

Presentation to Global CEOs  
September 2025  
Landmark Hotel

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London: my favourite  
city

Because it is where my family  
is!

And where my daughter got  
married last weekend.



# London 1843

Roman London: city and roads

1666 Fire of London

Westminster

The Royal Parks

The great estates

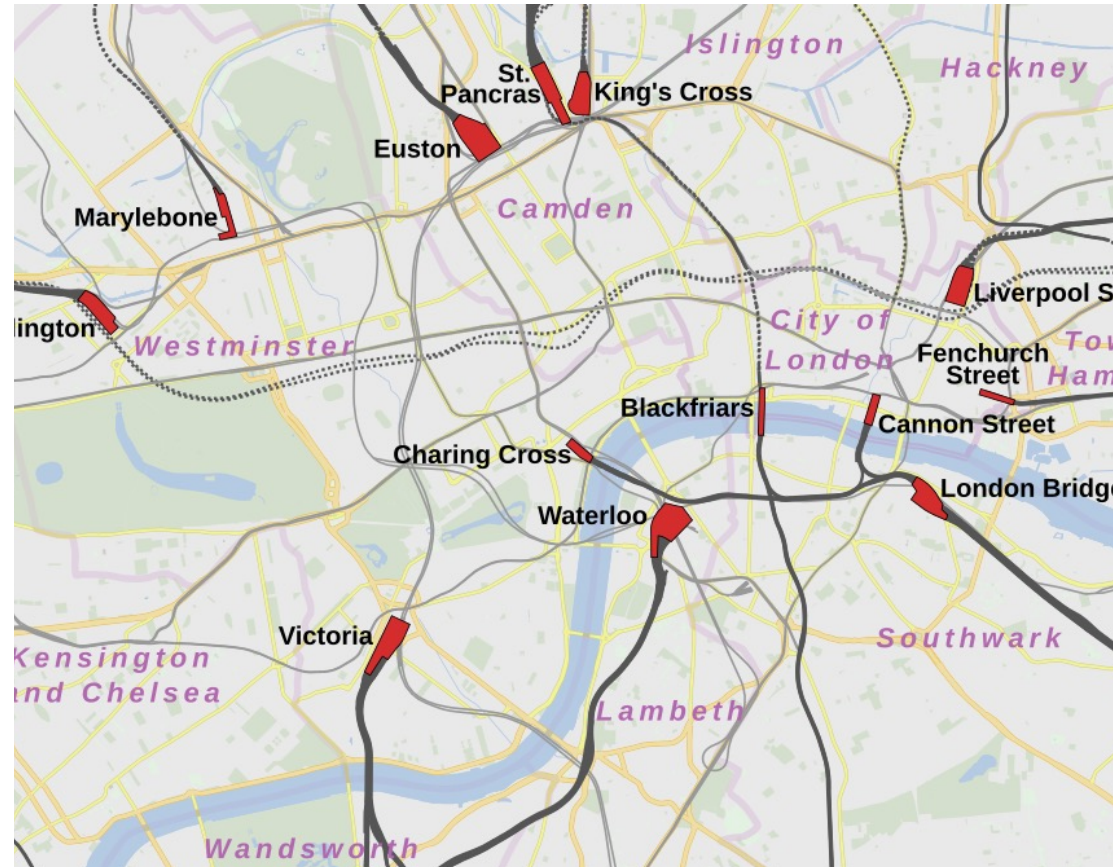


# The Railways

Terminus stations

Underground

Crossrail



# Landmark Hotel

A Victorian Railway hotel

Originally had a cycle track on the roof!



