



Gateway to the Northern Powerhouse

Cheshire & Warrington Devolution - A Growth Deal Bid Summary

Cheshire and Warrington

Cheshire and Warrington is one of the most successful economies in the country.

It is the strongest performing economy in the North of England, and amongst the strongest in the UK. It is home to a highly skilled workforce, with employment rates significantly above regional and national averages, offers high quality housing, excellent schools, an outstanding natural environment, culture and heritage assets and is the location for as many international corporate HQs as Liverpool and Manchester. It is also a centre of excellence in financial services, energy, science and logistics.

Devolution Growth Deal Bid

The Growth Deal Bid demonstrates how we can build on the area's success and make a significant contribution to the Northern Powerhouse. It outlines how by 2040 Cheshire and Warrington will deliver:

- A £50 billion economy, adding £27 billion per annum to our GVA
- 127,000 new jobs
- 139,000 new homes
- Increased GVA per head to 120% of the national average
- Real public service efficiencies and transformation
- Reduced demands on public services
- Greater fiscal independence to ensure funding for our services is sustainable

Realising Our Ambitions

In realising our ambitions for Cheshire and Warrington, three interconnecting spatial proposals will increase and accelerate our growth and enhance our economic impact in the UK:

1. Mersey Dee Economic Axis

Straddling the Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales border, the Mersey Dee Economic Axis is an area of unrivalled economic activity, a region of leading innovation and advanced manufacturing with a global services centre at its heart with a GVA of £17 billion per annum. By prioritising key infrastructure schemes that straddle the border together with a number of growth employment sites in Chester, Ellesmere Port, North East Wales and Wirral there are opportunities to bring forward over 700 hectares of employment land, realise 1 million square feet of prime city centre commercial space and deliver 54,000 new jobs and 41,000 new homes by 2040.

2. Warrington New City

Warrington is already one of the most dynamic and fastest growing urban economies in the UK. It will deliver 26,000 new homes and 55,000 jobs across the economic hinterland coupled with a financially self-sustaining 'city' with no call for any additional funding from Government. Warrington's connectivity will be reinforced in the future as it sits at the intersection of HS2/West Coast Mainline and HS3 (TransNorth Rail).

3. Northern Gateway Development Zone

Building on a new HS2 Hub Station coming to Crewe and the area's success in science, engineering, rail and automotive, our objective is the creation of a constellation new City through the expansion and linkage of the cluster of towns and villages in mid-Cheshire with an expanded Crewe at its heart. Across this area as a whole there is the potential to deliver 100,000 new jobs and over 100,000 new homes.

Priority Themes

If we are to realise our ambitions we need to focus on reducing demand on public services, enhancing productivity and driving growth with:

- **Excellent Transport and Digital Connectivity**
Ensuring we have the transport and digital connectivity we need to support an economy that will be more than twice its current size.
- **A Skilled Workforce**
To re-shape our education and skills sector to provide the skilled workforce and talent that will increase business productivity, attract new businesses to the area and meet employer demands.
- **The Best Business Locations**
Providing some of the best new business locations and sites in the UK to enable business growth and investment, with at least one new Enterprise Zone as our flagship. We will also develop our own Cheshire and Warrington Enterprise Areas and Local Development Order areas, giving greater impetus and support to our strategic sites.
- **A Business-Focused Culture**
To become the easiest place in the UK in which to invest and do business, where business leaders are able to quickly access easy to understand, well co-ordinated advice.
- **Increased Innovation**
Maximise the full benefits and opportunities of our world class innovation assets across all aspects of energy and science and increase collaboration.
- **More Homes**
To provide high quality, market facing housing offering choice to attract and retain the skilled and diverse workforce required by employers and our growing economy.
- **Getting People into Work**
To implement a whole system approach to address entrenched worklessness and underlying needs of those families and individuals with multiple complex needs.
- **Integrated Public Services**
To scale up our One Public Estate 'Pilots' to transform and integrate local public services by developing a network of integrated Public Service Hubs across the sub-region.
- **Better Organised Health and Care Services**
We are proposing genuine transformation of commissioning and provider services. Including a potential change in the role, functions and geography of social care and health commissioning, supported by new funding and contracting models that support early intervention and prevention.
- **A Great Place to Live and Work**
Maximising our strengths and unique qualities to drive growth and economic success, and delivering key projects that will support place distinctiveness and growth.

Our Offer

To deliver our objectives and achieve our ambitions, we will establish:

- **A Combined Authority for Cheshire and Warrington** to deliver our growth agenda comprising the leaders from Cheshire West and Chester, Cheshire East and Warrington Borough Council, and the Cheshire and Warrington Enterprise Partnership.
- **A Public Assets Investment Board** to manage and maximise the value of all publicly owned assets in the sub-region.
- **A Housing and Employment Investment Fund** to provide enabling capital finance for site development, stimulate development and accelerate housing and jobs growth on strategic sites through a recycling and revolving fund.
- **A Northern Gateway Development Zone Development Corporation** to provide a vehicle with the requisite powers to develop and deliver the constellation new town.
- **A strengthened Mersey Dee Alliance** offering full collaboration on priority areas of economic activity and alignment of cross border activity.
- **Reinforce local private sector/public sector partnership delivery** for the Warrington New City development programme and commit income streams generated from the development of New City to provide the necessary infrastructure to enable this growth.
- **Integrated transport management** to plan, commission and deliver a joined up programme of investment.
- **A sub-regional spatial planning approach** to guide future land use and strategic site designations.
- **A Business Growth 'super' hub** to provide the complete package of responsive support that businesses need.
- **A Skills and Training Board** offering an employer-led, locally flexible and adaptive skills and training framework to meet business needs.
- **A fully integrated complex dependency programme** with a particular focus on worklessness and tackling underlying issues.
- **Further work with health and social care partners** to offer joint health and social care transformation.

Asks of Government

To deliver our plans, we are calling for:

- Government owned land to be managed by the Public Assets Investment Board alongside land owned by local authorities.
- Agreement that the value added to Government owned land by additional growth in Cheshire and Warrington is recycled into the revolving investment fund.
- Government to recognise, support and work with us to deliver our spatial growth hubs – Mersey Dee Economic Axis, Warrington New City, Northern Gateway Development Zone.
- Agreement to establish the Northern Gateway Development Zone Urban Development Corporation with the necessary powers to achieve its growth proposition.
- Retention of 100% of additional business rates generated by growth to support further investment into our strategic spatial growth hubs, their management, site development, skills provision and business support.
- Commitment from agencies including Network Rail and Highways England to deliver the strategic transport network needed to support our much larger economy.
- Welsh and English Governments to work closely with us to ensure that policy, funding and legislation supports strategic cross-border projects.
- Devolution of business support functions, including a new relationship with UKTI to enable our businesses to take full advantage of international trade and exporting.
- Work with us to co-design local skills provision and a training framework to support our economic growth priorities.
- Establish a new payment by results mechanism to incentivise action for pre and post work programme clients – to ensure the right incentives are in place to support hardest to help individuals back into work and be less dependent on public services.
- Support to deliver transformation of health commissioning and provider services.

Conclusion

This is an ambitious programme of growth and reform that will make a significant and early contribution to the success of the Northern Powerhouse, the Midlands Engine for Growth and the UK economy as a whole, being made possible by a new level of co-operation between the local authorities and the LEP the three Leaders and the Chair of the LEP are therefore keen to work with Government to make it happen.

