

BURNHAM FOR MAYOR

First, we identify together the specific sectors which we believe will drive the prosperity of Greater Manchester and make them our explicit priority.

At national level, Government policy has always been to resist the idea of "picking winners" when it comes to support for particular sectors. At regional level, that has led to a lack of focus, and an incoherent industrial strategy.

The Northern Powerhouse Independent Economic Review, published in June 2016, identified key capabilities across the North which could provide the foundations for closing a major gap in productivity, generating new jobs and enhancing global competitiveness.

The four prime capabilities outlined were:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Digital Development
- Health Innovation
- Energy.

These were supported by three enabling capabilities that are vital if growth in these areas is to be successfully nurtured:

- Education
- Logistics
- Financial and Professional Services.

We should start by agreeing to prioritise these capabilities as the sectors which will drive growth and prosperity across the city-region.

Second, we nurture the development of clusters around those key 21st industries

Once we have identified those key sectors we should work to develop industry clusters based around local expertise, with a lead university linked to schools and colleges.

Our aim should be to develop a thriving ecosystem of organisations, involving universities, businesses big and small, colleges and other public bodies. This may involve creating new structures, or strengthening existing ones such.

These industry clusters will build networks of expertise, helping attract skilled workers to an area, and generating new start-up businesses. They will be able to work with the new Mayor to ensure decisions over transport, skills and planning allow local industries to thrive and grow.

Third, we develop public-private funding streams to support the development of those clusters, working with local councils and other funding agencies.

The loosening of State Aid rules may present an opportunity to support the development of specific industries using public investment.

Where appropriate, we should identify through the Spatial Framework the parts of Greater Manchester that may be able to serve as centres of excellence, and ensure they receive the support necessary to develop and strengthen.

We should aim for all elements of public policy from housing to transport to health to be aligned towards the same goal, to join up strategies and extract maximum benefit.

Fourth, we commit to ensuring that Greater Manchester leads a much-needed revolution in technical education.

All young people in Greater Manchester should get the core skills that they need to succeed in work, and we need to address the skills shortage which leaves many businesses struggling to find enough workers to grow.

I'd like to see our schools and colleges focusing much more on technical education, to put it on a par with academic education.

As part of this we should give all young people clear information on how and where to apply for apprenticeships. I will work with businesses to develop an online UCAS-style application system to make it easier for students to find appropriate training courses and access support, and I will seek Government support for such a system so that Greater Manchester can be the pioneer of a revolution in technical education.

Fifth, we seek to instil a new spirit of entrepreneurialism across the communities of Greater Manchester.

To ensure Greater Manchester continues to thrive in the long-term we need to start in our schools. We need to make sure that our young people know they can dream just as big, and achieve just as much, as anyone other young person in the country.

I will work with the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce to devise a new, supported route for young people who want to set up their own company, linking up schools with local businesses. I will seek to fund business start-up units in schools, and allow former students of those schools who are setting up new businesses to use those units.

In the modern world, more people will start their own businesses and run their own businesses. I want to help our schools work with businesses to reflect that new reality.

We should aim to give young people at the end of education not just the option of university or an apprenticeship but support to start their own business too.