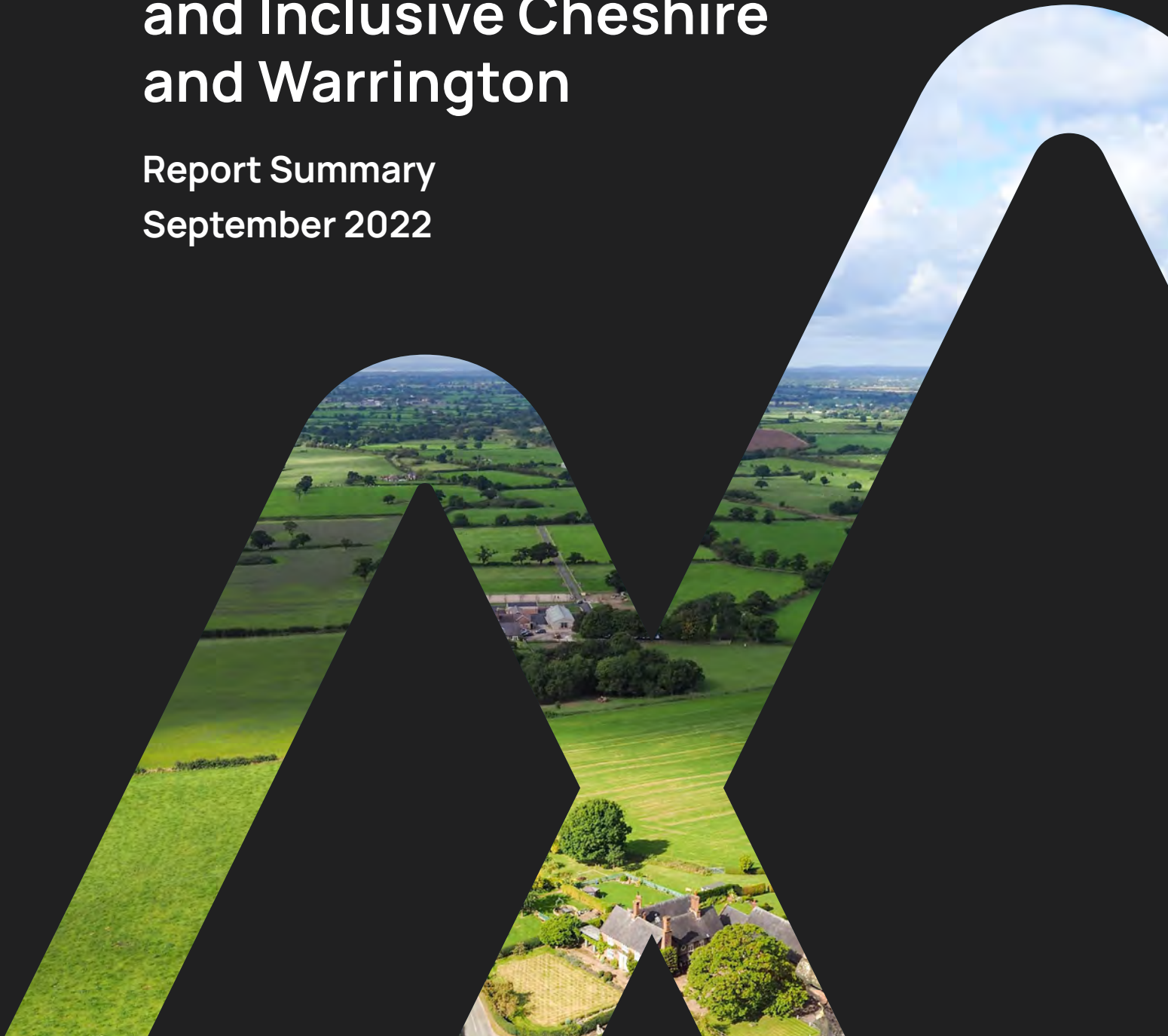




Cheshire and Warrington
**Sustainable and Inclusive
Growth Commission**

Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Cheshire and Warrington

Report Summary
September 2022





The Cheshire and Warrington Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission¹ was set up by the Subregional Leaders' Board² in November 2020, with the aim of moving further and faster towards realising Cheshire and Warrington's ambition of becoming the most sustainable and inclusive subregion in the UK, to help address inequality and climate change building on the firm progress made by partners in Cheshire and Warrington to date

Overview

This document is a summary of the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission's findings, which have tackled the following themes:

- How to improve the inclusiveness of our economy (Inclusive Economy)
- How to decarbonise local transport (Sustainable Transport)
- How to use land sustainably, tackling climate change and decarbonising agriculture (Sustainable Land Use and Climate Change)
- How to get to net zero, with decarbonisation of housing, industry and green jobs (Net Zero)

For each theme the Commission has developed an evidence base, a vision and a set of recommendations. The key messages for all the themes are outlined in our drawing on [page 4](#).

