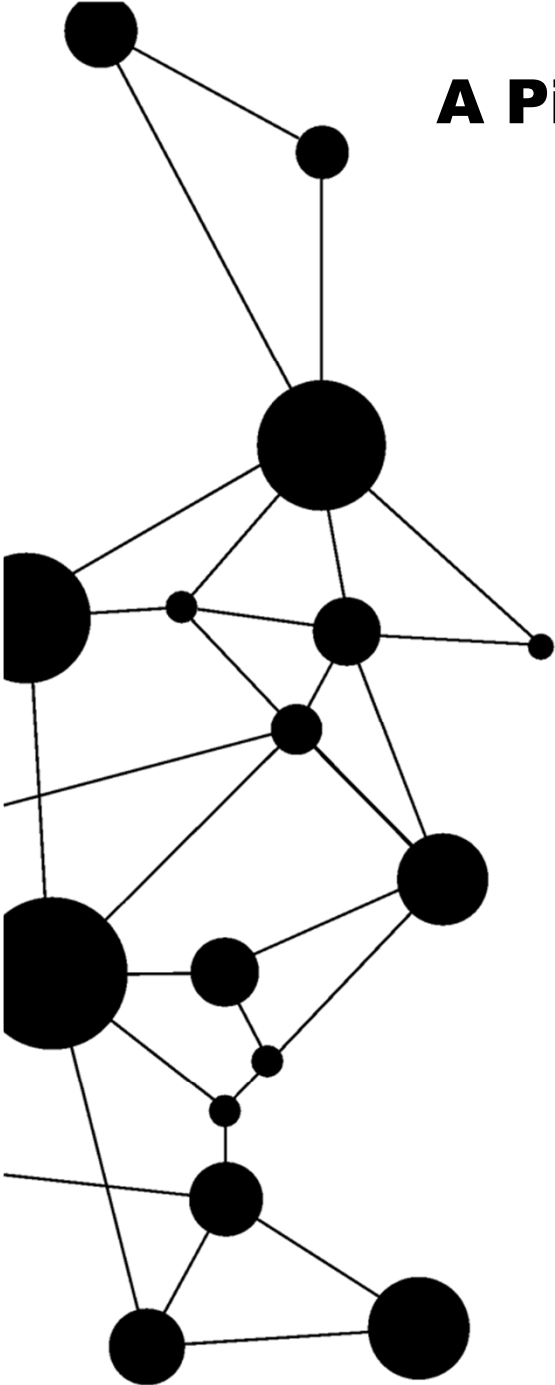




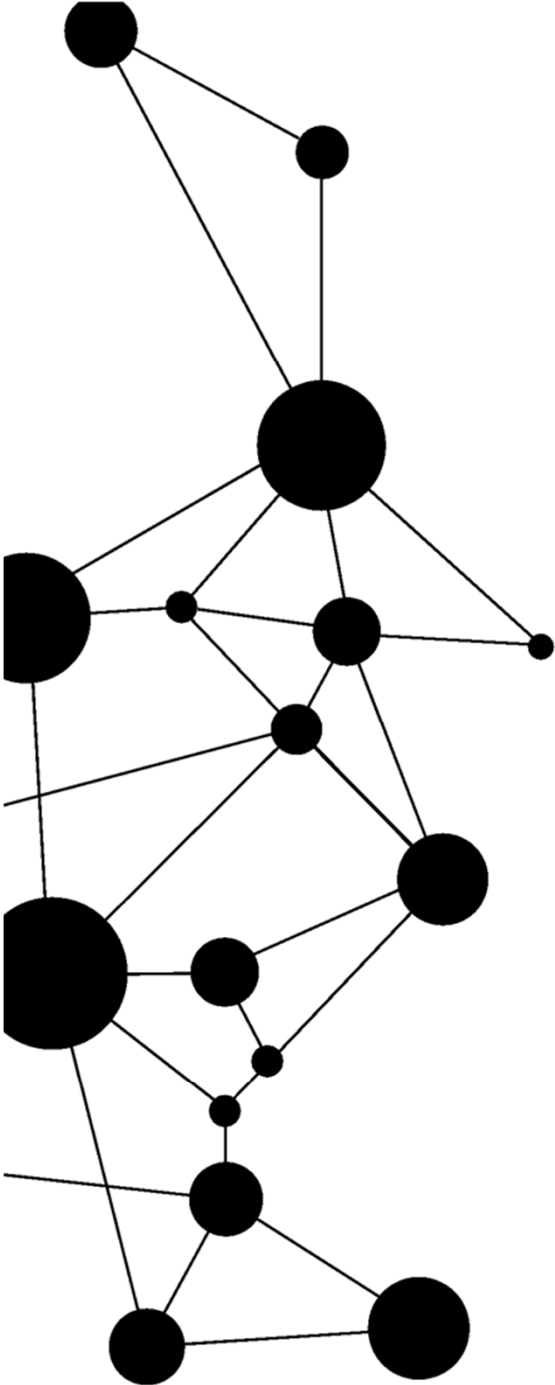
# **Mersey Dee Fiscal Stimulus Package Proposition Document**

