



# WARRINGTON

## Borough Council

### “Ambition Cheshire”: 2021/22 – Cheshire & Warrington Sub Regional Leaders Board

The Sub Regional Leaders Board have previously agreed their long term ambitions to deliver sustainable and inclusive growth. The ambition is to not only return to a position where Cheshire and Warrington has the fastest growing economy in the north west but for this growth to be delivered in a way that protects and enhances the environment- and in way to which enables all people to reach their full potential.

With that in mind, it is proposed that the following priorities are agreed for attention and focus for 2021/22. A review on progress will take place in January 2022 and refreshed priorities developed. All of the priorities are to be considered in the context of the continuing response and the recovery plans to Covid-19. This will continue to be the key dominating issue in relation to re-establishing a successful and inclusive economy, business support, jobs, skills, health and wellbeing, adequate public finances, infrastructure, reduction of crime and support for the vulnerable. The Sub Regional Leaders will continue to play a major role in the Local Resilience Forum and seek to develop partnership solutions to the wider impacts of Covid.

The following priorities are proposed:

#### 1. Public Sector Finance

- To work closely with the LGA and others to ensure that there is sufficient and effective revenue and capital funding to support the economic and social needs of the sub region.
- To take full advantage of the “Building Back Better” fund and other challenge funds as they arise.
- To develop priorities and respond to the Comprehensive Spending Review.
- To develop a Cheshire wide CFO public sector group and network.

#### 2. Integration of Health and Social Care

- To ensure that the NHS proposals for the development of an Integrated Care System meet the health and social care needs of the sub region. This will include ensuring that there is recognition of local health need and representation in the design and delivery of the new ICS and membership on its Board from April 2022. We will also develop effective scrutiny arrangements for the ICS.
- Renew the focus on the Health Protection/Health Literacy and the reduction of health inequalities in the sub region. To focus specifically on mental health.

3. Devolution/Levelling Up

- Continue to work with government on their policy proposals for devolution and to focus on the government's "Levelling Up" policies and specifically strongly advocate the sub region for investment from the "Levelling Up" fund and other challenge funds. Until there is credible new devolution policy from government, we will not do any further work on a devolution model.
- Continue to build strong but distinctive relationships with the Liverpool and Greater Manchester City Regions and the wider North West and Midlands.

4. Growing the Economy

- Move forward with the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission and our commitment to clean energy and green growth.

5. Infrastructure

- Continue to seek government investment in roads, rail, cycling and digital infrastructure.
- To focus on the successful delivery of HS2/Northern Power Rail in the sub region.
- Continue to support the mission and work of Transport for the North and ensure we have a co-ordinated voice.
- To continue with the work of the Sub Regional Housing Board.

6. Skills

- To realise the potential of the opportunities presented in the "Skills for Jobs/Lifelong Learning" White Paper. This will be even more important in order to respond to unemployment and to contribute to economic recovery.
- To build more effective relations and engagement with the University of Chester, other local Universities and the College sector.

7. Public Service Transformation

- To continue with the sub regional programme and to continue to look for funding opportunities as long as there are clear outcomes and benefits for the sub region and its partners. To consider the outcomes of the review of the programme that has been commissioned.

8. Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour

- Continue the work regarding the reduction of crime, fear of crime, anti-social behaviour and PVP and to ensure that it is co-ordinated and outcome focused.

9. Promote the voice of Cheshire

- Continue to promote to government, businesses, nationally and internationally.
- Establish the Parliamentary Special Interest Group and to forge more effective links with “Marketing Cheshire”, “Chamber of Commerce” CBI, North West businesses, Institute of Directors and Cheshire Business Leaders.
- To continue to strengthen and promote the co-ordinated voice of Cheshire Councils, LEP, PCC, Fire Service and Leaders.
- Consider developing a new brand for the sub regional arrangements (early ideas – “Team Cheshire”, “Cheshire United”?)

10. Changing Trade and Regulatory Environment

- Consider the implications of the changing regulations and environment for trade, enterprise and growth post Brexit.

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