

# Modern Industrial Strategy and the heritage sector

# The Heritage Alliance

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The Government has published its 'modern industrial strategy' [in a Green Paper](#), which proposes 'sector deals' to address sector-specific challenges and opportunities. The creative industries, which includes the heritage sector, was one of five specific sector deals announced in the consultation. The paper notes that other sectors may agree deals if they can 'organise themselves behind strong leadership to address shared challenges and opportunities and these could involve addressing regulatory barriers; promoting competition and innovation; and working together to increase exports or commercialise research. The Heritage Alliance has already been approached for discussion with DCMS about how we take this opportunity both to develop a heritage specific sector deal, and embed heritage priorities in other sector deals.

We will be co-ordinating a Heritage Alliance response to the Green Paper and urge members to feed their views into this process as well as [submitting their own responses online](#) before 17 April 2017. We will be in touch shortly with a set of specific questions. If you have any comments in the meantime please email [policy@theheritagealliance.org.uk](mailto:policy@theheritagealliance.org.uk).

As part of this work Sir Peter Bazalgette will conduct an independent review into how the UK's creative industries can 'help underpin our future prosperity'. The Green Paper acknowledges that the creative industries are one of the UK's world leading sectors which have high productivity, competitive advantages at a global level, and growth potential. Although the Green Paper does not explicitly mention heritage, the Alliance will work to ensure that the strategy builds on the heritage sector's world-leading skills in areas from conservation to archaeology and recognises that heritage is a key element in the UK's international soft power agenda and essential to developing the identities of regional cities where the Government seeks to achieve growth.

The Green Paper also recognises the importance of cultural institutions in making places attractive to people and businesses, stating that cultural institutions and regular events can act as a magnet for visitors, promote 'a cluster' [of successful businesses] and help attract talented people to locate there. The Cabinet Office will consider relocating cultural institutions, particularly where cultural assets could be better used and exhibited to support local areas – for example, the Government Art Collection.

The strategy identifies 10 pillars:

- 1. Investing in science, research and innovation** – we must become a more innovative economy and do more to commercialise our world leading science base to drive growth across the UK.
- 2. Developing skills** – the Green Paper opens a discussion on a new system of technical education, including: a radically simplified set of qualifications. Institutes of Technology will be launched later this year.

**3. Upgrading infrastructure** – we must upgrade our standards of performance on digital, energy, transport, water and flood defence infrastructure, and better align central Government infrastructure investment with local growth priorities.

**4. Supporting businesses to start and grow** – we must ensure that businesses across the UK can access the finance and management skills they need to grow; and we must create the right conditions for companies to invest for the long term.

**5. Improving procurement** – we must use strategic Government procurement to drive innovation and enable the development of UK supply chains.

**6. Encouraging trade and inward investment** – Government policy can help boost productivity and growth across our economy, including by increasing competition and helping to bring new ways of doing things to the UK.

**7. Delivering affordable energy and clean growth** – we need to keep costs down for businesses, and secure the economic benefits of the transition to a low-carbon economy.

**8. Cultivating world-leading sectors** – we must build on our areas of competitive advantage, and help new sectors to flourish, in many cases challenging existing institutions and incumbents.

**9. Driving growth across the whole country** – we will create a framework to build on the particular strengths of different places and address factors that hold places back – whether it is investing in key infrastructure projects to encourage growth, increasing skill levels, or backing local innovation strengths. Cultural assets can all have a substantial impact on how particular places grow.

**10. Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places** – we will consider the best structures to support people, industries and places. In some places and sectors there may be missing institutions which we could create, or existing ones we could strengthen, be they local civic or educational institutions, trade associations or financial networks

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