

CONSULTATION DRAFT



Cheshire and Warrington:

Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Strategy Executive Summary

May 2025



Executive Summary

Cheshire and Warrington: Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Strategy

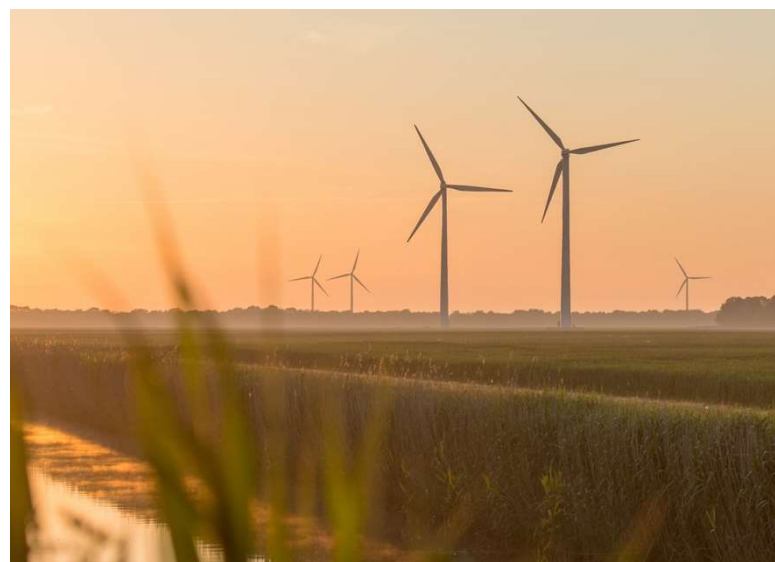
Cheshire and Warrington's vision is to be the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive, and fastest-growing place in the UK by 2045. This vision builds upon our region's long-standing economic strengths, with levels of productivity outperforming the whole of the rest of the North West as well as being consistently higher than the national average. With nearly one million residents and over 41,000 businesses across diverse, high-growth sectors - including energy, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing - we are well-positioned to achieve this ambition.

We recognise that amid our strengths there are real challenges that need to be addressed if we are to be successful in achieving the vision. For example, over 22% of our children and young people grow up in poverty, impairing life chances, and there are large differences in life expectancy between the most and least deprived parts of the

subregion. Public transport connections can also be poor, especially in rural areas, affecting access to employment and other services. The Strategy acknowledges that to make real progress by 2045, we will need to embrace new and innovative thinking, work differently, and respond to the rapidly changing world around us.

To help us rise to meet these challenges and opportunities, we will build on our strong foundation of partnership, collaboration and co-creation across business, public and community sectors. This includes work such as our Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission, our shared evidence base, external partnerships, and a commitment to community and business led approaches.

This Strategy sets out how we will achieve our vision, identifying key strategic themes and the transformational opportunities we will exploit.





Delivering our Vision: Growing

Our ambition is to have the highest rate of economic and productivity growth in the North. To achieve this, we will build on the area's considerable sector strengths, unlock growth from decarbonisation and the transition to clean energy, and create vibrant places where people want to live and work.

This means:

- building on the recent announcement that the Hynet industrial decarbonisation project is ready to start on site, we will exploit the major economic opportunities available to C&W from the world's move to a zero carbon future.
- strengthening the key science and innovation clusters within the Cheshire Science Corridor such as energy and life sciences by creating greater links between them to create an internationally significant innovation eco-system
- supporting our other significant sectors, including manufacturing; business and finance; and logistics and distribution
- ensuring Cheshire and Warrington is a great place to live, work, visit, invest and study
- working with employers, skills providers and others to make sure our workforce can access the training and development they need to get good, well paid jobs in the industries of the future

Delivering our Vision: Sustainability

Our ambition is to achieve net zero emissions, whilst seizing the resulting economic opportunities. We will enable public, private and community sectors to reduce carbon emissions, change to cleaner sources of energy, and invest in nature, improving quality of life and creating social and economic benefits and resilience. That means:

- supporting Hynet to reduce carbon emissions by 4.5 million tonnes a year to 2030, and 10m tonnes per year after this, and supporting our industrial cluster to reach net zero emissions by 2040
- supporting our rural areas to decarbonise by focussing on the importance of our natural landscape in making C&W an attractive, healthy and climate adapted place to live and work
- supporting our agricultural sector and our world class dairy industry to become a world leader in net zero farming
- supporting all businesses in C&W to decarbonise their operations, ensuring that our workforce has the skills they need to do this
- Making sure that new homes in C&W are built to modern efficient low carbon standards and that we encourage, support and enable the transition of existing homes to low carbon standards. In so doing we will also tackle fuel poverty in C&W by ensuring that everyone in rural and urban areas has access to well insulated, warm homes that are cheaper to heat
- building a genuinely circular economy making the best use of our resources
- facing up to the challenges of removing carbon from all forms of transport



all areas especially outside urban centres

Delivering our Vision: Enabling Infrastructure

Our ambition is to build the capacity to deliver growth sustainably and inclusively. To achieve this, we will secure the enabling infrastructure to improve our transport, digital fibre and utility connectivity and resilience, and build diverse and affordable homes where they are needed. This means:

- ensuring we have the right homes in the right places
- working with others to ensure C&W has the strategic transport connections that we need for passengers and freight
- ensuring there is effective transport connectivity within Cheshire and Warrington
- providing the right digital connectivity and addressing gaps

Delivering our Vision: Inclusive and Healthy

Our ambition is to connect everyone with opportunities and ensure the economy helps to deliver better health outcomes. We aim to lift all of our communities out of poverty and enable everyone to reach their potential. To achieve this, we will ensure that people from all backgrounds and areas can develop the aspirations, skills, knowledge and connections they need to take advantage of the new opportunities, in partnership with businesses.

This means:

- An economy that works for everyone:- in areas of relative economic deprivation, those with health conditions, other protected characteristics and in rural areas
- Connecting everyone to employment via skills and work readiness, careers education and supported pathways, work with the third sector and DWP, apprenticeships and in-work skills, and support to every young person
- Fair employment for everyone that supports a good quality of life
- Support the development and improvement of our urban and other centres as locations for affordable housing and economic growth, maintaining easy access to green spaces
- Public transport, active travel and digital connectivity to jobs and local services in



- reinforcing utilities such as electricity grid and water so that they support the delivery of our plans

In summary

This Strategy sets out a bold, ambitious vision for our sub-region which has the potential to transform our economy, promoting and creating the conditions for fast growth delivered by our businesses, reducing inequalities, and improving the lives and fortunes of all of our residents, leaving no-one behind.

We are building on extensive engagement with businesses, local authorities, and community partners and we have collectively set out a number of ambitious goals to enable us to focus on transformational change. With the right partnerships in place we can tackle the challenges facing our places, residents and businesses, and build on the exciting opportunities we have identified to become the most sustainable, inclusive, healthy, and fastest growing economy in the UK by 2045.