**Flintshire County Council Informal Cabinet**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**

# A Pivotal Location



# Mersey Dee



# The Area

**£22bn** Gross Value Added

**1 million** people

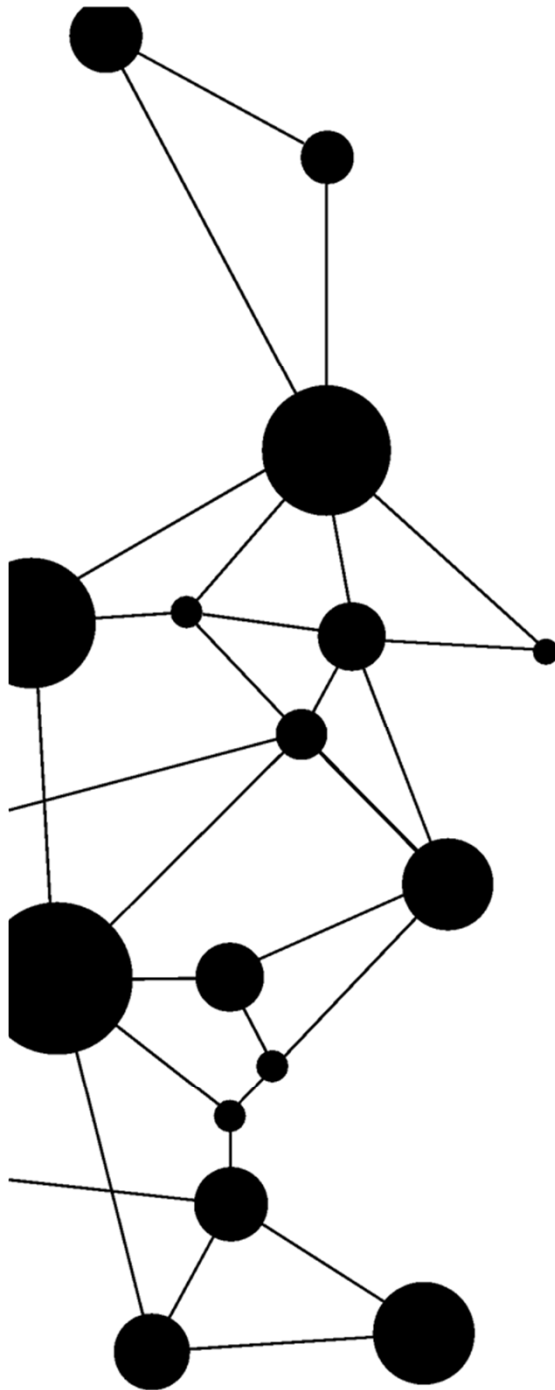
**413,000** jobs

**2,900** companies that each turn over more than £1m per year

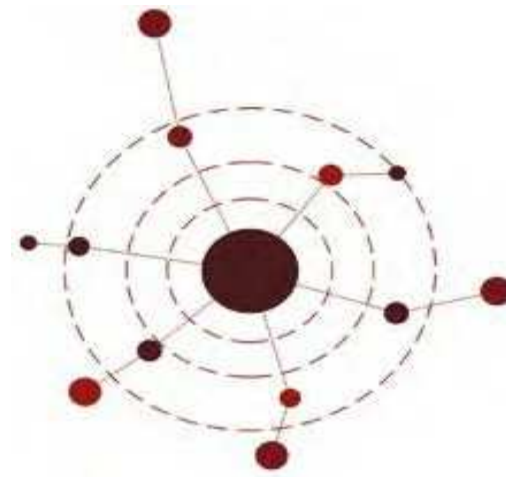
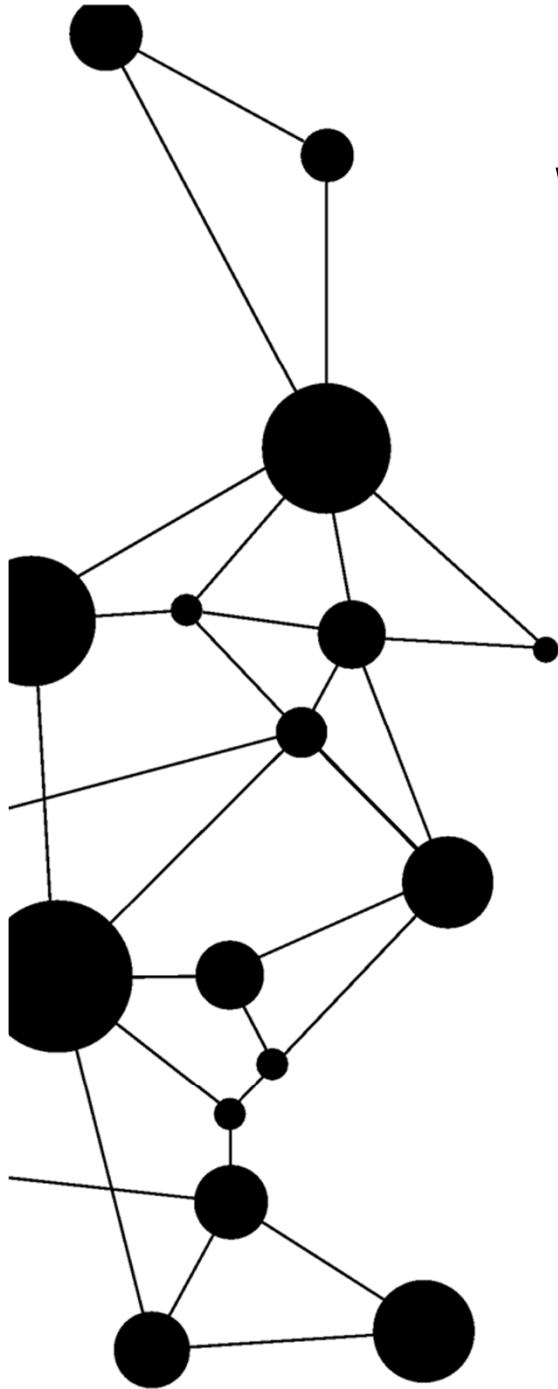
**£4.5 billion** manufacturing cluster

**3** Enterprise Zones; Cheshire Science Corridor, Deeside Northern Gateway, Wirral Waters.

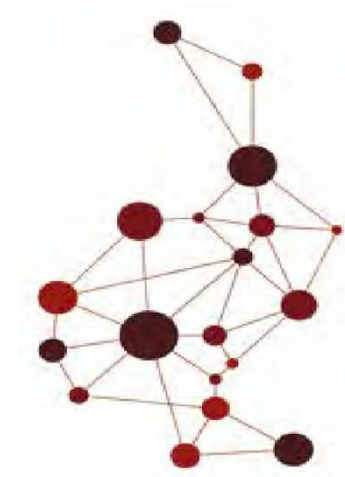
**A strong diverse economy which includes aerospace, automotive, nuclear, renewables, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, financial services, food, engineering, ICT, tourism, and retail**



