



# **INCLUSIVE GROWTH CONFERENCE**

2024



**The Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP) is an economics think tank that champions inclusive growth. We work to identify and support policies that drive growth for all people in all places across the UK.**

**@CentreProPolicy  
#IGConf24**

## WELCOME

The Government's first mission is growth. But we know that how the economy grows - which sectors thrive, which communities flourish, who feels the benefit - matters. Just raising headline rates may not be enough to regain the trust and confidence of the public. That is why the detail still to come from the government - on renewed partnership with devolved governments and mayors; plans to make work pay; and a modern industrial strategy - is so important.

For advocates of a more inclusive economy, our challenge is more pressing than ever. We need to avoid a counsel of despair and provide a new playbook that goes beyond 'British Bidenomics'. That means a focus on delivery and on distribution: identifying and scaling the innovations that work, locally and nationally.

Central government alone cannot deliver the progressive change that is needed. National renewal requires revitalised partnership between central, regional and local government - as well as business and the voluntary sector.

For more than six years, CPP has been at the forefront of developing the theory, policies and practical ideas for embedding inclusive growth across the country. At the heart of our mission has been the Inclusive Growth Network - our brilliant UK-wide member network of local and combined authorities. Local capacity and capability will be core to effective delivery. After years of budget cuts, we know that local leaders will need help to take the creative and shared approaches required.

Delivering a genuinely inclusive economy is now mission critical for the government. We want to use this conference to hear from you. What is working locally? How can we bring innovations to scale? How can new national policies drive transformation in all places? If we can answer those questions, together we can renew progressive policy across the UK.



**Ben Franklin**  
Interim CEO,  
Centre for Progressive Policy (CPP)

## AGENDA

### MORNING

10.00

**REGISTRATION**  
and refreshments

10.30

**WELCOME**  
by Baroness Ayesha Hazarika MBE

10.35

**INTRODUCTION**  
by Ben Franklin, Interim CEO,  
Centre for Progressive Policy

10.45

**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
**WHOSE GROWTH IS IT ANYWAY?**  
CHAIR: Annabel Smith  
SPEAKERS: Dan Tomlinson MP,  
Alfie Stirling, Vicky Spratt

11.35

**MORNING BREAK**

12.00

**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
**HANDING AWAY POWER TO DELIVER  
PROSPERITY IN EVERY COMMUNITY**  
CHAIR: Ben Franklin  
SPEAKERS: Claire Ward, Ben Lucas,  
Martha Crawford, Helen MacNamara

12.50

**LUNCH**  
and networking

## AGENDA

### AFTERNOON

13.45

**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
**RAISING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE  
INVESTMENT EVERYWHERE**

CHAIR: Dan Turner  
SPEAKERS: Yuan Yang MP, Dr Henry Kippin,  
Tim Fassam, Kitty Ussher

14.35

**PANEL DISCUSSION**  
**NATIONAL RENEWAL FOR  
POLITICAL SURVIVAL:  
HOW CAN LABOUR WIN AGAIN?**

CHAIRS: Sam Freedman and  
Baroness Ayesha Hazarika MBE  
SPEAKERS: Dr Danny Sriskandarajah,  
Claire Ainsley, Anushka Asthana, Annabel Smith

15.25

**AFTERNOON BREAK**

15.45

**CLOSING DISCUSSION**  
**NEXT STEPS: DELIVERING A  
CRITICAL MISSION FOR GROWTH**

Speakers to be announced

16.30

**DRINKS RECEPTION**  
and networking

## SESSIONS

### 10.45

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

#### WHOSE GROWTH IS IT ANYWAY?

Growth across the world, especially in the OECD, has fallen since 2008, and the UK has been among the hardest hit. Are the years of 2% real income growth gone for good? What are the barriers to growth and opportunity for all communities in the UK? What trade-offs might the government face?

This panel will explore:

- How realistic is Labour's mission to top the G7 growth rate and more importantly how does it end a generation of stagnation?
- What role should mayors and other local leaders have in delivering growth for their people and places?
- How do we ensure growth gets to the places that need it most?
- What role does childcare and housing policy play in driving, or constraining growth? What are some of the political trade-offs involved?

