

with growth productivity

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Sandie in 60s and today. She tells leaders to reward pensioners

Later-life manifesto

- **Protect the pensions triple lock**
- **Tackle the housing crisis by building more retirement properties, making it easier for pensioners to move out of family homes which would be put on the market for younger people.**
- **Increase investment in local bus and rail services and ensure they are suitable for the elderly.**



- **A National Social Care Service integrated with the National Health Service that remains free at the point of delivery.**
- **End bank branch closures but also help older people access bank services online.**

Picture: GETTY

increasing taxes and to show that as Conservatives, we believe people deserve to keep more of their own money" as "people don't go out to work just to give money to the Government".

A former minister also urged Mr Hunt not to put off tax cuts, saying: "Nobody wants jam tomorrow. It is not very palatable."

John Longworth, who chairs the Independent Business Network, pressed for action, saying: "Businesses up and down the country are crying out for an enterprise and growth environment."

He called for reversals to corporation tax, a rise in the small business VAT threshold to £250,000

and a cut to stamp duty to buoy up the housing market.

Mr Longworth also suggested that personal tax cuts could be pursued in the Spring Budget.

But some "red wall" Conservatives are convinced the Treasury has more elbow room than it expected and can afford to offer tax cuts that go beyond adjusting inheritance tax and helping wealthy earners.

They see the Autumn Statement as a test of whether the party leadership is more focused on wooing voters in the more affluent south of England than on boosting the fortunes of workers in less prosperous regions.

A Tory said: "The cat is out of the bag – there is a lot more

'Jeremy Hunt could protect millions of jobs and give businesses across the land a shot in the arm this week by finally scrapping business rates'

CITY EDITOR
GEOFF HO,
FINANCIAL
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money for tax cuts than expected. The choice of where they fall will give away the Government's new strategy.

"If the flagship announcements are inheritance tax and higher rate thresholds, we'll know Rishi and Hunt intend to sell us down the river to pursue their southern strategy."

James Vitali of the Policy Exchange think tank said that any announcements this week should "not undermine the Government's efforts to grip inflation" and "ought to support younger working families first and foremost".

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Families' frugal Christmas

THE cost-of-living crisis has forced families to slash their spending as Christmas nears. Exclusive polling by WeThink found 35 per cent are cutting back "significantly", while 38 per cent make minor savings.

Leading charities also warn of the difficulties people now face. Caroline Abrahams, of Age UK, says millions of older people cannot afford "a care-free Christmas". And Lorna Fallon, of Oxfam, said "a third of shoppers will give second-hand presents".

Thomas Cave, of The Children's Society, said: "We need the Government to act to bring prices down and tackle child poverty."

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By Chancellor Jeremy Hunt

'We'll unlock business investment to generate the wealth we need... across the whole UK'

THE PRIME Minister made halving inflation our top priority. Last week – we delivered.

Inflation works like a tax – eroding the power of the pound in your pocket, reducing the value of your savings and pushing up mortgage costs through the rise in interest rates that follow.

Now we need to turn to growth, which is exactly what my Autumn Statement this week is all about.

Not long ago everyone thought Britain would be in recession. Not only are they wrong, the EU's economy is shrinking while Britain's is not. This week, we go further to boost Britain.

First, we need to make sure those who can work do work. I've already announced a new Back to Work Plan to get over a million people into work, with tough new sanctions for those who refuse a job. As well as £4.5 billion for British manufacturing so the UK can lead the world with skilled, higher-paid jobs in new industries built to last.

Secondly, our public services also need to be able to deliver more with what they have so we can keep taxes down. That's why we will cut the time public servants spend on admin and use AI to boost delivery – making more time for teachers to teach our kids, for nurses to treat us when we're sick and for police to keep us safe.

And I also have ambitious plans to change the planning system – ending delays for businesses who want to grow – alongside important reform to make sure our electric grid can expand to help secure our energy supply and keep down people's bills.