## What Makes the Mersey Dee Unique?

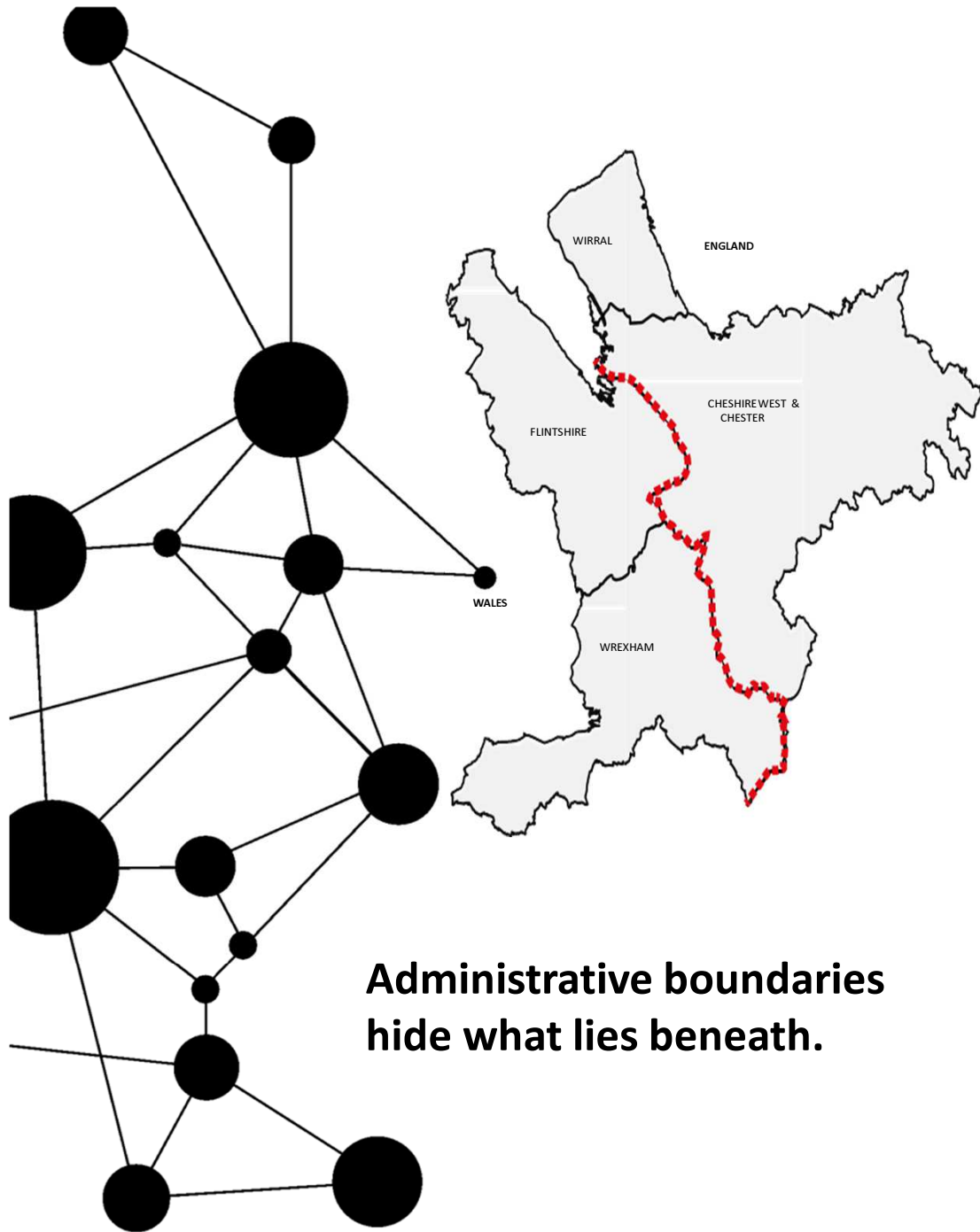


A Traditional Radial City

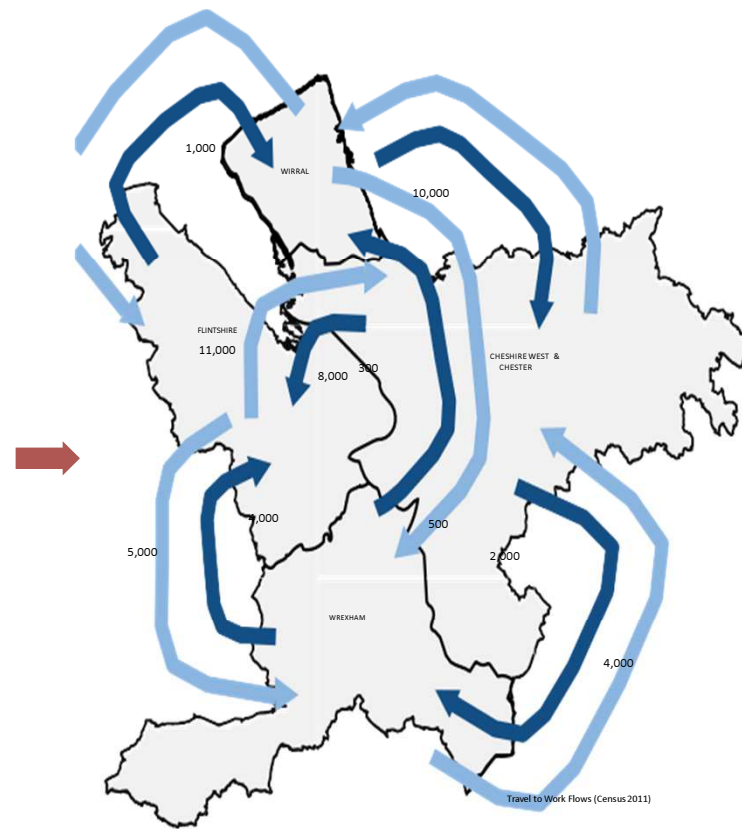


A Polycentric City

This polycentricity means the Mersey Dee area is often overlooked by the usual political frameworks.

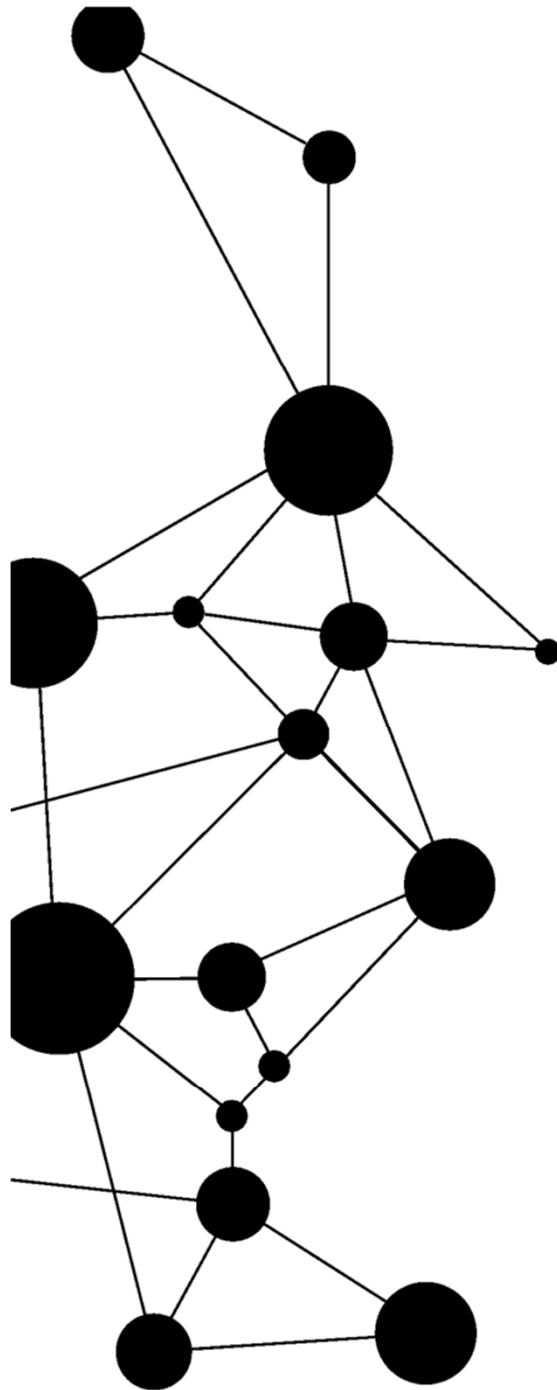


**Administrative boundaries  
hide what lies beneath.**



**We have a unique cross-  
border economy**

# Our Population



Liverpool

1.5m

Edinburgh

1.2m

Bristol

1.1m

Belfast

945k

**Mersey Dee**

940k

Cardiff

450k

Reading

320k

Cambridge

280k

Milton Keynes

250k

Think "UK Cities", and places like Edinburgh and Bristol come to mind, yet they're only marginally larger than the Mersey Dee. What is clear is that their transport needs in particular receive greater attention as the answers are sometimes more obvious.

The population of Mersey Dee is broadly comparable to that of Belfast.

That's bigger than Reading, Cambridge & Milton Keynes combined.

# Strategic Development Sites

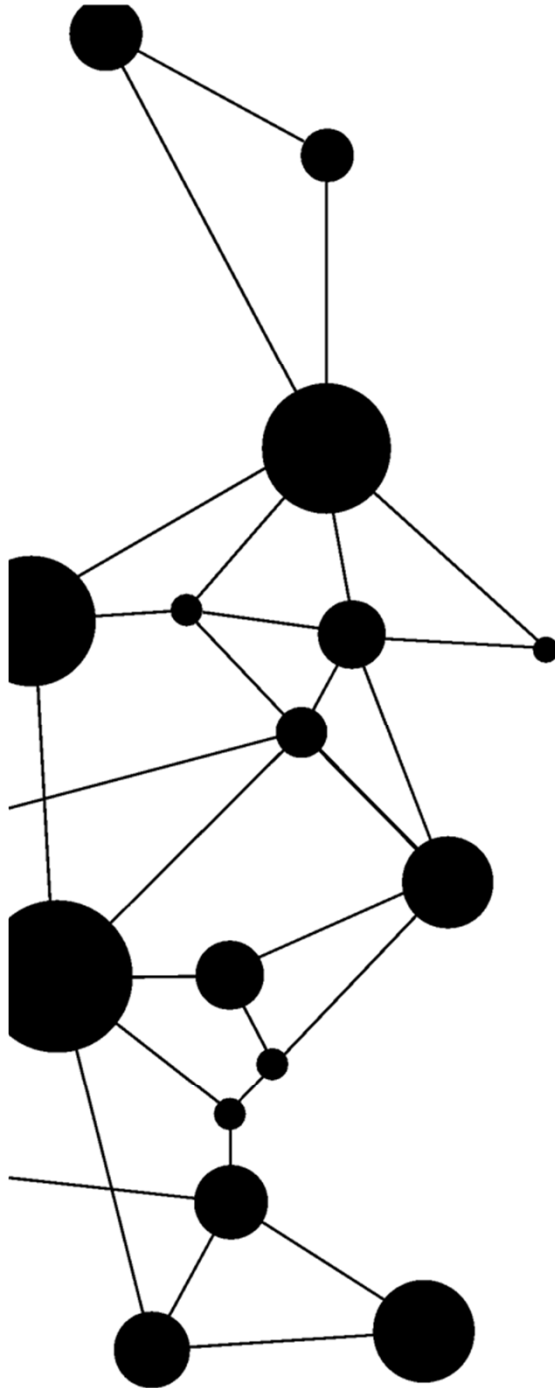
identified in the Mersey Dee Growth Prospectus

