else, sustainable growth requires investment in people's skills and capabilities, in our infrastructure and productive capacity, and in the way we embrace innovation and an openness to ideas. This is how we will create a stronger, fairer and more equitable society.

Framing our future

We can achieve this together, but we must act now. This next year represents a critical turning point for the UK economy and our people, offering us a chance to tackle the challenges we face decisively and to unite around realising a positive vision for the UK that builds on our strengths.

It is an opportunity too valuable for us to miss. First, the UK has a proven record as an ambitious, modern global leader. We were the first major economy to pass net zero emissions into law, with cross-party consensus. Through public-private partnership, we helped develop one of the world's first Covid vaccines. As COP26 hosts, we secured the commitment of 130 global leaders to end deforestation by 2030. And looking forward, the UK is seeking to lead the world in helping establish the guardrails for Al's transformative power.

Second, throughout the UK, we have clear competitive advantages that we can boost to win market share in the high-growth, high-value industries of the future, such as technology and life sciences, advanced manufacturing, decarbonisation and clean energy, financial and professional services, food and drink, and more.

Third, despite the uncertainty of the last fifteen years, we are stronger and more united than we believe. Elections are a moment for contrast and comparison. We should be proud of where there is consensus: on independent monetary and economic regulatory systems - free from political interference; on the value of free trade in an increasingly protectionist world; and on the importance of macro-economic stability as the pre-condition for confidence and growth.

Outsmarting the competition

The UK's major political parties also recognise that it's firms up and down the country in every sector, who – with the right operating environment – can generate the ideas, jobs and opportunities that the UK needs to thrive. It's why they agree that one of our strongest routes to sustainable growth this decade is unlocking business investment.

And the evidence is there. The UK economy has recovered more robustly from the pandemic than previously thought, with GDP levels now above pre-pandemic peaks. Business investment has also been growing at a stronger pace post-pandemic, in part due to the temporary super deduction. And now, the government's announcement, in response to the CBI's campaign, to make full expensing a permanent part of our tax regime will give firms the stability they need to press on with investment decisions.

Collaborating to deliver a 2030 roadmap for sustainable growth

The UK isn't the only country chasing this decade's prize of sustainable growth. So, we need our own long-term, sustainable vision of what the UK's economy could be in 2030 and a plan to realise it, delivered through collaboration between business and government, and our people.

This manifesto aims to amplify the voice of business, to inform and help shape what that could be. Together, we can reshape our economy, to be ready for the future. So, now is the time for us to come together, to unite behind, work towards, and stay committed to delivering on our shared ambitions for the benefit of everyone. UK business – with the support of the CBI – is ready for that challenge. So, together, let's get started.

HOW TO DELIVER SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

- Strengthen the UK's competitiveness, to generate growth that does not rely on an unsustainable increase in government debt, but that ultimately pays for itself through delivering high, real returns and crowding-in finance for sustainable investment from all parts of society. This includes from government, businesses, banks and the capital markets, alongside households.
- Invest in and evolve our approach to education and skills training, so that our people across all sectors, regions and UK nations have the skills they need for the jobs of today, and those of tomorrow. Our goal being to empower everyone to realise the benefits of higher productivity through technological advances and rising living standards.
- Ensure that the environmental and climate impact of the UK's economic activity is consistent with meeting the 2050 net zero target, developing a nature positive economy, and making efficient use of limited resources through fostering a circular economy.
- Leverage investment and innovation wherever possible, to propel the adoption of new technologies, transition our energy, transport, industrial and agricultural systems to net zero, and ensure every UK business can compete effectively.

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Rain Newton-Smith Chief Executive, CBI



Executive Summary

Ahead of the General Election, business leaders and politicians can act on the emerging consensus that unites them. That is to deliver sustainable economic growth which improves our standard of living today and in the future.



Signal ambition to make the UK economy the most competitive and trusted destination for investment

 Demonstrate that the UK is open for business and secure greater private investment in economic enablers by showing long-term policy and regulatory stability, through a business tax roadmap, a reformed planning system, and a leading global trade and investment strategy.