In addition, each theme used an inclusivity assessment to ensure that projects or initiatives were designed to consider the needs of targeted types of individuals or groups who may experience disadvantage³.

The Commission consulted on an initial version of the report through online and in-person events and an online survey and engaged with over 120 individuals including many stakeholders who were representing their organisations across different sectors. The feedback from the consultation has been used to update the final report and to create a shortlist of key priorities to take forward.

Some key feedback included the need for co-creation and collaboration, not just technical solutions; the need to win hearts and minds to effect change; the need to understand the barriers and risks towards delivering the visions and priorities. This feedback and other points have and will be addressed as the priority recommendations move into deliverable projects.

What happens next?

The Commission is currently in a Promotion Phase where it will move the key priorities forward and work with others to plan for implementation in a collaborative way. We invite you to engage with us through an initial event in the autumn and to get in touch if you can offer support with delivery of the priorities/recommendations via:

SIGCommission@cheshireandwarrington.com

The Themes

Summarised below are the vision statements and key priorities for each of the themes from the commission's Final Report.

To read the evidence that led to the vision statements, the longer list of recommendations and more information about the Commission please see the main report: [Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission - Cheshire and Warrington](#).

¹ The independent Commission includes representatives from carbon intensive industries and agriculture, finance and investment, energy, and experts from civil society including university, housing and local nature sectors, alongside local authorities and the local enterprise partnership. ² The Subregional Leaders' Board is a collaborative partnership which brings together key public and private sector partner organisations from across the Sub-region. ³ The assessment considered socio-economic deprivation, rural areas and deprivation, and those with 'protected characteristics'. The Equality Act 2010 identified 9 protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

POLICY SOLUTIONS CO-DESIGNED
WITH THE PEOPLE AFFECTED



SHARED
INITIATIVE

PUBLIC INVESTMENT
TO ADDRESS
DISADVANTAGE AND
TARGET OPPORTUNITIES

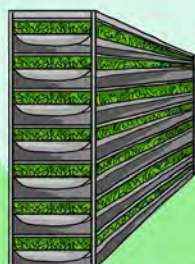


USE DATA TO IDENTIFY
INEQUALITIES SO THEY
CAN BE ADDRESSED

EQUAL ACCESS TO
OPPORTUNITIES FOR
ALL - ESPECIALLY WITH
GREEN JOBS AND SKILLS



SUPPORT PRODUCERS AND LAND OWNERS
TO INCREASE ENVIRONMENTALLY
FRIENDLY FOOD SUPPLY



DECARBONISATION
OF DAIRY THROUGH
ANAEROBIC DIGESTION
AND REGENERATIVE
AGRICULTURE



REVERSE DECLINE OF NATURE - AND
ABSORB CARBON INTO BETTER SOILS,
MORE WOODLANDS AND HEDGEROWS

UNLOCK ECONOMIC
POTENTIAL OF
RURAL AREA

MAKE CURRENT
LAND USE NET
NEGATIVE



REPLACE RURAL FOSSIL
FUELS WITH LOCAL WIND FARMS,
SOLAR, BIOFUELS - IMPROVE
INFRASTRUCTURE

MAKE NATURE
ACCESSIBLE FOR
HEALTH BENEFITS



ALL PEOPLE TO HAVE
ACCESS AND THE ABILITY
TO USE INFORMATION AND
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
SUCH AS THE INTERNET

INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

SUSTAINABLE LAND USE

NET ZERO

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

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Inclusive Economy

This theme looked at both (a) how we can ensure that an inclusive approach is central to our environmental sustainability work and (b) how to improve the inclusiveness of the economy more generally with a focus on reducing inequalities in work, education and skills.

Vision

Our goal is to encourage sustainable economic growth that increases prosperity combined with greater equality and opportunities for all. We propose this will be delivered by:

- Ensuring that all projects promoted by the commission have undergone an inclusivity assessment, to ensure that projects consider the needs of disadvantaged types of individuals and groups.
- Having a joined-up approach to inclusive economy across the subregion, using shared initiatives such as a Fair Employment Charter, inclusive skills and employment programmes, digital inclusion, and positive action policies.
- Using data effectively across the area and engaging with those with lived experience to target initiatives to the disadvantaged groups and individuals that need them.

Key Priorities Following Consultation

1. Adopting inclusivity assessment for projects promoted by the SIGC – starting with the 'Shared Prosperity Fund'⁴.
2. Delivering social value, through a new fair/good employment charter for the subregion
3. Ensuring digital inclusion is a core part of digital and infrastructure strategies in the subregion
4. Ensuring that information, advice, guidance and support on skills and employment is targeted to where it is needed for 'levelling up'⁵.

