



Andrew Gwynne MP
Member of Parliament for Denton and Reddish
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel: 020 7219 4708

Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

CC: Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP,
Secretary of State for Education

Tuesday 20th July

Dear Prime Minister,

Levelling Up Greater Manchester's Education, Skills and Jobs

We are writing to highlight our concerns over the impact of the pandemic on Greater Manchester's future economic growth and the scale of the post-pandemic gap in education, skills and jobs.

Greater Manchester has been hit harder by the pandemic than most. We have seen the prevailing disparities and inequalities in education, skills and employment heightened throughout lock down and jobs and opportunities in some sectors have simply been lost. We have been living under coronavirus restrictions for much longer than other areas in the UK, leaving us with a far wider gap to fill.

We believe that Greater Manchester can bounce back quickly if your Government commits to investing in the skills and jobs we need and devolves further powers to our regional leaders so they can use local knowledge to truly level-up investment and opportunities.

We have the insight required to deliver the most impact locally. By working in partnership with education providers and employers who are doing fantastic work in Greater Manchester already, we can create bespoke reskilling and upskilling programmes. Working with regional leaders is the most effective way to close the skills gap, get people into good work, attract private sector investment and drive inclusive growth in sectors such as digital and the green economy.

We need to educate and train young people today in the skills we need for tomorrow if we are to build back and recover. At the same time, we need to invest in lifelong learning so that today's workforce have the ability to upskill, retrain and adjust to the evolving demands of the labour market.

We believe that by improving apprenticeships, for both employers and their apprentices, building on the Kickstart programme and devolving more powers over post-16 education and skills budgets, we can supercharge our recovery and level up skills, education and jobs in Greater Manchester.

Constituency Office:

Denton Town Hall, Market Street, Denton; Tel: 0161 320 1504; Email: gwynnea@parliament.uk
Website: www.andrewgwynne.co.uk; Social Media: @GwynneMP



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We want the Government to harness and celebrate our ambitions for a green recovery and promise to help us kickstart sustainable and inclusive growth across the Greater Manchester conurbation.

As we move towards recovery, the Greater Manchester economy will need new and green skills to build back better. Our region has a proud history of innovation and leading the way in new technologies and industries.

Getting Greater Manchester back to work and getting the economy moving will require better, faster, and greener connectivity and infrastructure, new high tech and digital skills and the acceleration of 'green' jobs to decarbonise our lives. We believe Greater Manchester can lead the "Green Industrial Revolution".

Given the shortfall created by the pandemic, we are absolutely committed to working together to build back better education and employment for the people of Greater Manchester and to provide greater life chances for tomorrow's generation.

We hope you will work with us to get this right and remove prevailing inequalities and barriers to growth. With your support, Greater Manchester can unlock much needed growth and lead the way to a sustainable future.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Gwynne
MP for Denton and Reddish

Afzal Khan MP, Manchester Gorton
Angela Rayner MP, Ashton-Under-Lyne
Barbara Keeley MP, Worsley and Eccles South
Debbie Abrahams MP, Oldham East and Saddleworth
Graham Stringer MP, Blackley & Broughton
Jeff Smith MP, Manchester Withington
Jim McMahon MP, Oldham West and Royton
Jonathan Reynolds MP, Stalybridge and Hyde
Kate Green MP, Stretford and Urmston
Lisa Nandy MP, Wigan
Lucy Powell MP, Manchester Central
Mike Kane MP, Wythenshawe and Sale East
Navendu Mishra MP, Stockport
Rebecca Long-Bailey MP, Salford & Eccles

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Tony Lloyd MP, Rochdale
Yasmin Qureshi MP, Bolton South East
Yvonne Fovargue MP, Makerfield
Lord Andrew Stunell
Andy Burnham, Metro Mayor of Greater Manchester
Cllr Andrew Western, Leader of Trafford Council & GMCA Lead for Digital, Work and Skills
Cllr Arooj Shah, Leader of Oldham Council
Cllr Brenda Warrington, Leader of Tameside Council
Cllr David Greenhalgh, Leader of Bolton Council
Cllr David Molyneux, Leader of Wigan Council
Cllr Eamonn O'Brien, Leader of Bury Council
Cllr Elise Wilson, Leader of Stockport Council
Cllr Neil Emmott, Leader of Rochdale Council
Cllr Paul Dennett, City Mayor of Salford
Cllr Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council
Justin Kelly, Lead for Skills, Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership
Steve Murrells, Chief Executive, Co-op Group
Lynn Collins, Regional Secretary, North West TUC

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