Ellesmere Port Central  
Cheshire Science Corridor  
Chester Central

Wirral Waters  
Birkenhead Town Centre  
Woodside Waterfront  
Wirral International Business Park

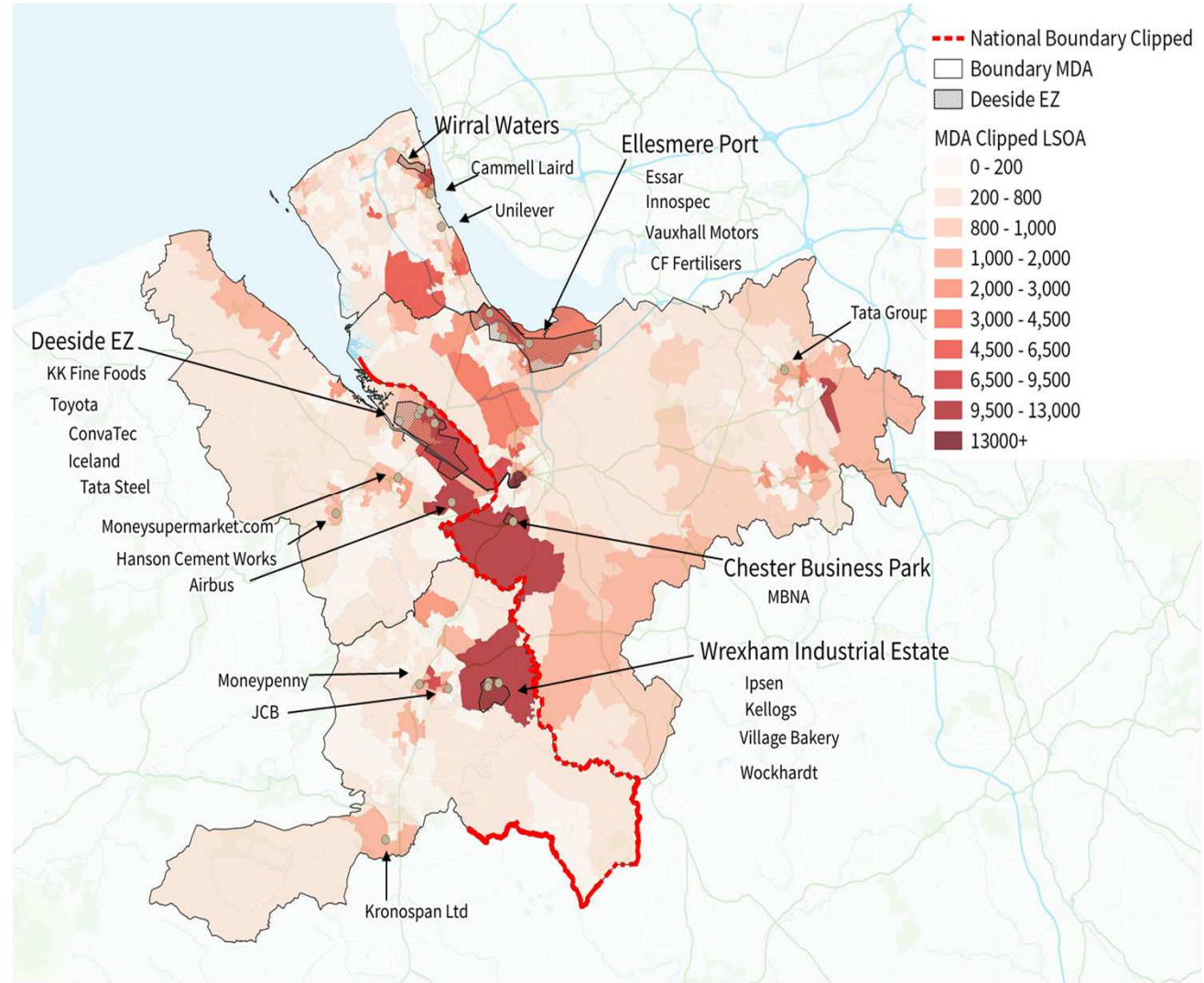
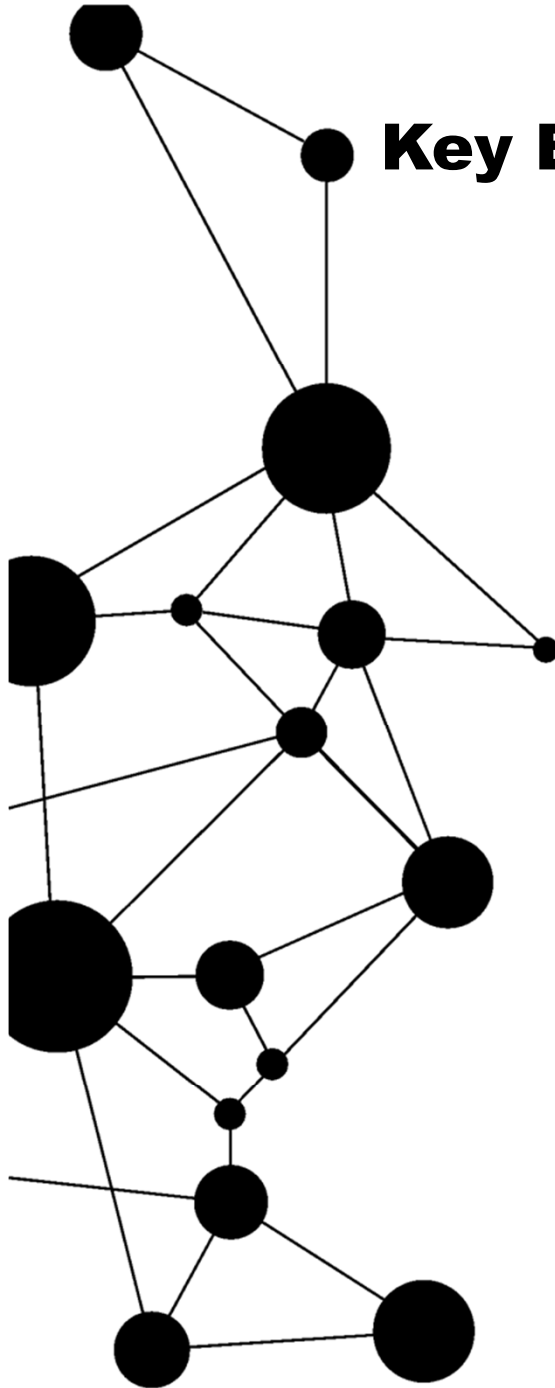
Wrexham Industrial Estate  
Wrexham Town Centre  
Wrexham Technology Park / Western Gateway