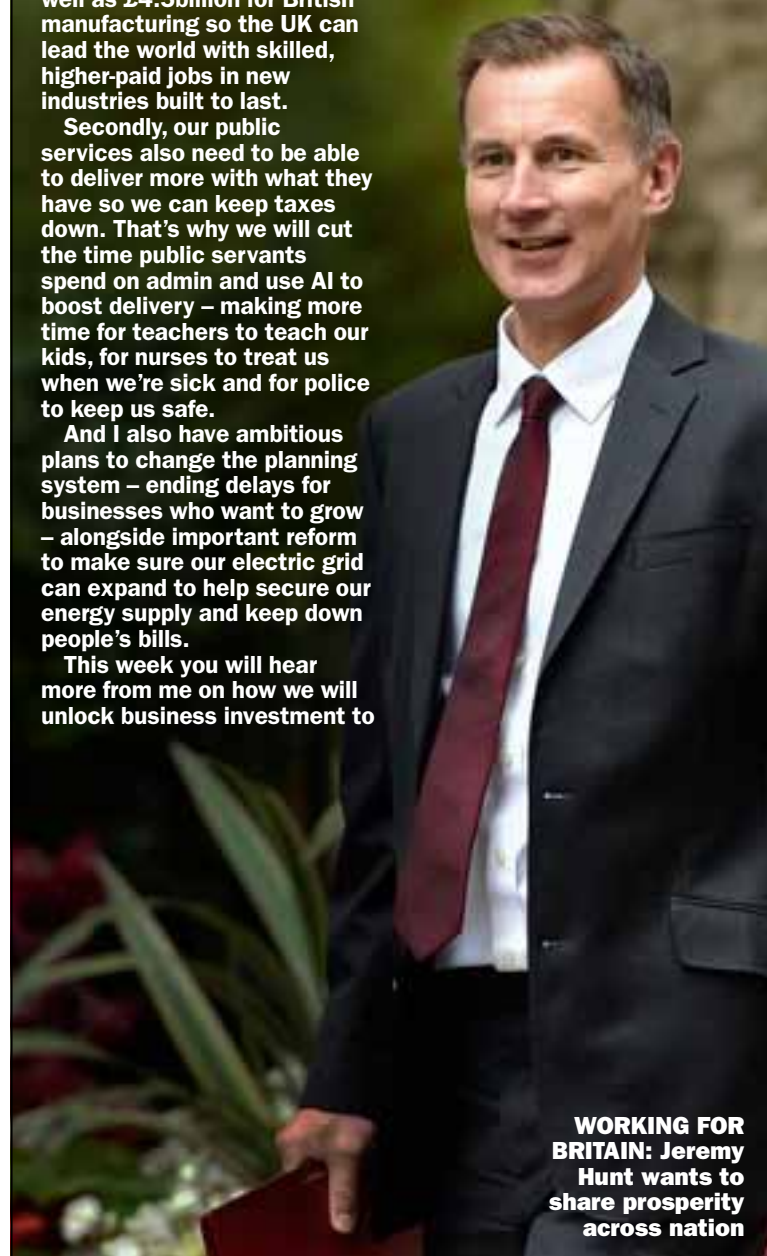
This week you will hear more from me on how we will unlock business investment to

generate the wealth our country needs.

And a boost for business means more jobs for people across the country, with better opportunities. I will commit again to making sure it's not just southern-centric but that we spread this prosperity across the UK.

But I will also be responsible with the nation's cheque book – sticking to the Prime Minister's pledge to reduce debt so we can cut our interest payments and spend more of that money on public services.

We've been sticking to our careful plan to bring down inflation. All the while, we've been plotting how we get the UK growing. Now, I'm betting on Britain to be a country that builds on what it does well and becomes the best at it – from our renowned creative industries to becoming a science superpower.



WORKING FOR
BRITAIN: Jeremy
Hunt wants to
share prosperity
across nation