

## **Appendix A: Using economic development to improve health inequality report recommendations**

The research report recommends the government's priorities should be six-fold:

- Broadening the focus of economic policy beyond GDP to promote more inclusive and socially cohesive policies at a national level.
- Ensuring that the COVID-19 response measures do not lead to a widening of the attainment gap in educational outcomes, which could exacerbate existing inequalities and hold individuals and communities back in the future.
- Investing in lifelong education and skills development. Given the pandemic's unequal impact on jobs and workers, this should mean focused investment in employment support and career guidance for young people entering the workforce, those in sectors facing the most financial instability and those who may need to change jobs due to being at higher risk of complications from COVID-19.
- Introducing local and regional measures of equitable and sustainable economic development against which to assess progress in 'levelling up' opportunities across the country and between socioeconomic groups.
- Targeting growth incentives towards sectors that contribute to sustainable development and growth in high-quality jobs and, in parallel, promoting better quality of jobs for workers in low-paid and insecure roles.
- Devolving more investment funding for cities and local authorities, so that local strategic investments are fully informed by local context and investing in the capability and capacity of local enterprise partnerships to create inclusive economies.