The Making of an Industrial Strategy

**LOCALIS RESEARCH PROJECT | CALL FOR EVIDENCE
DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 2017**

As part of a major new research project exploring the creation of a place-based Industrial Strategy, Localis is reaching out to local authorities, businesses, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), universities and communities to gauge their views. To do this we are issuing a Call for Evidence which is structured into two sections.

Section 1 has a small number of specific questions that relate to the current work and activity of your organisation and area in supporting local industry. These questions are designed to help us test certain assumptions about high-performing economic areas. They are also useful because it will provide us with a clear sense of ‘live’ activity and provide a solid basis from which to assess the distinctive and unique qualities of the answers provided in Section 2.

Section 2 is more open and an opportunity for you to contribute your own ideas on future schemes/projects/programmes/policy changes etc. that the Government should consider as part of its Industrial Strategy. We are looking for ideas that would help businesses and industry in your area to develop.

Your ideas will no doubt reflect both the organisation you work for and the role you perform, but we would like to encourage you to think freely about the ideas you propose (please submit no more than 3 ideas and no more than 500 words per idea). To give you an example, some suggested ideas have already included:

1. New skills-based devolution deals focused on local qualifications
2. Local visa issuance to non-British citizens by local/combined authorities on behalf of their local business communities
3. Special tax exemption status for certain areas allowing some places to become, for example, ‘VAT Free’

All submissions will be treated with the strictest confidence and no content shared with us will be publicly attributable to the individual or organisation submitting without Localis first seeking your permission. Should we have any questions about your submission, or require further information on either a response or proposed idea, we will follow up with you directly.

Please fill in and return your organisation’s Call for Evidence submission form to jack.airey@localis.org.uk by Wednesday 4th January. Once you have submitted your form to us, the information will be pulled together centrally and used to inform the ongoing research process. Submissions will also be reviewed by the research project’s advisory panel.

Section 1: Your local area

1. What are the key industries in your local area? What is your organisation doing to help them develop and grow?

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1. What is your local area doing to attract new businesses and industries? What financial risks has your organisation taken to do this?

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1. How is your local authority using the following levers to support industry and economic growth?
	* The planning system
	* Direct investment
	* Other (please specify)

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1. Does your local area have a strategic focus on growing a specific age demographic? If so, what is your organisation doing to support this?

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1. Does your local area have a reputation that helps or hinders its economic growth?

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1. How would you describe your local area’s relationships with neighbouring towns and cities (politically, culturally and economically)? Both as a place and as an organisation, in what terms do you compete and in what terms do you collaborate?

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1. How does your local university(s) engage with local industry? What action(s) do you see your local university(s) taking to help support your local area develop (both economically and socially)?

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Section 2: Your ideas

Please provide a brief description of the idea(s) that you believe the Government should support, outlining:

* What type of governmental action the idea requires (e.g. financial, political, regulatory, devolution of power, policy change, structural/governance reform etc.)
* Why the Government should prioritise its support for this idea
* What analysis you have done that evidences the beneficial impact (financial, economic, social etc.) of this idea

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