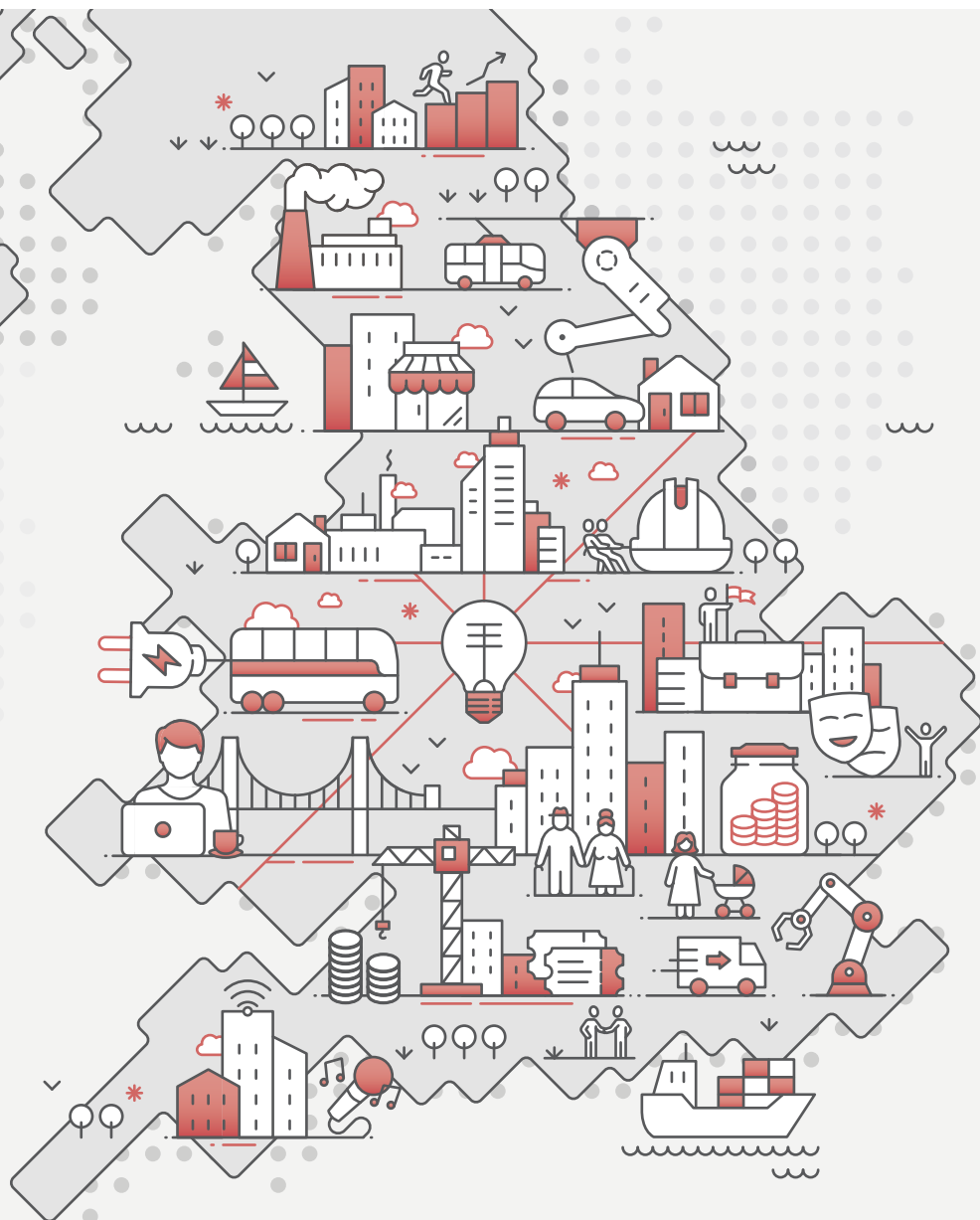


THE NETWORK THAT SPEAKS FOR URBAN UK

**KEY
CITIES**
UNLOCKING
POTENTIAL



WE ARE KEY CITIES



With 25 cities of all shapes and sizes across the country, Key Cities is the non-partisan network that represents urban living in the UK. We have a combined population of over 5.5 million people and contribute over £122.3 billion a year to the UK economy. This equates to around 7% of the UK economy.



5.5
Million

PEOPLE (8.48% OF
GB POPULATION)



2.67
Million

JOB



£122.3
Billion

GVA CONTRIBUTED TO
NATIONAL ECONOMY



183,500

BUSINESSES

A UNITED VOICE FOR URBAN UK



We work together

Key Cities members represent all of the major political parties and places across England and Wales. We are a united voice for urban Britain, working to champion our places. We work with other cities, towns and organisations across local government and beyond to deliver prosperity and a good standard of living and environment for all.

We produce ideas, research and engagement, both with experts and with ordinary people across our places. We want a country where no place is left behind and every family and person has opportunities for a better life. As we move towards recovering from the impact of the Covid pandemic we believe everyone in our places has a voice, and we act to make sure that voice is listened to.