# Building not to miss

The Monument to the Great Fire

Paid for by CEOs

Took 6 years to build

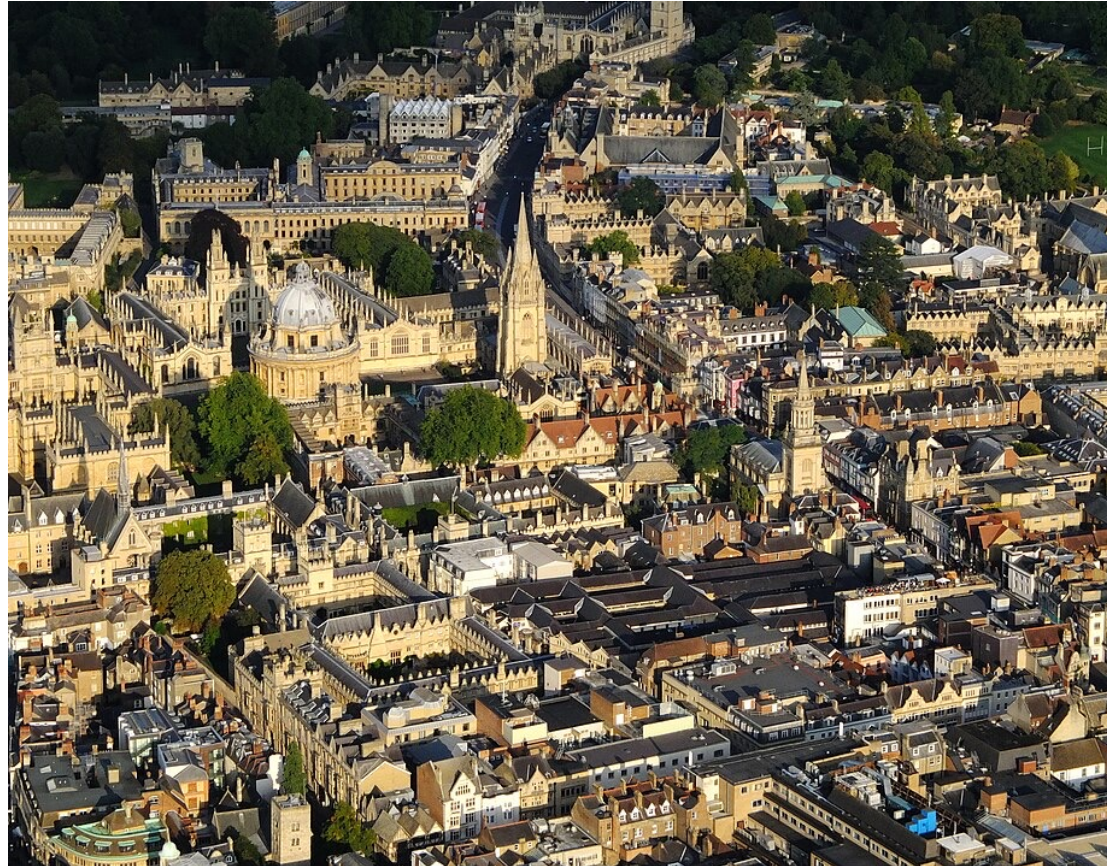
311 Steps to the top



# Oxford

More than 500 years to build

All done without a regulatory  
planning system



# If in Oxford – visit Blenheim Palace

The glorious country houses – and  
gardens – of England

Gift of a grateful nation to the Duke  
of Marlborough 1705

Birth place of Winston Churchill



# The UK Political System

No written constitution

Since the 1600s Parliament has been sovereign

Law and case law

All sub-national authorities are 'creatures of statute'