#### CHAIR

**Annabel Smith**, Director of Place & Practice, CPP

#### SPEAKERS

**Dan Tomlinson**, MP for Chipping Barnet  
**Alfie Stirling**, Director of Insight and Policy and Chief Economist, JRF  
**Vicky Spratt**, housing correspondent, the i paper

### 12.00

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

#### HANDING AWAY POWER TO DELIVER PROSPERITY IN EVERY COMMUNITY

The government has committed to handing over more power to places as a key lever for enabling growth everywhere. What would a new working relationship between Whitehall, the devolved nations, and the rest of England look like? What will it take to drive meaningful reform of the central government machinery? And is there a risk that devolution creates new inequalities of power or economic opportunity across the UK?

This panel will explore:

- Is Labour walking the talk on 'handing power away'?
- How (far) can devolved powers support good jobs in every community? Are there risks for furthering inequalities between places?
- What can we learn from good practice happening across the country and scale up and out to more places?

#### CHAIR

**Ben Franklin**, Interim CEO, CPP

#### SPEAKERS

**Claire Ward**, Mayor of the East Midlands  
**Ben Lucas**, Founding Director, Metro Dynamics  
**Martha Crawford**, Assistant Director – Innovation, Living Wage Foundation  
**Helen MacNamara**, Chair of Future Governance Forum (invited)

## SESSIONS

### 13.45

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

#### RAISING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT EVERYWHERE

'Investment, investment, investment' was the central theme of Rachel Reeves' first Budget. But following decades of underinvestment, reversing this trend is a huge task. What will it take to shift the UK to an investment-led model of growth? What can we learn from past efforts? What capabilities need to be supported to raise investment in all places?

The panel will explore:

- How can national government ensure that the planned increase in public investment is well spent?
- How can we crowd in more private sector investment to drive growth in all places?
- How can regional and local governments develop the necessary pipeline of investments to support growth and good jobs?
- What national, regional and local institutional structures will we need to be supportive of this agenda?

#### CHAIR

**Dan Turner**, Head of Research & Analysis, CPP

#### SPEAKERS

**Yuan Yang**, MP for Earley and Woodley  
**Dr Henry Kippin**, Chief Executive, North East Combined Authority  
**Tim Fassam**, Public Affairs Director, Phoenix Group  
**Kitty Ussher**, Managing Director, Group Head of Policy Development, Barclays

*This panel will be recorded for an episode of The Power Test podcast.*

### 14.35

#### PANEL DISCUSSION

#### NATIONAL RENEWAL FOR POLITICAL SURVIVAL: HOW CAN LABOUR WIN AGAIN?

The US election result shows us that just raising the rate of growth is not enough to retain support for a progressive agenda. Delivery of Labour's missions must ensure people can feel a difference to their lives and feel it quickly. How can Labour secure genuine national renewal?

This panel will explore:

- Can Labour develop the narrative, and patience required, until signs of a 'decade of national renewal' are felt everywhere?
- How can we, as an audience of changemakers, coordinate the best of what we do to secure meaningful and practical change across parliaments?
- Is it time to consider alternative models for our democracy, by bringing economic decision-making closer to people?

#### CHAIRS

**Sam Freedman**, Senior Fellow, Institute for Government and co-host of The Power Test  
**Baroness Ayesha Hazarika MBE**, broadcaster and co-host of The Power Test

#### SPEAKERS

**Claire Ainsley**, Director of the Center-Left Renewal Project, Progressive Policy Institute  
**Dr Danny Sriskandarajah**, CEO, New Economics Foundation  
**Anushka Asthana**, Deputy Political Editor, ITV  
**Annabel Smith**, Director of Place and Practice, CPP