Futureproof the UK's labour market to drive inclusive growth

Forge a new approach for our labour market by building a skilled, productive and healthy national workforce that underpins economic growth, through a cohesive plan to ease shortages, including barriers to work, a skills revolution, and immigration reform.



Honour climate commitments to drive green growth for the benefit of all

Instil confidence in the delivery of the UK's Net Zero transition by unlocking private investment, through a net zero Investment Plan, ambitious but certain policy commitments, a competitive incentive regime, and a delivery-focused operating environment.



Demonstrate UK global leadership in high-growth technology and innovation

 Secure global R&D investment and innovation by creating a balanced policy landscape, through ambitious targets, long-term budget commitments, targeted technology adoption, future-focused AI regulation, and competitive support for financing scaleups.



Deliver resilient public services through a new era of partnership

Equip UK public services to face into transformation by encouraging partnership, through public-private investment forums, outcomes-focused regulatory regimes, a renewed public-private model for rail, an independent Health Commission, and a strengthened National Infrastructure Commission.

How CBI members have shaped the Manifesto

The CBI is **committed** to demonstrating transparency, democracy and an evidence-led approach to engagement and policy development. This ensures we can provide robust industry-led policy solutions that help to drive sustainable growth.

Since July, we have engaged industry to shape this vision through...

More than **100** cross-sector, one-to-one discussions with businesses of all sizes, from across UK nations and regions, and the whole economy.



Convening more than **400** business leaders through CBI Regional Councils, Listening Sessions and Working Groups.

Consulting **70** of the UK's leading Trade Associations, speaking on behalf of over **133,000** businesses.



Signal ambition to make the UK economy the most competitive and trusted destination for investment

Re-establishing the UK's economic competitiveness is core to growth. A refined global pitch will allow a new government to market the UK's reputation for policy stability, demonstrable corporate standards, enabling financial and capital markets, and proportionate tax and regulation. In turn, raising foreign direct investment, productivity and innovation.

The success of the UK's reignited ambition will be evident to both new and existing UK investors, securing the greater private investment and innovation required to meet our public spending needs of tomorrow. Whether it's on infrastructure delivery, business taxation, devolution, or trade and investment, the UK must demonstrate beyond doubt that it is open for business. Failing to do so will price in a decline in investor confidence.

- Use the first post-election fiscal event to outline how a new UK Business Tax Roadmap will be implemented. This should employ a taxpayer-led approach to simplify and digitalise the business tax system, creating a world leading regime aligned with the new Government's ambitions while placing international competitiveness at it's heart – using the CBI Business Tax Roadmap principles as an industry-informed framework.
- Create and resource a Number 10-driven UK Trade and Investment Strategy looking collectively at exports, imports, inward and outward investment, and geared toward growth in markets with a focus on the goods, services and technologies that the UK needs to compete and win globally.
- Deliver a Mayoral Economic Commitment through a partnership between the Office for Investment and the Department for Levelling Up Housing & Communities – elevating the international standing of UK mayors and their role in the UK's global pitch for investment.

- Review the business-funding model for local government by close of 2025. This includes prioritising business rates reform that ends the unpredictable cycle of rate increases and reduces the overall burden of the system ahead of the next revaluation in 2026.
- Ensure the future competitiveness of the system by committing in the first post-election fiscal event to **no further sector-specific taxes** – windfall or otherwise.
- Monitor UK Corporation Tax to ensure the rate and reliefs are internationally competitive.
- Maximise the potential of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement through a successful, industry informed review in 2026 – concentrating on economic enablers, such as energy, financial services and mobility.

- Establish within the Cabinet Office a world-leading Office for Future Regulation, to provide a whole-system approach that facilitates a shift to an 'outcomesbased cooperative' model. The aim is to create a competitive advantage for the UK against comparator systems' centralised, legalistic approaches.
- Make Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) agents of growth through a UK-wide Planning for Growth Strategy, ensuring the Spending Review allocates sufficient resourcing to LPAs to deliver key decisions within national timescales, such as net-zero infrastructure. Transform their role through locally determined and ringfenced planning fees that drive the pace of project delivery across the UK.
 - Empower Combined Authority Advisory Boards in partnership with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to support pan-regional infrastructure delivery, both physical and digital – ensuring local plans for employment land uses are equally as important as those for new housing.