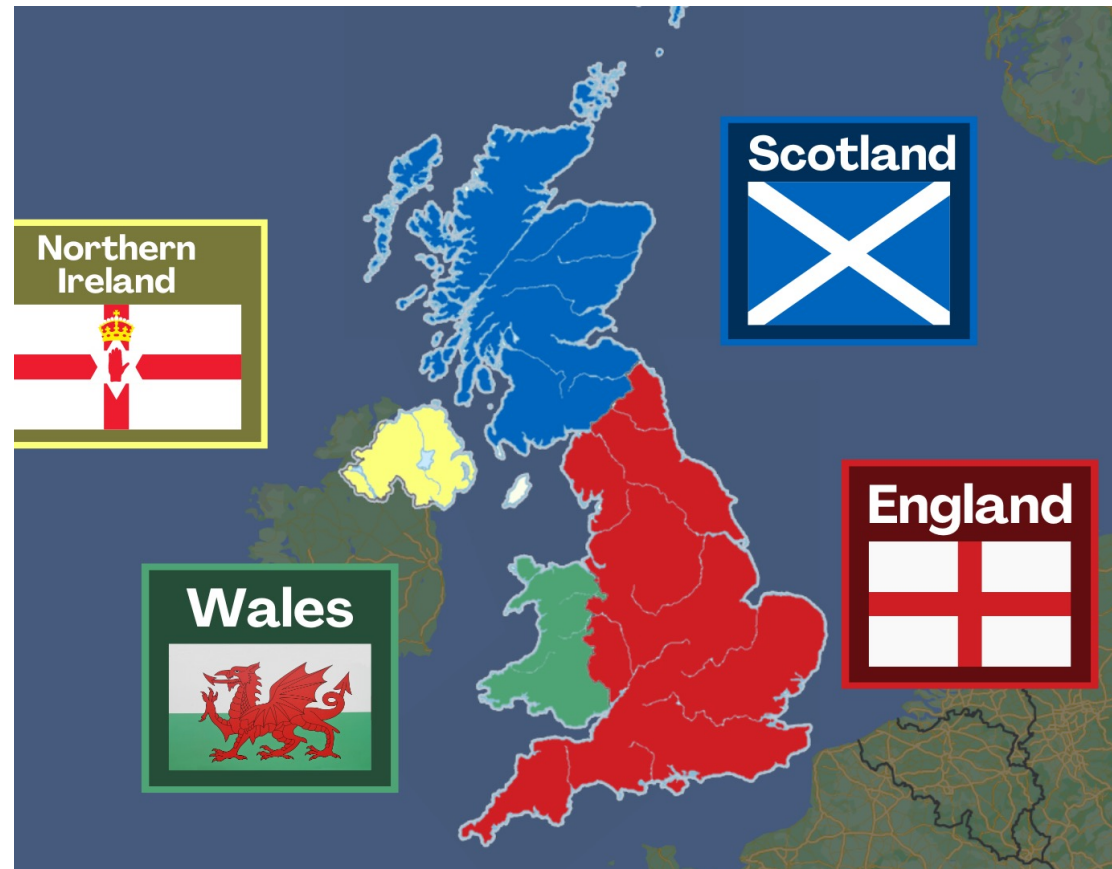
# 4 Nations

Different governance

Different powers

Legislation by the 1997 Labour government – Tony Blair

Referendums to set them up



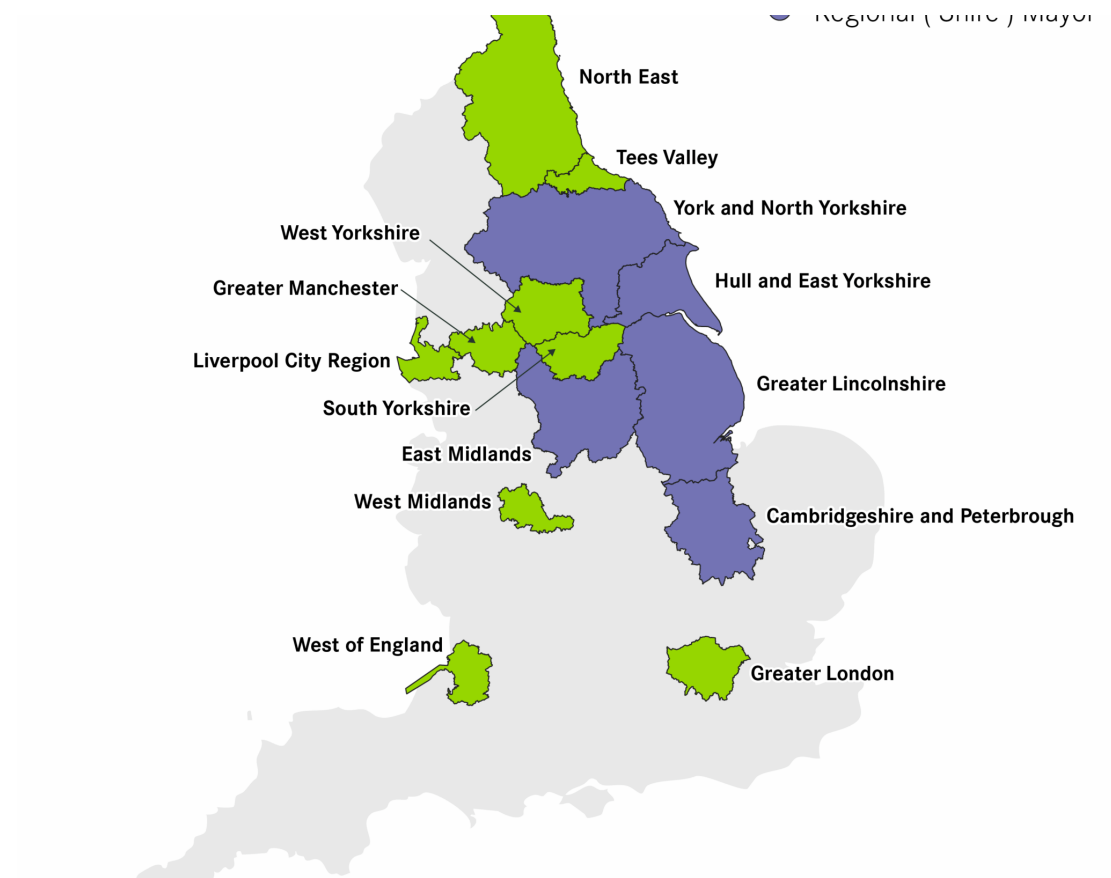
# Mayors

Started with London under Blair

Labour and Conservative governments have increased the number of Mayors

Referendums to set them up

Variable powers



# Local authorities

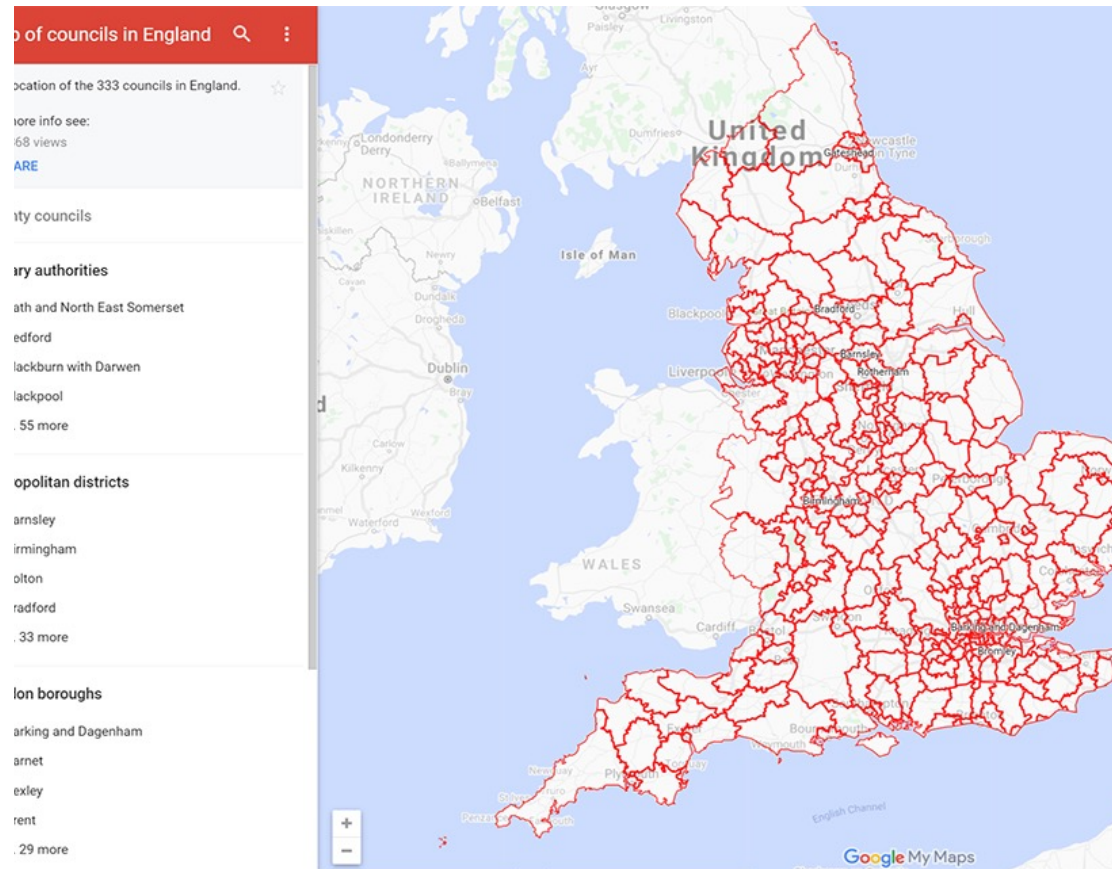
Unitary councils (62)

County councils (29)

London boroughs (32)

District councils (164)

