



The Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Prime Minister

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7th September 2022

Dear Prime Minister

Congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister. I am writing in my capacity as Chair of Core Cities UK, an alliance of 11 of the largest cities outside London - Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, and Sheffield. We generate 25 per cent of the economy and are home to 20 million citizens. Our mission is to unlock the full potential of our great city regions to create a stronger, fairer economy and society.

Your new government faces an unprecedented collection of national and international challenges. As Core Cities UK, we present an opportunity to plan and work directly with local government leaders and mayors, who together represent over one quarter of the UK's economy and population.

The UK's cities have always been centres of innovation, engines of growth and platforms to connect to the global economy and extend UK soft power. Yet we know UK cities could do more. If we were to work together to raise levels of productivity across our cities to the levels in London, it would add £100bn a year to the UK economy. Across the Core Cities and partners in Key Cities and London, there currently exists £500bn of investment opportunities in net zero.

To unlock the fullness of this potential, we need national Government to work with us, to build a more joined up partnership between Whitehall, Westminster and the UK's major cities. This will help the nation meet the challenges and take the opportunities we face. We have three pieces of practical, delivery-focused, work we believe will be of interest:

3Ci (Formerly known as the UK Cities Climate Investment Commission)

Core Cities have partnered with Connected Places Catapult, London Councils, Key Cities and others to launch 3Ci, an innovative new approach to climate finance that seeks to connect billions of pounds worth of private sector investment with our cities. We believe this work is ground-breaking. It has already attracted funding from BEIS and huge interest from the private sector – we would be delighted to secure your participation. We believe this could form the basis of an announcement at COP 27 to decarbonise UK cities that would set a world standard.

UK Urban Futures Commission

In partnership with Andy Haldane and the RSA, we have launched the UK Urban Futures Commission. Our focus is to better understand what cities are to modern Britain, so we can better

Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Glasgow, Liverpool,
Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield

understand how to unlock and exploit their potential for Britain's good. We have anchored this work around three key questions:

- What are cities?
- What do we need them to be?
- How do we get them from what they are to what we need them to be?

Repositioning the UK Globally

We have established the 'G7 Urban7', working with city networks like our own across the G7 nations to solve shared challenges. It's an initiative that was recognised and welcomed in the most recent G7 Heads of State communique, offering opportunities to also explore trade, export and investment opportunities with these partners.

The challenges we face today are daunting. The only way to meet them is through a radical and proactive approach that has the UK operating at best capacity. Our ideas are the embodiment of this, enabling our cities to fully realise their potential and improve the lives of millions of citizens.

We would welcome a meeting with you, either in person or virtual, as soon as your diary allows.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Rees', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Marvin Rees
Chair of Core Cities UK,
Mayor, Bristol City Council