Deeside Northern Gateway  
Warren Hall

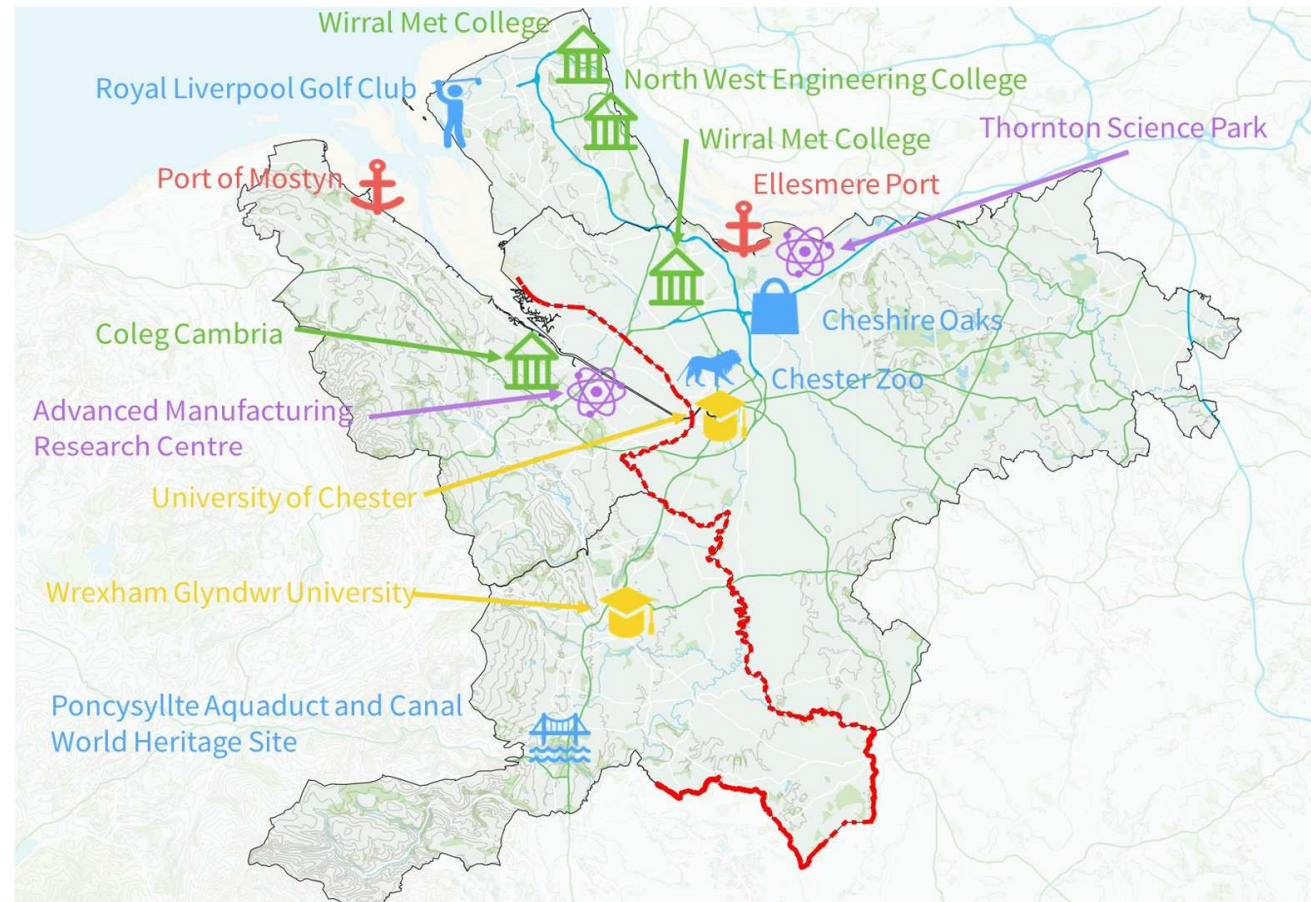
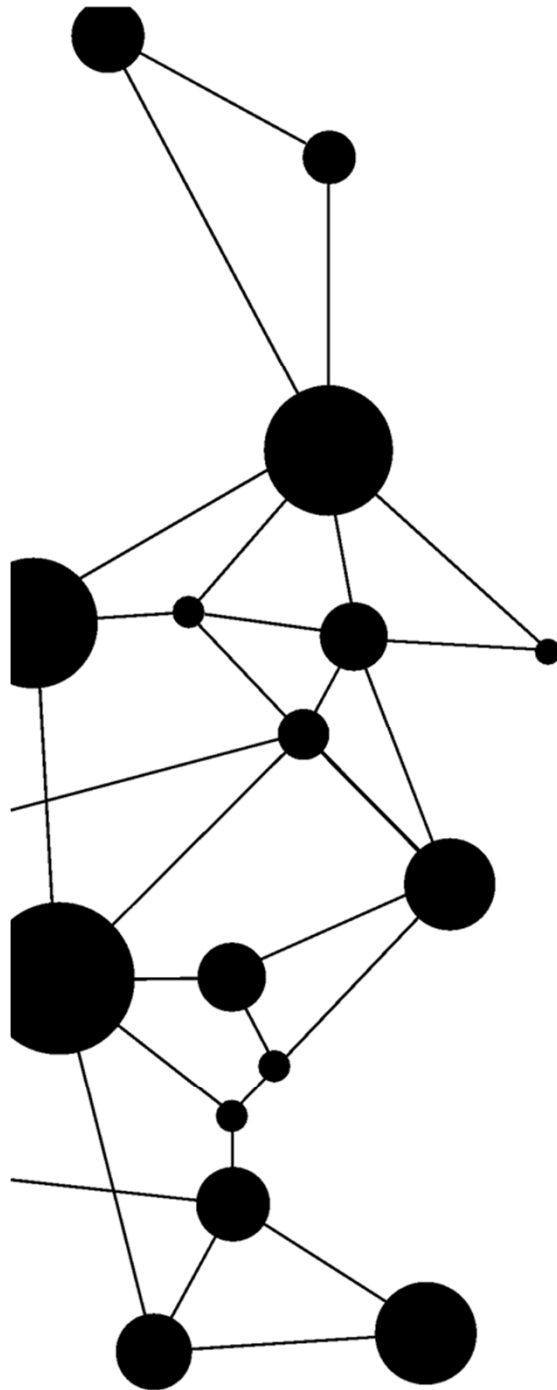