## SESSIONS

# 15.45

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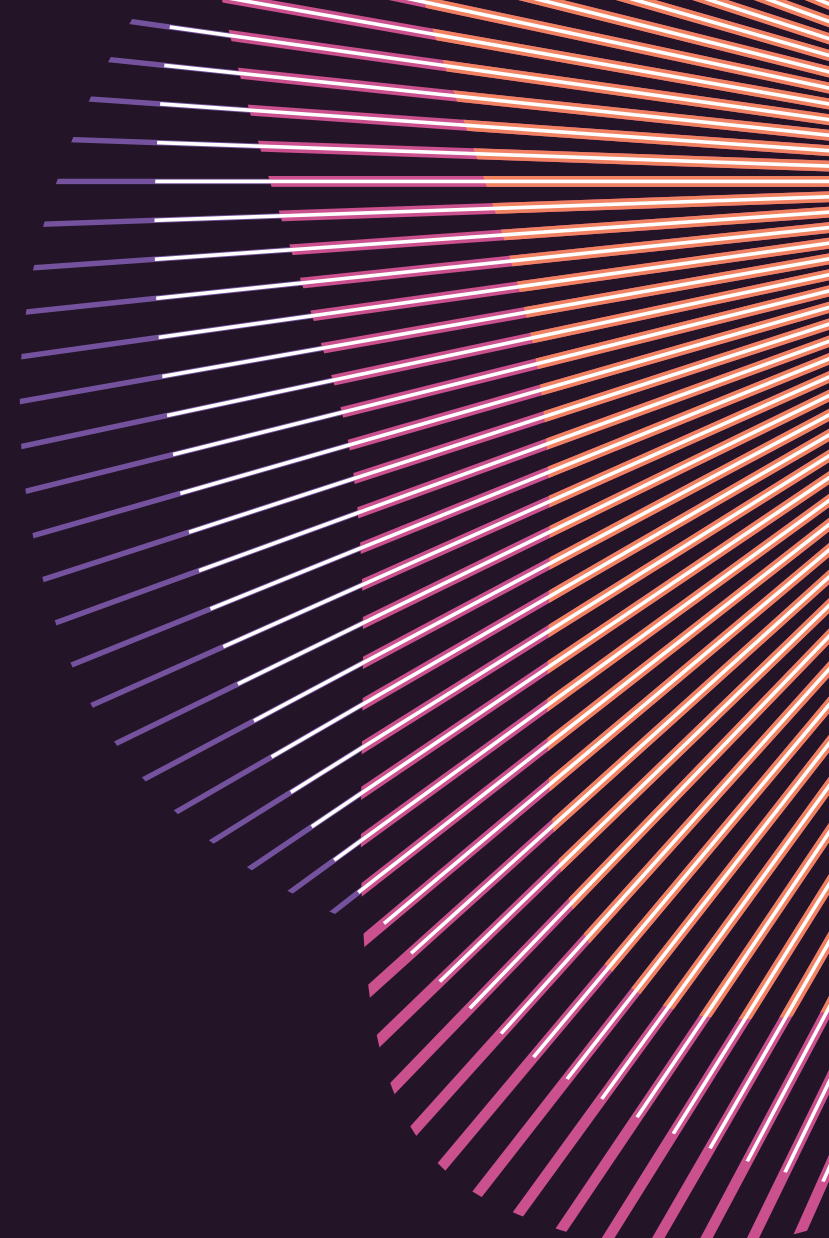
### CLOSING DISCUSSION

#### NEXT STEPS: DELIVERING A CRITICAL MISSION FOR GROWTH

Speakers to be announced

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The closing session will reflect on the themes of the day and will focus on how the progressive ecosystem can drive action and innovation to deliver the government's missions.



## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



### CLAIRE AINSLEY

**DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER-LEFT RENEWAL PROJECT,  
PROGRESSIVE POLICY INSTITUTE**

Claire is Director of the Project on Center-Left Renewal at the Progressive Policy Institute (PPI), Washington, DC. Prior to this, Claire was Executive Director of Policy to Keir Starmer, Leader of the Opposition and the UK Labour Party, 2020–22. Claire also served as Executive Director of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, where she led work on the social and political attitudes of people with low incomes. She is the author of *The new working class: how to win hearts, minds and votes*, and is a trustee of Involve, the public participation charity.

@claire\_ainsley



### ANUSHKA ASTHANA

**DEPUTY POLITICAL EDITOR, ITV**

Anushka Asthana is deputy political editor at ITV News and co presenter of the Peston programme. She has previously worked as policy editor at the Observer, chief political correspondent at the Times, senior political correspondent at Sky News as well as joint political editor at the Guardian and presenter of its award-winning daily podcast, Today in Focus. Her book, *Taken as Red: How Labour Won Big and the Tories Crashed the Party* was published in September 2024.