First 100 days – immediate priorities

- Set out a new Business Tax Roadmap at the first post-election fiscal event.
- Publish a new Trade and Investment Strategy, covering at least five years.
- Confirm a forthcoming package of measures to transform the planning system, with the intention to legislate for their delivery.
- Commit in the first post-election fiscal event to not introduce any more sector-specific taxes.
- Formalise the UK's growing mayoral group through a reformed co-led secretariat, and economic compact.

First 100 weeks - mid-term achievements

- Review the funding model for local government and prioritise business rates reform.
- Establish an Office of Future Regulation, with legislation included in the first King's Speech for its delivery.

First Parliament – red lines to achieve within five years

- Monitor UK Corporation Tax to ensure the rate and reliefs are internationally competitive.
- Empower Combined Authorities with planning advisory boards for strategic infrastructure.



Futureproof the UK labour market to drive inclusive, sustainable growth

For decades the UK was known for its flexible labour market that supported growth, but ongoing labour shortages have eroded that advantage, leaving investors cautious and firms struggling to respond to demand or deliver business plans.

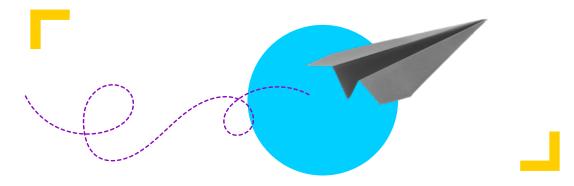
There is an opportunity, however, for an incoming government to make structural changes to support, equip and enable the workforce to operate more effectively, allowing the UK to invest and chase down economic opportunities. To do this, we must remove barriers to work to ease the most acute shortages and target the use of visas to unlock business investment for growth

A greater focus on helping workers to gain the skills they need will also help to build an inclusive economy where all talent is able to progress and thrive.

- Create a **cross-departmental long-term strategy, led by the Cabinet Secretary,** to address labour market shortages, considering barriers to work and the role of skills, automation, and immigration in preventing long-running vacancies.
 - Establish an **Independent UK Skills Commission** to advise the government on skills, training and further education policy, promote collaboration between stakeholders, and better align employment, education and skills.
 - Create a Centre for Work and Health, expanding the existing aims of the Government Work & Health Unit to prioritise research and funding on workforce health trends and interventions, building business confidence to invest. This Centre should convene government departments and agencies alongside industry and help deliver on national ambitions established through a Health Commission.

- Introduce meaningful flexibility of the Apprenticeship Levy in the first post-election fiscal event. This should incentivise employers to increase their investment in training that develops new skills, including apprenticeships alongside other accredited qualifications and modules.
- Ensure that all businesses have access to a targeted subsidised programme helping them to adopt technologies, including AI, to improve productivity and mitigate labour shortages. Establish a DSIT-led Ministerial Advisory Group to build a tech consensus between workers and businesses.
- **Incentivise business investment in workforce health** by using a post-election fiscal event to make health investments and other preventative interventions non-taxable.
- Introduce a new 'Green Careers' incentive payment for employers focused on developing the productivity enhancing skills required to drive the green transition.

- With the Home Office and HM Treasury leading, conduct a cross-Whitehall review of the effectiveness of the UK's immigration system, with the objective of supporting the transition to a higher investment economy. Relevant issues include whether UK visa costs and service standards are competitive internationally, and the impact of disregarding students from the UK's net migration figures.
- **Reform the Migration Advisory Committee (MAC)** by turning it into a tripartite body, with representatives from across the UK. The Committee's revised remit would include mapping shortages and advising the government on action to address them across the economy. The reformed committee should play a key role in the newly created labour shortages strategy.
- At the first post-election fiscal event announce a new remit for the Low Pay Commission with the open-ended objectives of ensuring that the minimum wage enables businesses to invest in the productivity gains required for affordable pay increases, as well as maintaining the national minimum wage above two-thirds of median income.



