

Agenda item: 6

One Nottingham Board

Title of Paper: Economic Inclusion – The RSA Inclusive Growth Commission

Date: 9 September 2016

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This paper informs the Board about the work of the Inclusive Growth Commission, which is being sponsored by Core Cities UK.
- 1.2 The paper also seeks the Board's views/input on the Inclusive Growth Commission event being held in Nottingham later this year.

2. Recommendations

The Board is asked:

- 2.1 To note the work of the Inclusive Growth Commission to date.
- 2.2 Note the Commission event, including roundtable and evidence hearing scheduled for 1st November in Nottingham.
- 2.3 To offer their views and suggestions on the potential 'lines of enquiry' for the evidence hearing in Nottingham, and highlight any key messages the Board wish to communicate from Nottingham's perspective.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Inclusive Growth Commission is an independent, high profile inquiry, part funded by Core Cities, the Local Government Association, London Councils and others.
- 3.2 The Commission is examining two questions, with the aim of influencing national and local policy:- Are there models of place-based growth that also address social and economic inclusion? If so, what are these models and how might be implemented in a UK context, building on the opportunity that local devolution presents.
- 3.3 The Commission chair is Stephanie Flanders, former Economics editor of the BBC. The Commission is being sponsored by Core Cities UK, the Local Government Association, Key Cities and London Councils. The Commission builds on the RSA's influential City Growth Commission, which reported in 2014 and showed how UK city regions can drive prosperity through place based investment and economic policy making, which helped shape Government policy on devolution deals. The RSA is also providing the Secretariat to the Inclusive Growth Commission.
- 3.4 As part of its work, the Commission is holding four evidence hearings across the country, one of which will be held in Nottingham on 1st November.
- 3.5 The Commission will publish an interim report on 22nd September, prior to party conferences, and will publish its final recommendations before May 2017. The new

Prime Minister, Theresa May, in her only campaign speech before being appointed, called for a different kind of national economic programme and an 'economy and society that works for everyone', which chimes with the terms of reference of the Commission.

4. Nottingham Evidence Hearing

- 4.1 The evidence hearing will take place in Nottingham on the afternoon of 1st November in a city centre venue, which is likely to be either Biocity, or the Nottingham Contemporary.
- 4.2 Final timings are to be confirmed, but the suggestion at the moment is that the visit to Nottingham will take place between 12 - 5:30pm, with a Roundtable event held between 12 - 1:30pm, followed by Lunch between 1:30pm - 2:30pm, and the panel style Evidence Hearing taking place from 2:30pm – 5:30pm.
- 4.3 The discussion at the Commission will involve a cross section of people from Nottingham, attempting to reflect diversity of the city. It will however be a small number of people by invitation only.
- 4.4 One Nottingham Board members will be invited alongside other stakeholders, to either the roundtable discussion, or the evidence hearing later that afternoon.
- 4.5 The evidence hearing will have a format similar to that of a Parliamentary Select Committee.
- 4.6 **Lines of Inquiry**
Panellists will be asked questions designed to inform the Commission on the key areas under each of their three research themes:

1. Economy: More inclusive, productive labour markets.

- How can we enable as many people as possible to contribute to, and benefit from, local economic success?
- How can we overcome social, gender, health and other barriers to accessing local labour markets?
- How might more inclusive economies make places more productive and reduce demand for some public services over the long term?
- How can we shape cities and neighbourhoods to encourage a more entrepreneurial culture?

2. Place: Dynamic, resilient places.

- What are the characteristics of success at different geographic levels – city-region, city, neighbourhoods – and how do these vary across the UK?
- How can all places create a viable model for sustainable, dynamic and inclusive place-based growth?
- How might places within and at the periphery of major urban centres capitalise on the potential of existing devolution deals?
- What additional powers and flexibilities might be needed to give places the ability to respond more effectively to the complexities of their geography?

3. Governance: Creating system change

- How might we re-structure central and local public financing and related systems, so services support each other more effectively and decisions are made with a longer-term time horizon in mind?
- What type of metrics for inclusive growth can be developed to support this?
- How can financial and fiscal risks be mitigated in places beyond the major metropolitan areas?
- How will Whitehall and the Devolved Administrations need to adapt?
- What are the barriers to achieving system and culture change?

- 4.7 This paper is an opportunity for the Board to consider the evidence board members would want to put to the Commission from a local perspective.

For instance, we might want the Commission to consider the particular challenges of creating inclusive growth within Nottingham, including specific barriers faced by households, companies and communities. We may also wish them to consider the extent to which local businesses, civil society organisations and public sector partners are already trying to address these challenges and their effectiveness, as well as what else they might need to do to support inclusive growth.

We might also want to suggest what else central government could do to help Nottingham become a more inclusive economy.

One Nottingham Board members are asked for their views/suggestions on Nottingham-specific lines of enquiry.

During the board meeting there will be an opportunity to make contributions, and if you wish to submit observations or information after the Board meeting which you would like to be considered as evidence, or have any further questions, please contact Dean Goodburn, Policy Officer at Nottingham City Council (contact details are set out below).

- 4.8 Write-ups of a recent seminar and an evidence session in Sheffield are included for ON Boards' information (please see Appendix A and B).

5. Contact Details

Dean Goodburn, Policy Officer, Nottingham City Council

☎ 0115 876 4215

✉ dean.goodburn@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Kerry Ferguson, Policy Development Manager, Nottingham City Council

☎ 0115 876 3415

✉ kerry.ferguson@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Nigel Cooke – Director of One Nottingham

☎ 0115 876 4997

✉ nigel.cooke@onenottingham.org.uk