

FROM THE COUNCIL TO THE COMMONS

MARCH 2026

Chamber

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**Social Media Ban
for Under 16s:
The wrong reform or
too good to miss?**

**Can
Manchesterism
Get Britain
Growing?**

**Wales: Leaders
Election Messages**



Miles Bennington
Editor

While Westminster may not feel very functional at the moment, this edition of *Chamber UK* shows that politics is alive and kicking outside the bubble. This edition is focused on local and devolved elections, AI and economic growth, and social media regulation.

This quarter, we hear from the First Ministers of both Scotland and Wales, John Swinney and Baroness Eluned Morgan of Ely, previewing their final messages for the devolved assembly elections in May. We also have our Politics UK prediction of the results and insight from Sir John Curtice on what to look for in May.

Elsewhere, with Reform and the Greens riding high in the polls, we hear from Linden Kemkaran, Reform Leader of Kent County Council, one year on from her own victory, explaining the complexities of leading a large local authority.

Outside, and perhaps even inside, Westminster, prospects for the regulation of social media and AI are heating up. In this edition, we have Andy Burrows, CEO of the Molly Rose Foundation, arguing against a blanket ban on social media for under-16s, and Dr Sanjiv Nichani OBE, a Consultant paediatrician, arguing in favour. Chris Sherwood, CEO of the NSPCC, highlights the dangers of AI-generated child sexual abuse material, and Jim Steyer, founder of Common Sense Media, shines a light on California's efforts to regulate AI.

Of course, before it can be regulated, AI must first be built. To that end, we have outputs from our conferences in the North West and South East, where advances of the AI economy and the skills to deploy it were discussed by leading experts convened by UKAI.

If you are looking for economic growth, Cory Doctorow, author of *Enshittification* sets out how Trump's tariffs and Brexit have handed the Government an unconventional growth opportunity, if only they would seize it.

Finally, we have an article on Manchesterism from Mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, setting out Manchester's success and a different model of governance, if that is something anyone is looking for. ©



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