First 100 days – immediate priorities

- Outline plans to reform the Apprenticeship Levy in the first post-election fiscal event.
- Ask the Cabinet Secretary to lead the development and publication of a cross-departmental strategy to tackle labour shortages.
- Announce a new remit for the Low Pay Commission at the first post-election fiscal event.

First 100 weeks - mid-term achievements

- Create a new cross-cutting Centre for Work and Health, expanding the existing aims of the Government Work & Health Unit.
- · Establish an Independent Skills Commission.
- · Introduce a Green Careers incentive payment.
- Remove tax liabilities on business health investments at a post-election fiscal event.

First Parliament – red lines to achieve within five years

- Ask the Home Office and HMT to conduct a cross-Whitehall review of the competitiveness of the UK's immigration system.
- Reform the Migration Advisory Committee.
- Introduce subsidised programmes to support technology adoption among UK businesses.

CBI Business Manifesto: Delivering Sustainable Growth 13

Honour climate commitments to drive green growth for the benefit of all

Our transition to a low-carbon economy lies at the heart of the UK's long-term sustainable growth. Few missions hold a greater moral obligation, for both industry and society. Though equally few offer as many opportunities to transform our economy in the next decade. This transition has already kick-started a global race for investment, with economies that lead it securing huge competitive advantages.

Delivering a net zero economy in the UK will be primarily achieved through private investment. But to enable this, the UK needs ambitious policy, competitive incentives and an operating environment that gets projects delivered. Success will create jobs, increase inward investment, help lower energy costs and provide solutions to the climate and nature crises we face.

- Publish a new **Net Zero Investment Plan** as part of the first post-election fiscal event that identifies ongoing gaps in the investment needed to deliver against the UK's carbon budget timelines and sets out the government's market-making approach to crowd in private finance.
- Establish a new Office for Net Zero Delivery, led from the Cabinet Office, to ensure strategic and coordinated net zero delivery across Whitehall, the devolved administrations and regulatory bodies.
- Task the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to appoint net zero champions in strategically important industries to demonstrate UK leadership on key decarbonisation technologies and sectoral roadmaps for an economy wide net zero transition.
- Publish a White Paper that outlines how **government revenues will be sustained as tax receipts from the fossil fuel economy decline,** for consultation with the public and businesses.

- Introduce a targeted green super-deduction at the first post-election fiscal event for businesses that invest in capital assets that reduce their carbon emissions or improve energy efficiency, to accelerate the UK's transition to net zero.
- Implement carbon pricing mechanisms, along with targeted government funding, to increase demand for industrial decarbonisation technologies and support business competitiveness globally.
- Announce, as part of the first post-election fiscal event a review of the tax system to ensure it **supports businesses' transition to net zero**. This should include considering appropriate incentives to support production and investment in green energy and decarbonisation assets.
- **Evolve price support mechanisms**, such as the Contract for Difference to scale existing and nascent net zero technologies like offshore wind, hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuels into competitive markets.

- Give the Future System Operator powers to deliver the Transmission Acceleration and Connections Action Plans to the committed timeline to ensure that grid capacity and wait times are improved on the ground
- Ensure central government policy-making and fiscal decisions are considering impacts of the net zero transition, by **introducing a net zero test** on all government departments, enabling progress, against climate and nature commitments, to be regularly tracked at key fiscal events.
- Implement internationally aligned sustainability and climate-related disclosures, taxonomies, and transition plans, by delivering commitments in the 2023 Green Finance strategy. This should aim to improve regulatory alignment, reduce compliance burdens on business and support the UK's objective to be a global centre for sustainable finance.



First 100 days - immediate priorities

- Publish a new Net Zero Investment Plan as part of the first post-election fiscal event and establish a new Office for Net Zero Delivery.
- Task the Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero to appoint net zero champions in strategically important industries.
- Introduce a strategic prioritisation process for grid connections.
- Implement a targeted green super-deduction in the first post-election fiscal event.

First 100 weeks - mid-term achievements

- Review the tax system to ensure it supports businesses' net zero transition, and publish a plan for stabilising government revenues amid fossil fuel economy decline, before 2027.
- Implement carbon pricing to incentivise energy-intensive businesses to decarbonise.
- Expand price support mechanisms for decarbonisation technologies.
- Deliver commitments in the 2023 Green Finance Strategy to implement internationally aligned, sustainability-related disclosures, taxonomies, and transition plans where possible.

