



FUTURE FRONTIERS

A NEW TECH MANIFESTO FOR LONDON



APRIL 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPERCHARGE LONDON'S TECH ECOSYSTEM

This Manifesto outlines eight policy recommendations to secure London's future as a world-leading international tech hub.

It acknowledges the Mayor's 'Plan for London', identifying his key pledges which will support innovation in the capital, and offers new recommendations where greater collaboration with the private sector would enable the Mayor to instil more wider-reaching, longer-lasting change.

01 DEVELOP AND REVITALISE LONDON'S DIGITAL TALENT

Invest in upskilling and reskilling programmes to equip London's workforce with the digital skills needed to support the economy of the next decade and beyond. The Mayor's pledge to provide skills training to unemployed or low-income Londoners over 19 is encouraging, but a more wide-reaching programme of upskilling and reskilling is needed to ensure that London possesses the digital talent needed for the economy of tomorrow.

Ensure that digital literacy is placed at the heart of London's education system, particularly within London's world-leading universities.

Expand the Mayor's pledge to equip Londoners to get online with free basic digital courses to also include equipping the next generation with the skills needed to navigate a tech environment centred around Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models (LLMs).

Ensure London is an attractive place for overseas tech talent to come and work through immigration exemptions including the expansion of the Skilled Worker visa programme.

Establish mentorship programmes to ensure that seasoned professionals are able to pass their experience down to the next generation of innovators and disruptors.

02 SUPPORT A BALANCED AND EFFECTIVE REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

Ensure the CMA and CFA are supported in creating a regulatory environment where innovators and startups can flourish, while prioritising the security of private information against the potentially dangerous elements within new technologies.

Create regulatory sandboxes for innovators to test new technologies and ensure that the framework favours high-potential scaleups and startups.

Build a regulatory framework that is nimble and agile enough to react and adjust in line with a rapidly accelerating tech ecosystem, strengthening the Mayor's pledge to build on London's economic recovery and support innovators to grow.



03 BOLSTER LONDON'S WORLD-LEADING CLEANTECH SECTOR

Shine a spotlight on London's multi-billion pound cleantech sector, positioning it at the forefront of the UK's efforts to address the climate emergency and the creation of thousands of new jobs. This builds on Sadiq Khan's pledge for a greener London, cementing the position of tech at the heart of a more sustainable future for the capital.

Develop a new generation of cleantech enthusiasts by implementing forward-thinking educational programmes which inspire young people to enter the industry and develop the necessary green skills.

Support existing green technology and clean air initiatives in making London the world's most environmentally friendly city.

04 MAKE LONDON MARKETS A MORE ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO LIST

Strengthen London's proposition as a key listings destination by adopting and developing pro-business public market initiatives focused particularly on encouraging businesses founded and based in the UK to list, and ultimately scale and grow, at home.

Create an environment that favours entrepreneurs behind small businesses and scaleups, allowing them access to better funding opportunities and removing needless bureaucracy.

Support the rapid implementation of the Mansion House Compact announced by the Chancellor to provide greater access to billions of pounds of patient capital.

05 HARNESS LONDON'S CAPABILITIES WITH EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

Utilise London's wealth of expertise by working with groups such as the Chips Coalition and leading industry groups to develop strategies which safeguard London's place as a global leader in research and development of transformational technologies such as AI, Chips and Quantum.

Encourage collaboration between academia and industry through knowledge-sharing initiatives and the growth of innovation hubs and clusters.

Promote existing initiatives like the London Data Charter and the Smart London agenda as well as ensure the public and private sectors work in tandem in implementing these learnings to guarantee best practice across the capital and beyond.



06 IMPROVE TECH SECTOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Back initiatives to encourage people from non-technical backgrounds to pursue roles in tech and encourage greater representation of women, people of colour and people with disabilities in the sector.

Champion those organisations working to increase access to highly skilled jobs, creating skills bootcamps and building pathways into the tech roles of the future.

Implement recruitment programmes which target underrepresented groups and recruit talent from underrepresented areas.

Promote the development of affordable housing to bolster the recruitment, retention and upskilling of skilled talent from lower income communities.

Ensure that hard-working, ambitious individuals are able to access programmes which equip them with the skills and access to funding to increase productivity and drive Britain's workforce forwards.

07 CONNECT LONDON WITH OTHER TECH HUBS - BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL

Champion London's credentials as a truly global hub with connections in all major tech ecosystems across every continent, making London the world's capital city.

Take advantage of post-Brexit opportunities for enhanced engagement with the rest of the world, facilitating trade missions and exchange programs with the world's brightest and best.

Use London's impressive roster of major tech events, such as London Tech Week, London Data Week and, to connect startups and investors with other UK tech hubs.

08 BUILD WORLD-BEATING 5G AND ULTRA-FAST FAST FIBRE NETWORKS

Bolster London's 'smart' credentials by delivering super-fast broadband across the city, including on all public transport networks, both overground and underground, by the Mayor's target date of the end of 2025.

Make London the best-connected city in the world, with infrastructure that supports 5G networks so that all Londoners have access to ultra-fast connectivity. The Mayor's pledge to invest in connectivity infrastructure in London's busiest places is undoubtedly a vital step - however, with a growing population and a thriving economy beyond Zone One, this will be needed throughout the capital.

Ensure that this infrastructure is available across London, particularly in its traditionally underserved communities, through the continued funding for 'Connected London' scheme, guaranteeing equitable data infrastructure for all.