@AnushkaAsthana



### MARTHA CRAWFORD

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR – INNOVATION, LIVING WAGE FOUNDATION**

Martha Crawford is an Assistant Director at the Living Wage Foundation. In this role she is responsible for developing innovative levers to tackle in work and post work poverty with an accredited network of employers. This includes the Living Hours and Living Pensions campaigns, adapting the Living Wage for the gig economy, and the Global Living Wage Initiative. Since joining in 2015, Martha has worked in different roles across the Living Wage Foundation and at Citizens UK. Martha has a background in community organising and knowledge exchange and innovation in higher education.

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



### TIM FASSAM

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, PHOENIX GROUP**

Tim Fassam is Public Affairs Director at Phoenix Group, where he is responsible for public policy and government relations. Prior to joining Phoenix Tim was Director of Government Relations and Policy at UK wealth management trade association PIMFA, MD of Public Affairs, Policy and Research at TheCityUK and Director of UK Public Affairs at Prudential. He has previously acted as a trustee of international relations think tank Asia House and international development charity TFAC.

@FassamTim



### BEN FRANKLIN

**INTERIM CEO, CENTRE FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICY**

Ben is overseeing the strategic direction for CPP. Previously as Research and Policy Director he ran impactful programmes on inclusive growth, including the importance of health, adult education and childcare. He has advised national politicians and local leaders on the links between growth, inequality and public services. His research has featured in all national print and broadcast media. Previously, Ben was Assistant Director at the International Longevity Centre, leading major projects on employment challenges facing the over-50s and the future of the UK's pensions. He also undertook economic analysis for the Financial Conduct Authority and HM Treasury.

@bj franklin



### SAM FREEDMAN

**SENIOR FELLOW, INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNMENT**

Sam Freedman is a senior fellow at the Institute for Government and writes regularly on politics and policy for Prospect, TES, The Guardian and others. Sam and his father, Lawrence Freedman, co-author their popular substack newsletter 'Comment is Freed' which has over 60,000 subscribers. His first book, *Failed State: Why Nothing Works and How to Fix It*, was released in July and made the Sunday Times bestseller list. Sam is also a senior adviser to the education charity Ark; Vice-Chair of Ambition Institute; and a trustee of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

@Samfr



## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



### BARONESS AYESHA HAZARIKA MBE

LABOUR PEER AND BROADCASTER

Known for her insightful, witty opinions and informed observations on current affairs and politics, Ayesha is a regular contributor to TV, radio and print. Host of Times Radio Weekend Drivetime and the Power Test podcast, Ayesha started her career as a stand-up comedian before going into politics, becoming Special Adviser for the Labour Party for eight years, in both government and opposition. She worked for Gordon Brown, Harriet Harman and Ed Miliband on speeches, media and policy as well as heading up initiatives on topics such as women and equality.

@ayeshahazarika



### DR HENRY KIPPIN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NORTH EAST COMBINED AUTHORITY

Dr Henry Kippin is the Chief Executive of the North East CA, responsible for its delivery programme spanning inclusive economic growth, transport, skills, housing, culture, public service innovation, net zero and devolution. He previously served as Chief Executive of the North of Tyne Combined Authority, and as an Executive Director at the West Midlands Combined Authority. Prior to this he held a number of roles in UK and international public policy, including as CEO of Collaborate and managing the cross-party RSA Public Services Commission. He is a trustee of the Young Foundation and a visiting professor at Newcastle University. In 2024 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law by Northumbria University.

@h\_kippin

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



### BEN LUCAS

FOUNDING DIRECTOR, METRO DYNAMICS

Ben is an expert on the political and economic drivers that are needed for growth. As Founding Director of Metro Dynamics he leads major strategy projects across the UK advising on governance, inclusive growth and how best to work with Westminster and Whitehall.

Before Metro Dynamics, Ben had a long career in public policy and communications, advising cities, businesses, and charities on how to achieve their public affairs objectives. He is a Policy Associate at the Future Governance Forum, a member of the Evidence to Impact Committee of Foundations, The What Works Centre for Children and Families, and Founding Director of The Power Test podcast.