First Parliament – red lines to achieve within five years

- Introduce a new net zero test for departments to evaluate policies and spending against UK climate and nature commitments.
- Appoint Net Zero Champions in strategically important industries to demonstrate continued global leadership on reducing carbon emissions.



Demonstrate UK global leadership in high-growth technology and innovation

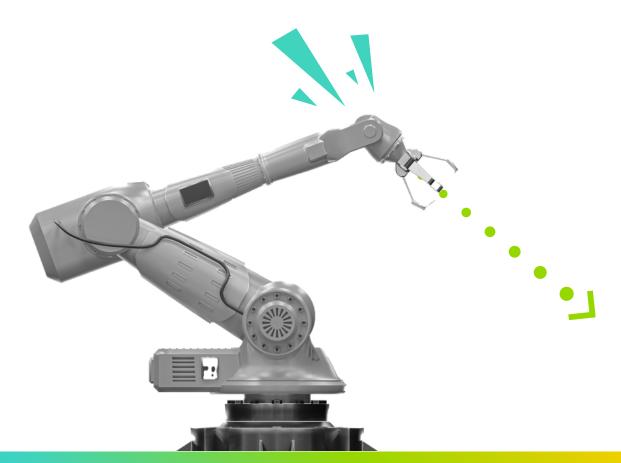
Innovation is essential to driving long-term sustainable growth, with firms that innovate shown to grow twice as fast as those that don't. Technology and innovation offer us the possibility to tackle our greatest challenges, including helping us to transition to net zero, mitigate the risks of another pandemic, and boost productivity.

The UK has strong foundations already, with a new dedicated government department and strong independent public innovation funders. But now is the moment to invest in our competitive strengths, provide a stable policy environment to reinforce our pipeline of high-growth innovative businesses and re-commit to our reputation for research excellence. This will allow government to attract the investment and expertise required to drive long-term sustainable growth. No businesses, regardless of size, region or sector, can be left behind in our endeavour to make the UK the global innovation hub.

- Set an ambitious national target for the UK to lead the G7 on R&D intensity by 2030 and beyond. This should include an increasing focus on leveraging private R&D investment underpinned by public R&D spend - with leadership from the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT), and HM Treasury.
- Provide businesses with the certainty to invest in innovation alongside government by setting out in a fiscal event an R&D Budget for the whole Parliamentary term.
- Within uplifts to public R&D funding, UKRI should maintain or increase relative budgets dedicated to delivering long-term ambitious regional innovation programmes. This should involve building on regional strengths, scaling R&D intensity across the UK, and learning from recent pilot or smaller-scale initiatives, such as Innovation Accelerators and Investment Zones.
- Establish a DSIT-led cross-departmental committee providing ministerial oversight of action across government to deliver on the UK's innovation ambition - enforcing strategies on regulation, procurement and foreign direct investment.

- Ensure that businesses have access to a targeted, subsidised programme helping them to adopt technologies, including AI, to improve productivity and mitigate labour shortages. Led by a government-appointed Technology Adoption Champion, embedded in the Department of Science Innovation and Technology modelled on the role of the *Frontier AI Taskforce*.
- Expand UK R&D tax credits to include capital expenditure and social sciences in a post-election post-election fiscal event. This should ensure the UK has a simple, competitive offer to attract globally mobile innovative businesses and anchor their investment in facilities and people in the country.
- HM Treasury to deliver on the first phase of the Mansion House Reforms, including the £320 million commitment to existing funds and the newly announced British Business Bank investment vehicle. This should include regular engagement with pension funds to help them overcome the barriers to investing in UK scaleups, as well as annual reporting on the investments made.

- Fully fund and implement the recommendations of the Pro-Innovation Regulation of Technologies Review, within the establishment of an outcomes-based Office for Future Regulation.
- **Deliver a world-leading AI governance system**, fully funding and implementing at pace, the recommendations of the 2023 AI White Paper, through augmenting the existing regulatory bodies' capabilities rather than new legislation.