Parish councils (c10,000)



# UK Politicians

Prime minister

Cabinet (22)

Government departments (44)

Government ministers (140)

650 MPs (376 = majority)



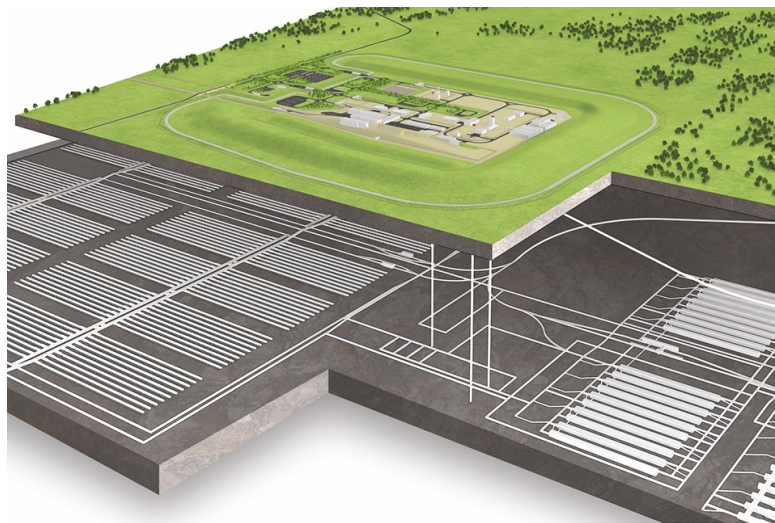
# Infrastructure

High speed rail – Crossrail – Nuclear

Cost

Capacity

Controversy



# Housing

UK / China very different situations

UK housing crisis: lack of homes,  
affordability, location

China: urbanisation, boom and bust



Oxford

Schwarzman philanthropy

Life and Mind JV

Ellison Institute

Private capital

