

## **The APPG for 'left behind' neighbourhoods' inquiry into levelling up**

Following publication of the Levelling Up White Paper (LUWP) in February 2022, the APPG for 'left behind' neighbourhoods decided to examine the potential of the policies and approaches it outlined to regenerate 'left behind' neighbourhoods across England. Building upon its existing evidence base, and informed by new research, written submissions and expert testimony, the APPG looked at how the LUWP's policy programme aligns with the needs and aspirations of people who live in the most deprived or 'left behind' neighbourhoods, and the changes needed to 'level them up' over the long term.

### **Process**

#### **Inquiry sessions in Parliament, 2022-23**

The APPG has held four inquiry sessions in Parliament over ten months, each live-streamed to the APPG's external members, hearing from 21 expert witnesses who gave evidence in person. As well as residents of 'left behind' neighbourhoods, those giving testimony included representatives from think tanks, city-regional government, civil society and community practitioners, and academics.

#### **[Levelling up social outcomes, April 2022](#)**

The first session of the APPG's Inquiry into Levelling Up examined the White Paper's four medium-term missions relating to education, skills, health, and wellbeing.

#### **[Levelling up economic outcomes, July 2022](#)**

The second session of the APPG's Inquiry into Levelling Up examined the White Paper's four medium-term missions relating to living standards, R&D, transport infrastructure, and digital connectivity.

#### **[Levelling up communities, November 2022](#)**

The third session of the APPG's Inquiry into Levelling Up examined the White Paper's medium-term missions relating to pride in place, housing, and crime.

#### **[Levelling up investment, January 2023](#)**

The final session of the APPG's Inquiry into Levelling Up examined the White Paper's ambition to empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

#### **Written evidence**

45 organisations and individuals – from across civil society, universities, local government and the third sector - submitted evidence to the APPG's inquiry.

#### **Workshops**

Hosted by the think tank Reform, which is providing policy support to the APPG during its inquiry, two workshops were held to explore policy ideas for the future of levelling up, involving think tanks, local government and community activists in 'left behind' areas.

#### **St George's House consultation**

As the APPG's inquiry reaches its conclusion, the consultation at St George's House represents an opportunity to inform the final report. By reviewing and reflecting upon what the APPG has heard to date, and stress testing the ideas emerging from the inquiry, the consultation will help ensure that we are on track to produce a report that is purposeful, principled and practical. Drawing on the wide experience of those taking part, and informed as ever by those living and working in communities identified as 'left behind', the consultation will consider the evidence garnered so far and ask what might be needed to regenerate 'left behind' neighbourhoods, answering the questions - what needs to change, and what might a new, more effective, policy agenda look like?