Introduction

Universities are key local institutions providing jobs, boosting local economies, enhancing the local environment and enriching social and cultural life. Through developing skills and talent, research and innovation and knowledge exchange universities provide individual opportunities for success and play a crucial role in supporting economic growth.

Universities work in collaboration with a wide range of organisations including employers, local leaders, colleges, charities and community groups. Partners are essential to enhancing the impact of universities and realising benefits for individuals. The response of universities, with partners, to the COVID-19 emergency has demonstrated both the breadth of university activity but also the value of these partnerships.

Universities and their partners have been increasingly focusing on economic and social recovery, taking practical steps to put their communities on the path to recovery. UniversitiesUK believes that now is the time for universities and their partners to raise their ambitions for the future economic, social and sustainable success of the nations of the UK. We need to identify and take advantage of future opportunities, support key sectors to grow, encourage and invest in enterprise, develop the talent and skills employers need and fundamentally level up opportunities. The Taskforce will seek to engage with a wide range of partners to help realise these ambitions.

Chair: Professor Chris Day, Vice-Chancellor, Newcastle University

Support: Greg Wade, Policy Manager, UniversitiesUK
         Isabella Hughes, Policy Intern, UniversitiesUK

Members:

Dr Diana Beech, Chief Executive Officer, London Higher
Professor George Boyne, Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of Aberdeen
Professor Amanda Broderick, Vice-Chancellor and President, University of East London
Professor Anne Carlisle OBE, Vice-Chancellor, Falmouth University
Professor Shirley Congdon, Vice-Chancellor, University of Bradford
The Task Force will:

- Identify and promote the role of universities in economic and social recovery, especially at the local level
- Identify what works, so that universities and partners can develop and increase their collaboration and impact, enabling us to go further and faster.
- Work with employer bodies, local leaders, sectors and other partners to identify shared aims and ambitions, support future economic growth and levelling up and commit to increased collaboration and partnership through the development of partnership agreements.

For further information about the task force please contact Greg Wade.