First 100 days - immediate priorities

- Announce a target for the UK to lead the G7 on R&D intensity by 2030, including a focus on building R&D intensity across the UK.
- Publish a long-term R&D budget as part of the first post-election fiscal event.
- Commit to implementing the pro-innovation regulation of technologies review and AI White Paper.

First 100 weeks - mid-term achievements

- Establish a senior cross-departmental innovation committee.
- Expand UK R&D tax credits to include capital expenditure and social sciences in a post-election fiscal event.

First Parliament – red lines to achieve within five years

- Deliver on the first phase of the Mansion House Reforms, including the £320 million commitment to existing funds and the newly announced British Business Bank investment vehicle.
- Introduce subsidised programmes to support technology adoption among UK businesses.

CBI Business Manifesto: Delivering Sustainable Growth 19

Deliver resilient public services through a new era of partnership between industry and government

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Public confidence in strong public services is central to sustainable growth. Developing a new era of partnership between industry and government, building on learnings from the past, will allow the next government to unlock further investment and capacity. This in turn can help support essential enablers of progress and prosperity, from health, education and transport, to infrastructure, defence and Al.

Striking the balance between public and private delivery is crucial. The state needs business to invest, innovate and bear risk. But to do that credibly, business needs the state to signal ambition and commit to long-term strategies, including developing a strong skills pipeline for key infrastructure projects and establishing regulatory frameworks and market mechanisms to support delivery. Without these complementary roles, the UK cannot improve living standards across society, deliver prosperity, and meet the seismic global challenges we face.

- Use an appropriate legislative vehicle to put the National Infrastructure Commission on a statutory footing, providing greater permanence and impact to its assessment and recommendations.
- Design a Competitive Advantage Challenge Fund to maximise the UK's national data assets, and deliver it via a departmental funding envelope – modelled on the success of existing vehicles and crowding-in private financing.
- Place a new UK Health Commission on an official footing with an annual parliamentary audience, to support the Centre for Work & Health in securing the UK's long term health resilience. The new Commission should then set a defining public-private partnership strategy for prevention and care and work towards a new UK target on the health of the nation in line with G7 peers.

- Adopt Outcomes-Based Regulation more widely, starting with strategically important sectors, such as water, utilising the UK Regulators Network as a potential convener to drive innovation and best-practice.
- Amend the Procurement Bill, updating the UK's Social Value Model to allow contracting authorities to work together with suppliers to recognise and incentivise inherent or existing social value.
- Establish new bi-annual public-private investment forum, convening HM Treasury, other departments and industry to identify wider mechanisms for increasing private finance commitments across a publicised UK National Infrastructure and Construction Pipeline.

- Use appropriate legislation to deliver on the recommendations from the Second National Infrastructure Assessment to reduce consenting times for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, including developing a central co-ordination and oversight mechanism for NSIPs.
- Deliver a **renewed public-private partnership model for the railway** by legislating for a new Arms-Length Body to act as a strong, independent public-sector guiding agency at the heart of a reformed system. At the same time, apply an extension of an adapted Regulated Asset Base Model for UK-wide rail and road infrastructure.
- **Deliver an Audit, Reporting and Governance Authority** through established legislation to ensure that the UK's coveted reputation for corporate governance is protected, while supporting investor confidence and public trust in business.



First 100 days - immediate priorities

- Launch terms of reference for bi-annual public-private investment forums.
- Conduct a joint review of how regulators can facilitate the adoption of Outcomes-Based Regulation, with the Department for Business and Trade and HM Treasury leading.
- Launch consultation on a Competitive Advantage Challenge Fund.
- Use appropriate legislation to update the definition of nationally significant infrastructure.

First 100 weeks - mid-term achievements

- Introduce legislation to establish a new Arms-Length Body for the rail industry.
- Implement a Cabinet Office review of the UK's Social Value Model for amendment to the Procurement Bill.
- Deliver a new UK Health Commission with a ministerial lead.
- Pass designed legislation for a new Audit Reporting and Governance Authority.

