

## **Industrial Strategy**

Over the last month the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership has been meeting with local businesses to get their feedback on the Government's Industrial Strategy green paper.

The Industrial Strategy is very important because it will shape how the Government approaches economic growth, especially after we have left the European Union.

The aim of the Government strategy is to increase the overall prosperity of the country so that more people share in its success, with higher wages, higher skills and improved productivity.

The LEP has been asked to co-ordinate our area's response to the Government's consultation and we recently held three round table events with local businesses to ask them about their priorities.

Encouragingly, there is a broad consensus about the challenges and opportunities facing Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, and the need to make sure that we remain absolutely focused on our unique strengths and economic distinctiveness.

But we are still keen to hear more views, and have this week launched a short online survey to drill down into some specifics.

For example, many feel it important that any response to the Industrial Strategy from our area raise the questions of rurality and inclusive growth.

The Government recently published updated guidance to policy makers on how to take account of the effects of policies on rural areas. This so-called 'rural proofing' is something that many would like to see embedded in the Industrial Strategy. Do you agree?

Inclusive growth is also something that businesses want enshrined in the strategy so that the benefits of a growing economy are distributed across society. That includes supporting people with the right skills so they can benefit from opportunities as they arise, boosting the potential of people and places. Would that be a priority for you?

Other comments relate to the need for more 'digital skills' as a basic requirement; the availability and quality of business support, and whether we should be investing more in our energy infrastructure.

If you have views on any of these issues I urge you to give us your feedback on the Industrial Strategy page of our website at [www.cioslep.com](http://www.cioslep.com) to help inform our response to Government.

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