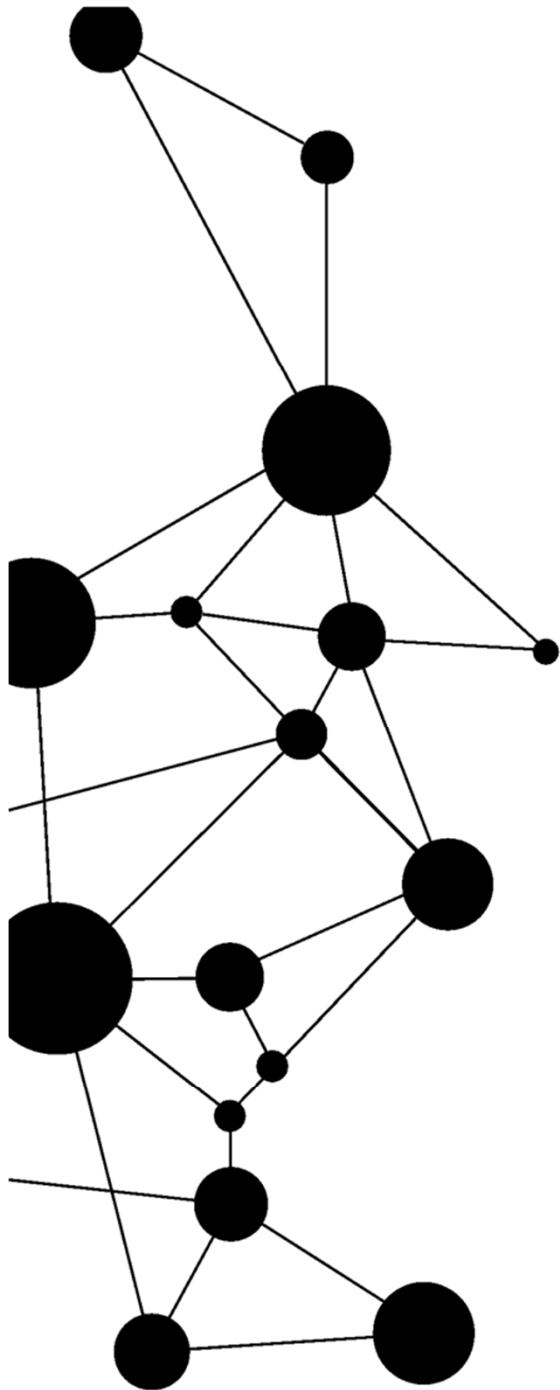


# Key Employers and Employment Locations



# Assets in the Mersey Dee Area





# Unlocking Our Potential

Our Ingredients for Growth

**Diversity of Industry**

**Advanced Expertise**

**Quality of Life**

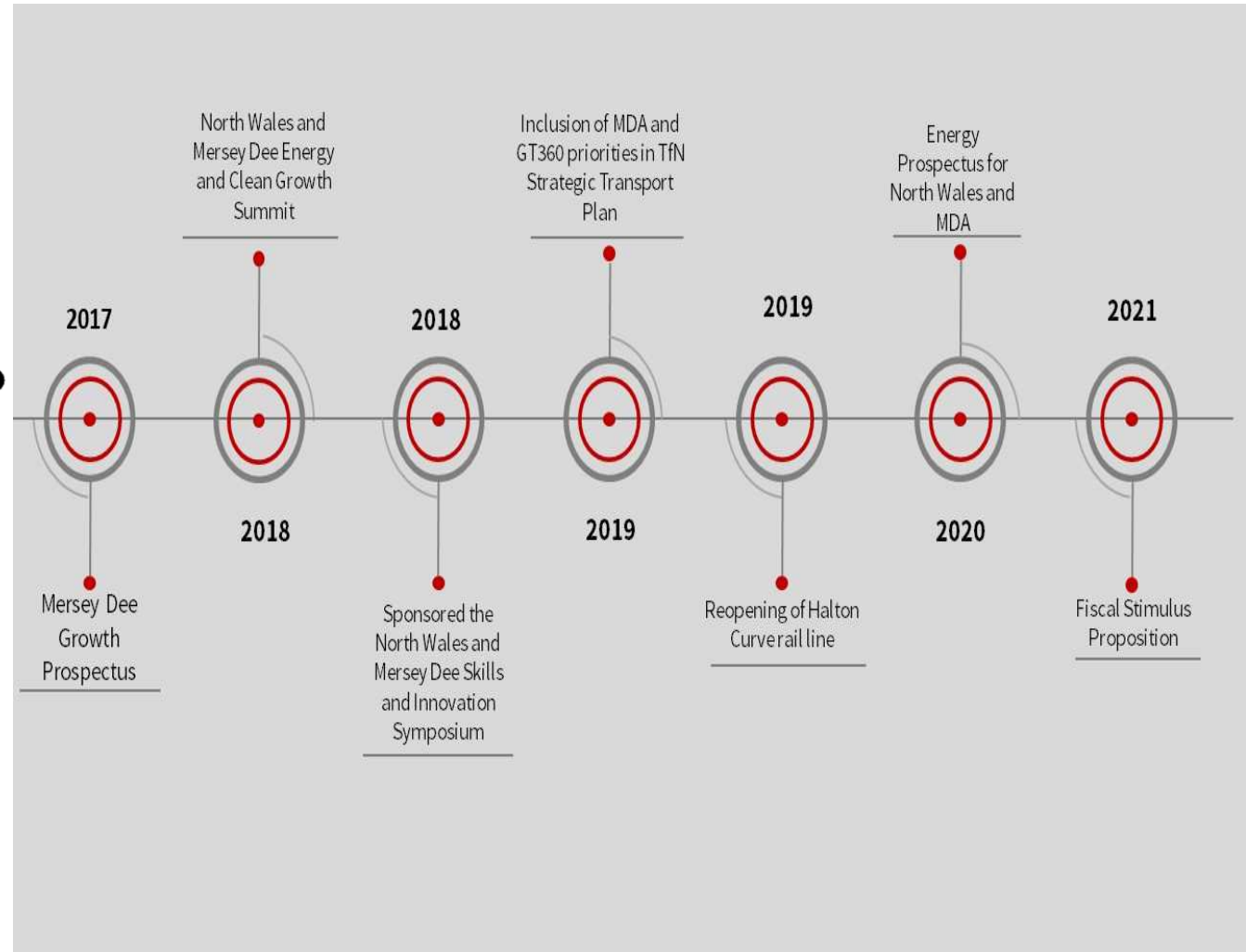
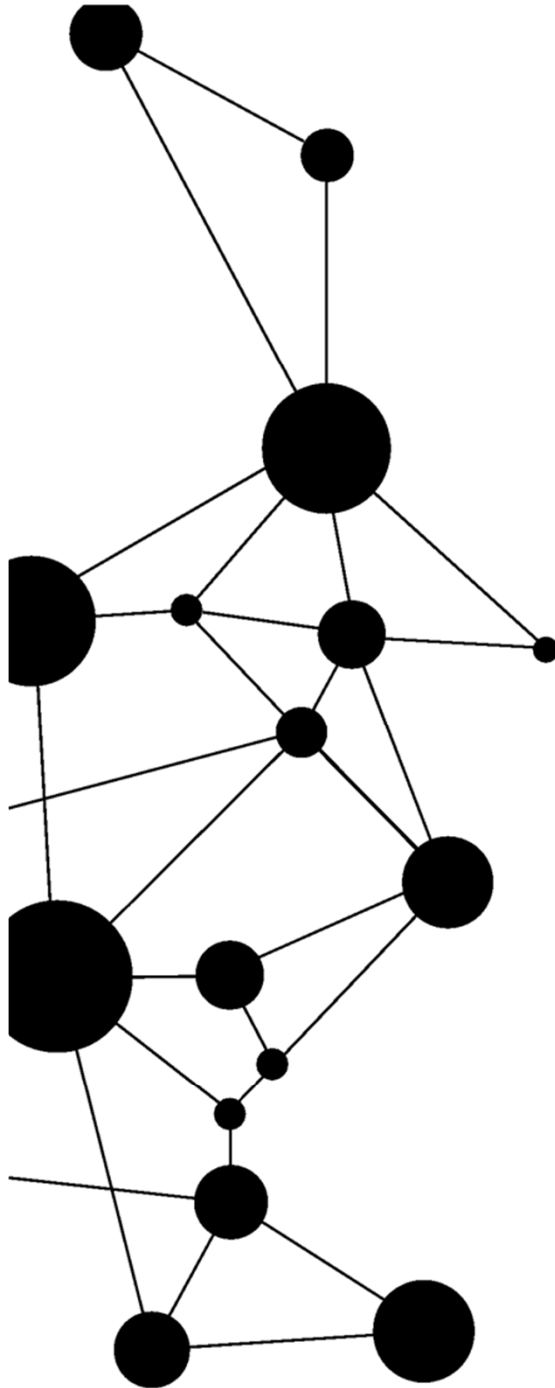
**Business Support**