Our members are:

BCP	MEDWAY
BATH & NES	NEWPORT
BLACKPOOL	NORWICH
BRADFORD	PLYMOUTH
CARLISLE	PORTSMOUTH
COVENTRY	PRESTON
DONCASTER	SALFORD
EXETER	SOUTHAMPTON
GLOUCESTER	SOUTHEND
HULL	SUNDERLAND
KIRKLEES	WOLVERHAMPTON
LANCASTER	WREXHAM
LINCOLN	



THE UK WORKS BEST WHEN IT WORKS TOGETHER



What we offer Britain

The members of the Key Cities network are significant urban entities with integrated municipal government, in close touch with the lived experience of their populations. We are uniquely positioned to be able to provide a clear voice for people, organisations and businesses across urban Britain. Our membership covers north and south, inland, port and coastal, and areas with differing levels of prosperity.

Key Cities members are:

Some of the fastest growing local economies in the UK.

Places with major strengths in both manufacturing and exports.

The right size for growth – with available land to expand.

Ideal test beds for economic and social innovation.

Poised to play a pivotal role in supporting the recovery post Covid and the delivery of the Government's levelling up agenda.

Through partnership with central government, business and each other, we are working to deliver:

Higher productivity.

Stronger growth.

A more inclusive economy.

Higher employment in better paid, more secure jobs.

Engagement with people who feel economically and politically excluded.

A better leisure and culture offer for everyone.

Regenerated and sustainable cities with more affordable housing.

PROVIDING OUR CITIES WITH MORE OPPORTUNITIES



What do we do

Our Cities hold the key to forging scalable solutions for connected urban centres and to address systemic inequalities rooted in changing industry, commerce and trade. Our cities are compact enough to be agile, large enough to make a difference. We will work with the UK government and others to test practical solutions for social and economic issues affecting our places.

This includes how to increase productivity and wages, improve transport and housing and develop and modernise our industries and firms, creating jobs and prosperity not only for now, but for the future.

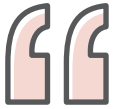
This may include invest to save initiatives, testing new models of devolved delivery, piloting new national initiatives or programmes or jointly work on new approaches to grow economies and tackle issues such as low productivity or low social and economic inclusion.

We constructively respond to consultations and emerging policy development by others, both within and beyond Government, across all our areas of work.

We seek to raise awareness of our policy priorities and proposals across both the Government and wider professional and public debate.

We actively engage with the media and other interested parties to ensure our voice remains heard and our profile remains high.

We have regular meetings and dialogue with both Ministers and Government departments across all our portfolio areas. We have an effective Key Cities All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) enabling members of Parliament of all parties to engage with us and our work. We provide briefings and information to government and MP's around our work and proposals.



Cllr Alan Waters, Leader at Norwich City Council

“Norwich City Council has benefited immensely from its membership of the Key Cities group. Sharing good practice and collectively finding solutions to the challenges facing cities, including access to high quality policy research, is invaluable. Above all, it is the value of being part of an organisation that punches above its weight with Government and acts as a strong voice for all its members.”

Cllr Alan Jarrett, Leader at Medway Council

“Since joining the Key Cities Group in 2018, we have benefitted from an outstanding support network, sharing ideas and discussing national issues for Councils across the country, in particular how we are dealing with the current pandemic. The opportunities from learning from others is extremely valuable, specifically supporting our key strategic ambitions such as our City of Culture 2025 Bid. Medway is promoted across all Key Cities Group publications, which helps us to deliver our ‘Putting Medway on the Map’ agenda, and supports Medway being recognised at a national level. The Key Cities Group is also an excellent lobbying network, ensuring our issues are given greater prominence and profile.”

Cllr Shabir Pandor, Leader of Kirklees Council

“As a long standing member of the Key Cities group, we clearly understand the benefits of working in collaboration and sharing ideas. A good example of this was the recent work Kirklees led on around understanding the landscape that our young people face in the 21st century and mainstreaming young people’s issues across our cities and within significant areas such as employment, skills and the post Brexit economy. We hosted a very successful conference where young people from our Key Cities identified numerous challenges they will face in the years ahead. The conference and subsequent collaborative working will ensure their ideas and creativity will always be a key part of any solution and highlights how Key Cities are in a strong position to listen and work together successfully to shape ideas and tackle to challenges that lie ahead.”

Our work area priorities

Our work areas are led by individual member cities across our group. Currently these are:

Towns and Urban Centres

Embedding inclusivity and an economy that works for all into national and local economic policy that will help with the recovery and the renewal of urban centres.

Culture

Maximising the economic impact of the cultural offer of cities.

Brexit and Trade

Delivering economic opportunities for our cities and communities after Brexit.

Health and Social Care

Ensuring the cities and residents voices shape and influences health and social care.

Housing

Developing innovation to deliver better and more social and affordable housing.

Young people, Skills and Education

A better skills system through more local and integrated delivery in our places. Mainstreaming young people’s issues across our cities and investing in their future.

Transport

Greater influence for cities to improve transport quality and accessibility, and tackling congestion.

Community Cohesion

Bringing communities together and creating places where people live together with harmony and mutual respect.

Climate Emergency

Sustainable economic development and maximising opportunities from the green economy and clean energy.



Work with us

We believe that collaboration, sharing ideas and joint working is the best way to achieve success. If you are interested in working with us, or have ideas or a proposal you'd like us to look at around achieving our priorities – **please get in touch.**

Contact

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 www.keycities.co.uk

 [@keycities](https://twitter.com/keycities)