



**Social Mobility
Commission**



**Easy
Read**

How to help all areas of the UK do well



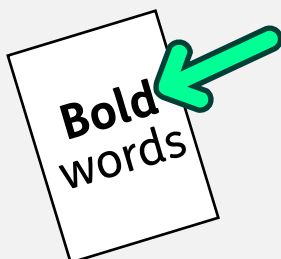
Easy Read



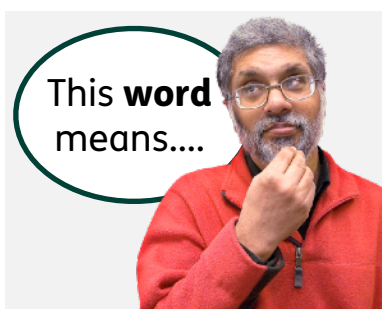
This is an Easy Read version of some information. It may not include all of the information but it will tell you about the important parts.



This Easy Read booklet uses easier words and pictures. Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are in **bold** - this means the writing is thicker and darker. These are important words in the booklet.



Sometimes if a bold word is hard to understand, we will explain what it means.



[Blue and underlined](#) words show links to websites and email addresses. You can click on these links on a computer.

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You can fill in a quick survey to say what you think about this Easy Read booklet:
<https://www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey>

About this plan



We are the Social Mobility Commission.



We work to make **social mobility** better in the UK.

We will explain more about **social mobility** on the next page.



We brought together a group, called the **Economic Growth and Investment Group**, to write this plan.



This plan explains how they think we can have more social mobility across the whole of the UK.

Social mobility

Social mobility means giving people a chance to have a better life than their parents, by having:



- More money.



- A better job.



- A better home.



- More chances to learn.

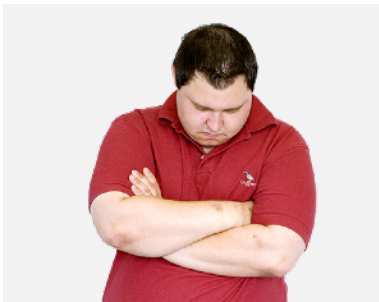
Why we wrote this plan



Social mobility is much worse in some parts of the UK than others.



In London and the South East of England, people have chances to do well in life.



But in parts of the UK with less money, people do not have the same chances.



We think it is important that everyone has chances to get good jobs and do well in life.



We wrote this plan to fix this.

Helping businesses to grow



To live better lives, people need to get better jobs.



But people cannot get better jobs unless there are local **businesses** giving them good places to work.

Businesses are companies, like shops or factories, that make or sell things.



We need to help businesses grow and hire more people.



There are a lot of businesses like this in London and the South East of England.



But there are not enough in other parts of the UK.



All parts of the UK should help local businesses to grow.



The government and local councils should write plans explaining how they are going to do this.



They should get help from businesses to write these plans.



This will make sure that the plans are about what businesses really need.

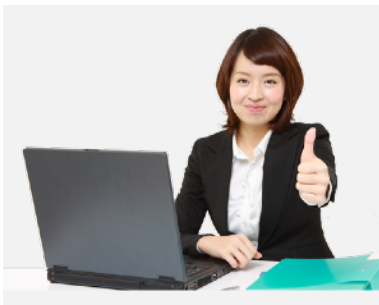
Investing



Investing in a business means giving it some money to help it get started or to grow.



Investing is very important for all businesses.



It helps them to give people jobs.



If you invest in a business, and it does well, then you can make more money back.



So more investing can help everyone.



Many different people and organisations invest in businesses.



If it is easier to invest in places across the UK, then more people and organisations will do it.



This will help businesses to grow in areas across the UK, not just in London and the South East of England.



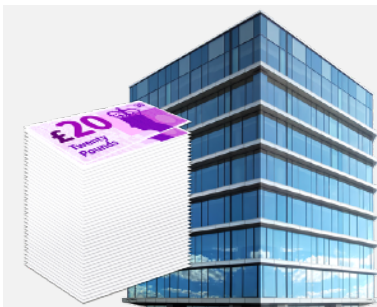
This will help social mobility in areas where people do not have much money.