**Infrastructure**

**Energy**

**Skills**

# The Story So Far



# Mersey Dee Alliance Fiscal Stimulus Package

## Our economy



1 million residents



413,000 jobs



2,900 companies with +£1m annual turnover



22 billion GVA



77% of residents live and work in the MDA area



£4.5 bn manufacturing cluster

## The Need for Stimulus



£3.5bn GVA lost (-15%) in 2020



1,400 redundancies at Airbus Broughton



+1,233% business insolvencies (May- Dec 2020)



Key sectors facing challenges of decarbonisation



23% of the MDA within most 30% deprived part of England



£225m of unfunded rail infrastructure schemes



Dependent on EU for exports (80% to EU)



Only 37% Ultrafast broadband reach (54% UK)

## Our Stimulus Package



£79m Business support & Skills programme to support our anchor companies to remain competitive and decarbonise



£115m Low Carbon energy programme to propel Mersey Dee to becoming a low carbon industrial hub



£30m Digital programme to raise our productivity through digital connectivity



£110m Transport programme to enable a cleaner, modern cross-border network



£75m Place programme to ensure our town and city centres are resilient and recover from the pandemic

## Outcomes

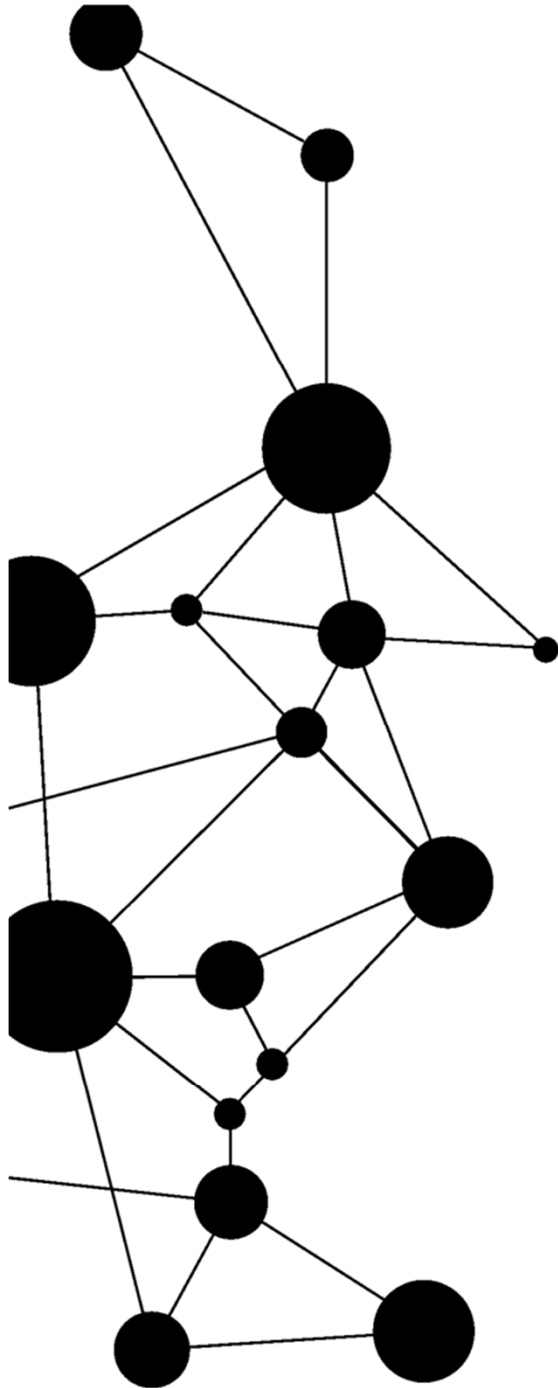
Total impact: **+£1.2bn GVA** and **5k jobs** created and safeguarded

- 300 businesses assisted
- £475m private sector co-investment
- 100km H2 pipeline, 10 hydrogen and CCUS hubs, a Hydrogen Demonstrator facility
- 100km walking and cycling infrastructure
- 130km of super-connected transport routes

## Delivering on Government objectives

- Driving forward **Ten Point Plan** for a **Green Industrial Revolution**
- Tackling historic **under-investment** in infrastructure
- Grasping the opportunities from **Global Britain**
- **Levelling up** our communities

# Strategic Priorities



# Cross Cutting Themes

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**Supporting cleaner growth** – the UK has adopted a target of achieving net zero emissions by 2050. Our mix of industries and energy assets leaves us ideally placed to lead this ambitious transition and to act as an exemplar region for low carbon development.

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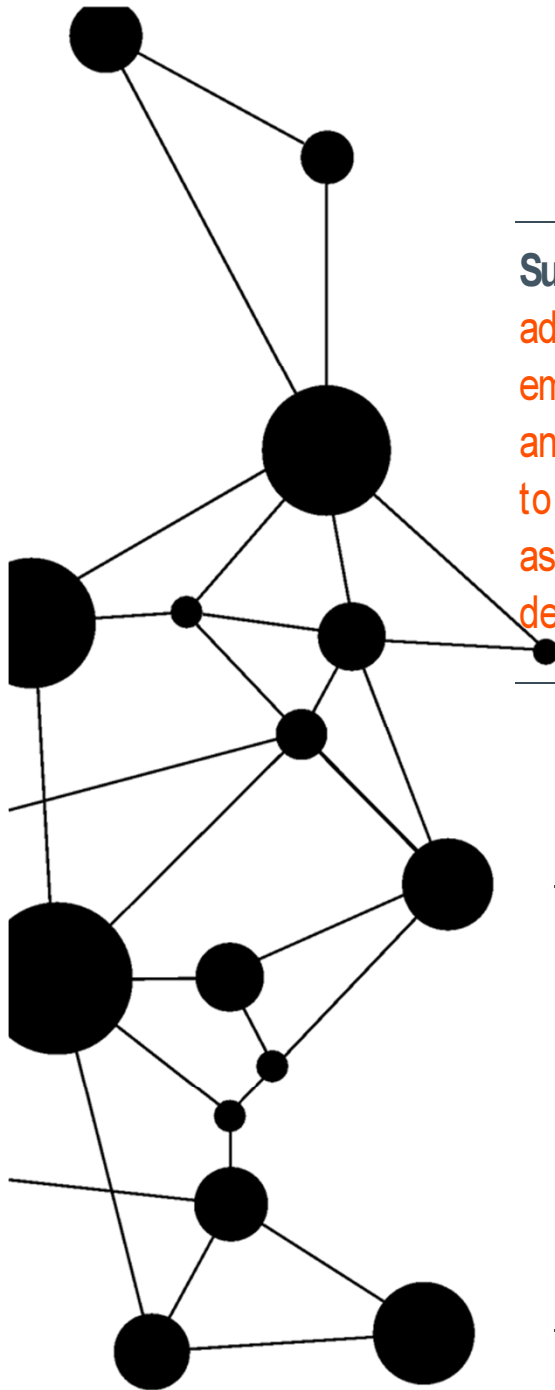
**Connecting places, people and businesses** – as a cross-border economy with multiple centres, the Mersey Dee area will be strengthened by improving the links between those places their business and people. Enhancing our connectivity is crucial.