@BenLucas\_



### VICKY SPRATT

HOUSING CORRESPONDENT, THE I PAPER

Vicky Spratt is i's Housing Correspondent. She reports on the housing crisis, particularly renters' rights, the cost of living, the plight of mortgage prisoners and the mortgage crisis. Her book Tenants: the People on the Frontline of Britain's Housing Emergency, was published in 2022.

@Victoria\_Spratt

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



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### DR DANNY SRISKANDARAJAH

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE, NEW ECONOMICS FOUNDATION**

Dr Dhananjayan Sriskandarajah is Chief Executive of the New Economics Foundation and author of *Power to the People: Use your voice, change the world*. Danny's previous roles include CEO of Oxfam GB, Secretary General of CIVICUS, Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society, Interim Director of the Commonwealth Foundation and various posts at IPPR. He is a Trustee of the Guy's & St Thomas' Foundation. He has been a member of two United Nations High Level Panels, on digital co-operation and humanitarian finance.

@dhnnjyn



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### ANNABEL SMITH

**DIRECTOR OF PLACE & PRACTICE,  
CENTRE FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICY**

Annabel is Director of Place and Practice at CPP and works to translate inclusive growth from theory to practice across national, regional and local government. Leading our Inclusive Growth Network, she works with cities and regions across the UK to build a better understanding of what inclusive growth looks like and how it works in practice, as well as informing policy at the national level.

@annabel\_\_smith



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### ALFIE STIRLING

**DIRECTOR OF INSIGHT AND POLICY AND CHIEF ECONOMIST, JRF**

Alfie is Director of Insight and Policy and Chief Economist, leading the evidence, economics and policy teams at JRF. Previously he was Director of Research and Chief Economist at the New Economics Foundation (NEF), leading research teams across economics, environment and social policy. Prior to that, Alfie was senior economist at the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), leading macroeconomic and fiscal policy research for the Commission on Economic Justice. Alfie is a regular contributor in national media through TV, radio and print.

@alfie\_stirling

## ABOUT THE SPEAKERS



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### DAN TOMLINSON

**MP FOR CHIPPING BARNET**

Dan Tomlinson is the first Labour MP to be elected to serve Chipping Barnet, where he lives with his family. He is focused on crime and community safety, improving access to the local NHS, and on reducing the cost of living for local residents. Dan was recently appointed as the Government's National Mission Champion for Growth.

Previously, Dan worked as an economist, primarily focused on improving family living standards and growing the economy. He has previously worked at HM Treasury, and the Resolution Foundation, where he co-authored the paper calling for the furlough scheme. Most recently, Dan was Principal Policy Advisor at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the UK's leading anti-poverty charity.

@Dan4Barnet



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### DAN TURNER

**HEAD OF RESEARCH & ANALYSIS,  
CENTRE FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICY**

Dan joined CPP in April 2024 as Head of Research and Analysis. Before joining CPP, Dan worked as Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor of South Yorkshire and as a researcher at the Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Dan's previous research has focused on regional inequalities and governance in the UK, as well as the practicalities of place-based economic policy.

@DanTurnerTweets





# ABOUT

## CENTRE FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICY

The Centre for Progressive Policy is a think tank that champions inclusive economic growth. We believe that economic growth is a force for good: it is essential for raising living standards, and it can and should be delivered in line with the path to net zero.

But the default model of ‘growing the pie’ first and redistributing the proceeds later does not work. The benefits of growth do not trickle down, and efforts to reduce high and rising inequalities through taxation and welfare only take us so far. Instead, we need a model of economic growth that unlocks the productivity potential of all people and all places. At CPP we call this model inclusive growth.

CPP exists to make inclusive growth a reality in the UK. We publish research and analysis and put forward practical policy solutions, focusing on **places, productivity and public services** as the key drivers of inclusive growth.

We host the Inclusive Growth Network (IGN) of places leading the delivery of inclusive growth across the UK. The insights and experiences of IGN members are central to our research programme, informing local and national policy.

### Centre for Progressive Policy

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[@CentreProPolicy](https://twitter.com/CentreProPolicy)

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