Opportunity Zones



One of our ideas is to have places called **Opportunity Zones**.

Opportunity Zones are areas with special rules to help businesses grow.



People and organisations could invest their money in businesses in these areas.



This money could help businesses in these areas grow and give more people good jobs.



Usually, if you invest in a business and it does well, you have to give some of the money you make to the government.

This money is called **tax**.



People who invest in Opportunity Zones would pay less tax.



This would make more people want to invest in Opportunity Zones.



We should try making some places into Opportunity Zones.



They should be in places that need the most help.



The money that people invest in Opportunity Zones should only be used to help businesses grow.

Pensions



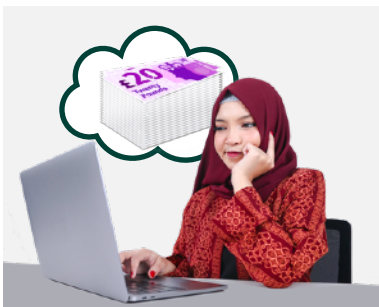
People who want to save money sometimes invest their savings or their **pension**.



Your **pension** is money that you get when you are older and retire from your job.



People save up money over their whole lives for their pension.



Organisations called **pension funds** invest this money for them.



Pension funds look for ways to help people to grow their money.

One way of doing this is by investing in businesses.



We think that pension funds should invest more money in businesses in the UK.



This will help people in the UK to get better jobs.



The government should make sure that this happens.

Checking if businesses are growing



We want to make a new way of checking whether areas have lots of growing businesses.

We call this the **Social Mobility and Dynamism Index**.



This would look at where businesses are growing in different areas.

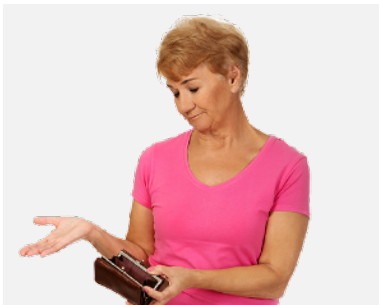


It would help us to learn about which areas need to get better at helping local businesses.

Starting new businesses



It can often be hard for people to start new businesses.



It can be even harder for people who did not have much money when they grew up.



But new businesses are important for making new jobs.



So we need to make things easier for people who want to start their own business.



Schools and colleges should give young people more information about starting a business.



They should help people in areas that do not have much money to start businesses.



The government used to help new businesses with money.

This help was called the **New Enterprise Allowance**.



The government should bring this help back.



Universal Credit is money from the government.



It is for people who need help because they do not have a job or they do not earn much.



Some people who are on Universal Credit want to start their own business.



The government should help those people.



If their idea for a business works, it can help them to earn more money and do well.

The government and councils can help new businesses by:



- Helping them find places to work.

These places could be shops or buildings that nobody is using at the moment.



- Supporting them to meet new people who can help their business grow.

Skills



People can only work in good jobs if they have the right skills.



But, in some parts of the UK, there are not enough people with the skills to get good jobs.



We should make sure they have the skills to do well.

We can do this by making sure everyone has the chance to learn new things.



Young people should be able to use buses and trains for free.



This would help them go to school, college or other places where they can learn new skills.



The government should help more young people become **apprentices**.



Being an **apprentice** means learning about a job at the same time as working in it.



The government should help businesses that have apprentices.



Young people should also have the chance to learn new skills without going to university.



Young people should get more chances to learn about jobs while they are in school.



Businesses, universities and colleges should work together more.



This will help to make sure that young people are learning the skills to help them do well.



The government should give adults living in poorer areas money to pay for courses to teach them new skills.



The adults will be able to choose which skills they learn.

Planning for the future



Local councils and businesses should work together to write plans.



These plans should explain what they are going to do to help businesses grow.



Local areas should be able to keep more money that local businesses make.



This will help people see how growing businesses help them.



Businesses should help colleges and universities decide what to teach young people.



This will help to make sure that young people have the skills that help them get good jobs.

Find out more

If you would like to find out more, you can:



- Send a letter to us:

Social Mobility Commission
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ



- Email us:
contact@socialmobilitycommission.gov.uk

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