



WIG

The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors



'Infrastructure' Series

Levelling up infrastructure - unlocking opportunities in living standards

Expert Insight

We were joined by Dave Innes, Head of Economics, at the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, as he discussed the importance of the levelling up agenda. In particular, Dave focused on the vital role that levelling up infrastructure has to play in reducing poverty and unlocking opportunities to improve living standards.

Some of the key areas he discussed were:

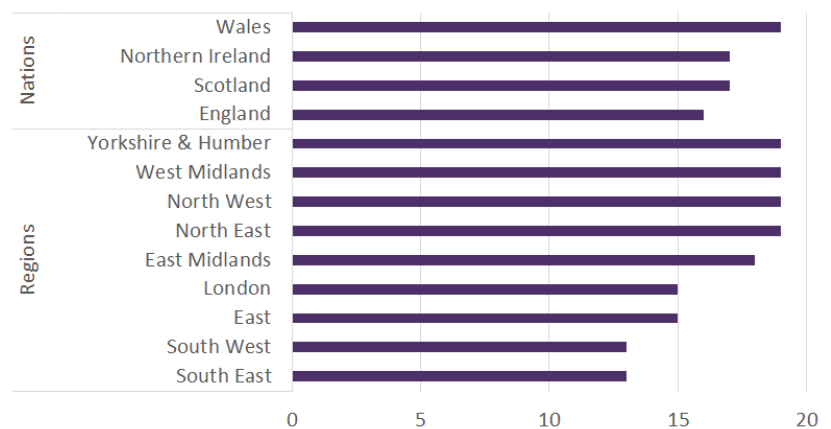
- The importance of the £4.2 billion urban transport fund outlined by government
- The links between productivity, transport and poverty
- The impact of COVID-19 on the levelling up agenda and future public spending



Presentation Spotlight

"After COVID-19, levelling up will still be the single biggest challenge we will face as a country"

Before housing costs poverty rate (%) by nation and region 2016-17 to 2018-19



Our members' questions

Our live cross-sector audience put questions to Dave, some of the big themes included:

- How to encourage people to stay or even relocate to areas which need investment, how to counter the London/South East draw
- The interface between benefits regimes and the required recommendations which were made
- What good skills investment had gone before and could be replicated
- What impact COVID-19 and a change to ways of working may have of the demand for infrastructure moving forward

WIG members can listen to Dave's presentation [here](#)
To see our full programme of webinars, visit www.wig.co.uk