

Lord Heseltine Review

The Chancellor and Secretary of State for Business have asked Lord Heseltine to undertake an independent review of how spending Departments and other relevant public sector bodies interact with the private sector, and to assess their capacity to deliver pro-growth policies.

The review will include a benchmarking exercise comparing how other competing economies implement their industrial strategies. [Lord Heseltine spoke about the review in the House of Lords](#) on 22 March 2012.

Background

The government's top priority is to achieve sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries. The government is working towards this through the [Growth Review](#) and subsequent measures in the [Plan for Growth](#). This independent review is not part of the Growth Review but will contribute to the government's thinking in this area. There will be no formal consultation process, however the review team is gathering a range of views from stakeholders and contributions are welcome. Lord Heseltine is undertaking a series of meetings with stakeholders to hear views direct, but in the time available will not be able to reach every sector or every part of the country.

Emerging themes

The review team is benchmarking UK performance against a range of economic indicators and is carrying out international comparison of industrial strategies. The review will focus on:

- Assessing Government capacity to deliver pro-growth policies;
- Assessing capacity of the UK business community, including its representative bodies, to deliver growth; and
- Assessing local capacity, with 'place' as a driver of economic growth.

Lord Heseltine and the project team are also considering a range of specific areas where Government has a significant impact on the UK's competitiveness, including education and skills, infrastructure, procurement, regulation, and support for technology and innovation.

Probing issues

Some [examples](#) of issues the project team is intending to probe are:

1. Central government capacity
 - Sector sponsorship arrangements and support for wealth creation objectives
 - Civil service capacity to have an effective dialogue with business across all the points of interaction – including procurement, sponsorship, skills, regulation
2. Private sector capacity (including capacity of business representative bodies)

- Capacity of business bodies to reach widely across the business community
- Capacity of business bodies to help businesses raise their ambition and achievement
- Other factors inhibiting investment and growth in established businesses

3. Local capacity

- Empowering local communities to support economic regeneration and development

4. Education (including higher education), Employment and Skills

- Raising the work-readiness of school leavers and those acquiring tertiary qualifications
- Remedying skills deficiencies in the current workforce
- Addressing the longstanding NEETs problem
- Encouraging apprenticeships and support for the lower skilled

5. Regulation, Infrastructure, Innovation, Procurement

- Reducing Red tape, gold plating and negotiation and enforcement of directives
- The role of Government as a lead customer
- Increasing the impact of innovation and technology across all economic sectors
- Maximising the impact of the Research Base

Timescale

The review will conclude in October 2012 and report jointly to the Chancellor and the Business Secretary.

Contact details

A multi-departmental secretariat based in BIS, but drawing on resources from across Government is supporting Lord Heseltine with the review. If you would like to register ideas or thoughts with the team please contact heseltine.review@bis.gsi.gov.uk.