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PRESS RELEASE
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INVESTING FOR PROSPERITY: A manifesto for growth

The London School of Economics has announced the publication of a new book titled ‘Investing for Prosperity: A Manifesto for Growth’, by its Growth Commission. The book, edited by Professors Tim Besley and John Van Reenen, will be published this week - review copies are available.

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Why is economic growth such a rare and elusive butterfly in the UK garden? What institutions and policies are needed to sustain UK economic growth in the dynamic global economy of the twenty-first century?

After years of inadequate investment in skills, infrastructure and innovation, there are longstanding structural weaknesses in the economy, all rooted in a failure to achieve stable planning, strategic vision and a political consensus on the right policy framework to support growth. This must change if we are to meet our current challenges and others that may arise in the future.

Despite the current recession gloom, the UK has many assets that can be mobilised to its advantage. It has strong rule of law, generally competitive product markets, flexible labour markets and a world-class university system. It has strengths in many key sectors, with cutting-edge firms in both manufacturing and services. These and other assets helped to reverse the UK’s relative economic decline over the century before 1980.

This book, based on the work of the LSE Growth Commission and greatly expanding upon its first published report, argues that the UK should build on these strengths and proposes how we can address the inadequate institutional structures that have deterred long-term investment to support our future prosperity.

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The Commissioners and contributors also include: Philippe Aghion, Lord John Browne, Francesco Caselli, Sir Richard Lambert, Rachel Lomax, Christopher Pissarides, Lord Nicholas Stern, Nitika Bagaria, Novella Bottini, Miguel Coelho, Joao Paulo Pessoa, Isabelle Roland and Jennifer Kao.

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Press coverage of the Growth Commission’s first report includes:

...It could also do worse than pinch a few ideas from the LSE's excellent Growth Commission report, and promise to depoliticise national infrastructure decisions and beef up education for poorer kids. All of these would help to build a more solid, sustainable business model. The Observer, 25 August 2013

...It is tempting to think Britain is well past its best...But a proposal-packed new report compiled by a panel of academics, policymakers and business experts is more optimistic. The Economist, 1 February 2013
The London School of Economics Growth Commission, a panel of academics, former government officials and business leaders, has just published a report on how to improve Britain’s economic performance...a notable piece of work that deserves to be widely read, and not just in Britain. Bloomberg, 5 February 2013.

LSE Growth Commission stressed that Britain approaches the future with very considerable advantages, and an economy that is far from broken. Sunday Times, 3 February 2013

Britain urgently needs new institutions to ensure vital infrastructure projects are not derailed by political indecision if the country is to prosper in the future, the LSE has demanded... Daily Telegraph, 31 January 2013

Two things are striking about yesterday’s report of the LSE Growth Commission. The first is the very strong implication of its conclusions that the path to future prosperity is decidedly one involving, indeed demanding, government involvement in the economy rather than the state stepping back. The second is what its prescription for long-term economic growth says about how we should get the UK out of its current economic malaise. New Statesman, 1st February 2013

The London School of Economics Growth Commission, made up of high-profile academics, former officials and business leaders, found that insufficient investment – from both the private and public sector – was Britain’s “fundamental problem” and needed to be rectified to ensure a strong economic outlook over the next 50 years. Financial Times January 31st 2013

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Further information:

The LSE Growth Commission publication – Investing for Prosperity: A Manifesto for Growth – was prepared in partnership with the Institute for Government, which provided expertise and advice on issues relating to the machinery of government.

The LSE Growth Commission received funding from the Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC).

The views expressed in the LSE Growth Commission book are those of the Commissioners. They do not necessarily reflect the views of the LSE, the Institute for Government or any of the other institutions or individuals mentioned above.

The book is published by the London School of Economics and Political Science working in association with London Publishing Partnership.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of the book, details are available HERE.


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