First Parliament – red lines to achieve

within five years

- Deliver a renewed suite of public-private financing models to support maintenance and delivery across rail, road and other critical infrastructure.
- Establish the UK as a leader in the adoption of outcomes-based regulation.
- Build confidence in long-term infrastructure planning via an independent body whose status is enshrined in law.

What sustainable growth means to CBI members

Northern Ireland

Being competitive and delivering long-term sustainable growth means Northern Ireland can build on the strengths of its manufacturing sector, and take advantage of the unique dual access to the EU and UK markets.

North West

In the North West, high-growth tech and innovation means firms should be supported to adopt new technologies and implement new ways of working to deliver sustainable growth.

Wales

Unlocking investment through incentives with a targeted subsidised programme helping businesses to adopt technologies, will help productivity and mitigate labour shortages for businesses across Wales.

Scotland

In Scotland sustainable growth means sticking to Net Zero targets, to enable Scotland to remain attractive as an international leader in renewable projects, and helping to support cross-sector growth.

North East

For the North East to be a driver of inclusive growth, firms across the region want to remove barriers to work to support a healthy workforce, and enable firms to grow with access to a productive labour market.

Sustainable growth in Yorkshire and The Humber can be accelerated through a clear Net Zero investment plan, with competitive incentives to build on the region's strengths.

> East of England By setting an ambitious national target for R&D intensity, the East of England can benefit from long-term ambitious innovation programmes, supporting higher education institutes to drive research and innovation across the region.

London

of international deals.

Midlands

For businesses across the Midlands, upskilling the workforce, supported by a fully flexible Apprenticeship Levy, will help deliver long-term growth across the region and equip workers with the skills they need for the future.

South West

Northern Ireland

Through price support mechanisms, regions like the South West can build on nascent net zero technologies - like offshore wind, hydrogen and sustainable aviation fuels - and help launch them into competitive markets.

South West

South East

With a Competitive Advantage Challenge Fund, businesses across the South East can lean into the UK's national data assets to help innovative firms grow and secure greater private financing.



East of England



South East

Yorkshire and The Humber

By developing a long-term UK Business Tax Roadmap, placing international competitiveness, simplicity, and digitalisation at its heart, London can ensure that the service sector - and its outposts across the UK - remain at the forefront



What comes next?

The publication of the CBI Business Manifesto is just the beginning. Across 2024, the CBI will help frame and lead the economic debate in the UK, raising the voice of business and campaigning for action to deliver sustainable growth. To do this we're committing to:

Leading the *debate*

- CBI delivers "General Election Countdown" Conference in November 2023 introducing our upcoming manifesto

 convening government and opposition as well as industry and thought leaders to start the debate.
- Full publication of *Delivering Sustainable Growth* on 28 November 2023 – setting out a programme of change that the next UK government can take and signalling future CBI action to move from debate to detail and then delivery.
- CBI kicks off the first of three policy or sector-specific debates with thought leaders on issues facing strategic UK sectors – starting with regulated industries in December 2023.
- CBI campaigns ahead of, and responds to, the government's spring fiscal event, making the case for pre-election growth inducing measures.



Moving from debate to detail

- Businesses across all UK regions further evidence headline asks of a new government through the CBI Q1 Regional Council round in February-March 2024.
- CBI delivers two remaining policy or sector-specific debates with thought leaders between January and July 2024.
- CBI convenes General Election Countdown roundtables and discussions in the spring/summer of 2024 – convening potential future policymakers and industry to explore headline asks in more detail.
- CBI works with industry leaders to amplify asks which help drive sustainable growth pre and post-election at Political Party Conferences.

Moving from detail to delivery

- CBI assesses the impact and costs of our headline asks through 2024 – consulting with spending teams and financial institutions to provide robust economic and fiscal projections for an incoming government.
- Businesses across the UK offer expertise and evidence to assist delivery on headline asks pre-election – through business engagement infrastructure.
- CBI makes the case for long-term decision making and certainty on economic and industrial policy ahead of the pre-election campaign period.

11



The CBI serves as the catalyst between industry and government to drive positive change, speaking for businesses of all sizes and sectors across the whole economy, in every UK region and nation, ensuring sustainable growth for the benefit of society.

To share your views on this topic or ask us a question, contact:



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Product code: 12833

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