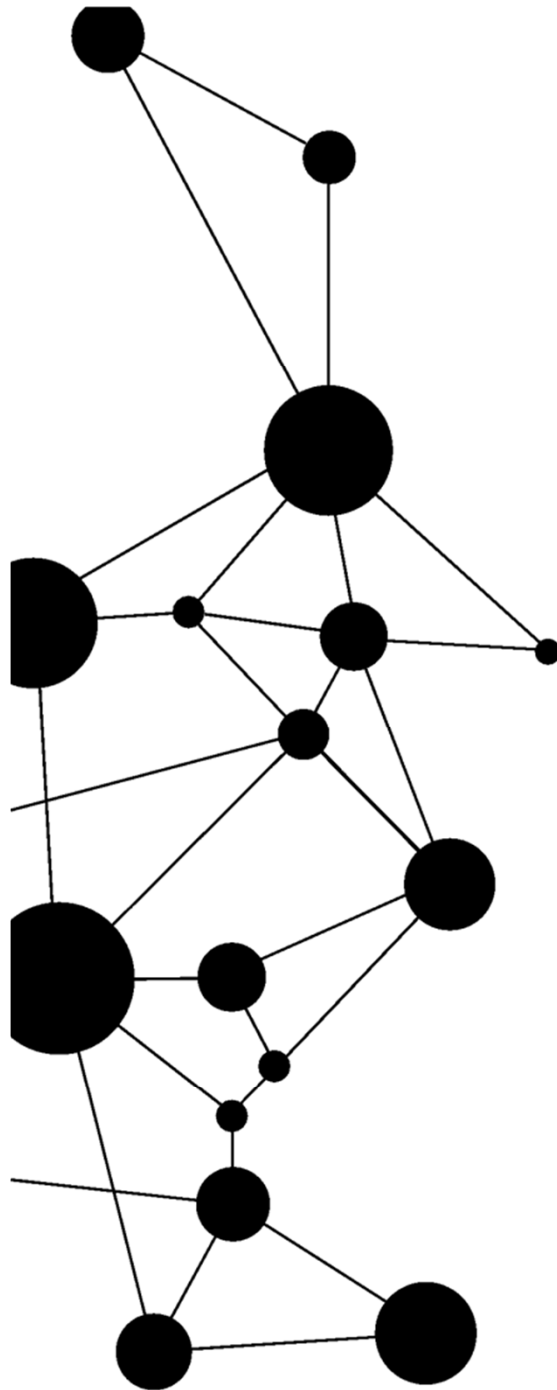
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**Sustainable and inclusive growth** – as the region recovers from the pandemic our aim is to look beyond a simple headline level of growth. We want to ensure that everyone benefits from the region's success

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## **5 Investment Priorities**

- 1. Keeping our businesses competitive**
- 2. Decarbonising industry**
- 3. Skilling for the future**
- 4. Connecting our region**
- 5. Digital connectivity**





# Proposed Fiscal Stimulus Package

- **Skills and Business Support**

A £60m business challenge fund, targeted business support and skills/employment brokerage for firms and employees in the manufacturing sector, pump priming new skills programmes for the Green Industrial Revolution.

Capital: £70m  
Revenue: £9m  
Total: £79m

### **Outputs/Impact**

£130m of private investment unlocked  
300+ firms in the manufacturing supply chain supported  
2,000+ jobs safeguarded  
a new Business centre for Green Recovery  
450,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> saved



# Proposed Fiscal Stimulus Package

- **Low Carbon Energy Infrastructure**

Fund a strategic hydrogen demonstration facility for the UK, design and consenting for 100km blue hydrogen pipeline, development funding for hydrogen and CCUS hubs, design work for a tidal energy project on the Mersey and associated centre of excellence

Capital: £95m  
Revenue: £12m  
Total: £107m

### **Outputs/Impact**

Strategic hydrogen demonstration facility  
100km hydrogen pipeline  
£250m private investment  
5-10 hydrogen & CCUS hubs  
Tidal energy project centre of excellence

# Proposed Fiscal Stimulus Package

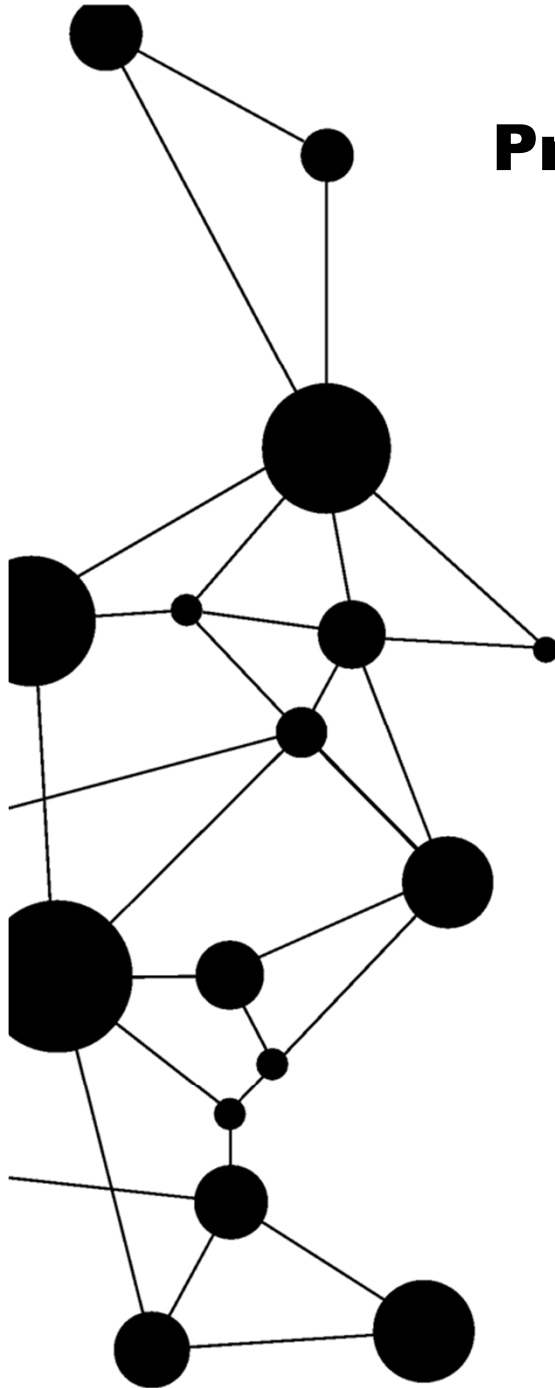
- **Transport**

Fund a cross-border active travel network, fund the infrastructure required for cross-border integrated ticketing, development funding for a range of key cross-border rail schemes.

Capital £90m,  
Revenue: £25m,  
Total: £115m

### **Outputs/Impact**

100km of high-quality cycling and walking infrastructure  
New ticketing infrastructure for 20 stations, 400 buses across 50 routes and 9 operators.  
3 shovel-ready rail schemes.





# Proposed Fiscal Stimulus Package

- **Place based support**

A fund managed flexibly across the Mersey Dee area will be used to support a range of areas across the MDA to support businesses and employment. Fund enabling works to the Wrexham Gateway development.

Capital: £70m  
Revenue: £5m  
Total: £75m

## **Outputs/Impact**

Private sector investment of £80m  
bridge works  
links to active and public transport  
new start-up, meanwhile and entrepreneurial space  
town centre biodiversity and green space.



# Proposed Fiscal Stimulus Package

- **Digital**

A fund managed flexibly across the Mersey Dee area will be used to support a range of areas across the MDA to support businesses and employment. Fund enabling works to the Wrexham Gateway development.

Capital: £27m

Revenue: £3m

Total: £30m

## **Outputs/Impact**

130km of 5G and LPWAN connectivity along key transport routes

55 new deployments of 'smart town' infrastructure

# Next Steps

- Approval of proposition document by MDA Board – 12<sup>th</sup> March
- Submission to UK and Welsh Governments – 16<sup>th</sup> March
- Project detail work – March to May
- Negotiation and programme development – May - Autumn