In addition, it will be important to engage with the community and voluntary sector on the above, and to ensure there is provision of good quality information, advice and guidance (IAG) to all who need it (including households, businesses, schools and their pupils etc) on decarbonisation opportunities and challenges.

Sustainable Transport

Vision

The Commission proposes that the subregion should aim for full decarbonisation of all transport in Cheshire and Warrington by 2035, to be delivered in an inclusive way through three priority activities:

- By creating a public transport system which is affordable, zero carbon, accessible and integrated across the subregion making bus use and other forms of transport sharing a first choice for residents, shoppers, commuters and visitors by 2030. Whilst recognised that this will be challenging, the Commission's view is that the target timescale will be vital;
- By making the use of electric or zero emission (rather than petrol or diesel) cars and other vehicles the most cost effective and accessible means of transport by 2030 where public transport is not appropriate or available;
- By making active travel, on bikes and walking, an easy, clean, safe, and healthy option for all our residents, employees and visitors, fully integrating it with other forms of travel.

Key Priorities Following Consultation

1. The public sector role in supporting electric vehicle rollout, through the roll out of public charging stations.
2. Establishment of a transport system at major interchanges that connects all forms of public transport with accessible active travel routes.
3. Decarbonisation of public transport, including fully decarbonised buses as well as a series of other possible options including 'on demand' transport.

⁴ A £2.6bn government fund for local investment that is part of the government's levelling up agenda.

⁵ to individuals with protected characteristics and to those with socio-economic deprivation such as the long-term unemployed, those in areas of deprivation, those on free school meals etc

Sustainable Land Use

Vision

Our overall ambition is to make current land use net zero and unlock the economic potential of the rural area:

- By releasing the potential of the land use sector, and supporting agriculture to become regenerative (e.g. using less chemicals, more manures, generating energy from waste, and helping nature and biodiversity)
- By reversing the decline of Cheshire's natural environment and biodiversity and enhancing climate resilience, and improving access for all people to nature as part of a 'natural health service'.
- By supporting producers, landowners and local authorities to increase the amount of accessible, fresh, low carbon, locally produced food available to people within the subregion, and to use this to help address food poverty.

Key Priorities Following Consultation

1. Ensure Cheshire and Warrington's food supply chain continues moving towards zero carbon via regenerative agriculture and anaerobic digestion including establishing a network of demonstration farms to share best practice and increase take up
2. Encourage food security via local food production using vertical farming, partnering with industry where relevant, and with a focus on innovation.
3. Addressing the nature crisis (covering species, biodiversity, carbon sequestration and people's access to nature) by going further than national targets, working effectively with the Local Nature Partnership and Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
4. Encourage local authorities to run a pilot looking at diet, health and behavioural change building on the National Food Strategy and Sustainable Local Food Place Award.

We also agree that it is important to prioritise work looking at the green skills that overlap all four of the above key priority projects.

Net Zero

Vision

Our overall ambition is to support and develop carbon reduction projects across Cheshire and Warrington while creating employment in a way that generates opportunities for all, via:

Housing (and building) decarbonisation and retrofit: By speeding up decarbonisation and retrofitting of the existing housing stock and new builds using e.g. insulation, clean energy, with a particular focus on social housing and disadvantaged households. This will require workers with new sets of green skills to be trained.

Industrial decarbonisation: By building the UK's first net zero industrial cluster which can act as a blueprint for industrial decarbonisation, enabling us to export our skills and expertise around the world. Supporting our industry to move away from fossil fuels and adopt renewable energy and sustainable processes will make a significant contribution to lowering emissions, safeguard existing jobs and create new green jobs for all.

Circular economy: By developing a whole system circular approach to resource management including design, production, waste collection, disposal and recycling, energy distribution, energy from waste, and reducing domestic energy consumption and demand and where products can be repaired, reused and recycled.

Key Priorities Following Consultation

1. Retrofitting insulation and clean energy to housing, particularly for disadvantaged households. Lobby government for consistent longer-term funding for housing retrofit schemes; complete a piece of work to understand the barriers to housing retrofit and produce a roadmap to increase delivery.
2. On green skills:
 - A. Work with industry and education providers to ensure that there are appropriate education and training programmes in place to support an industrial decarbonisation workforce.

- B. Work with the LEP to develop the skills needed for building retrofit and decarbonization across social and private housing, commercial and industrial sectors
 - C. Include easy entry and progression routes to ensure people from all backgrounds can benefit, targeting support where needed.
3. Building the UK's first net zero industrial cluster around the area's large hydrogen and net zero projects (e.g. HyNet and Cadent's Hydrogen Village), supporting industry to be successful by e.g. identifying/removing barriers and influencing government on support. The cluster can act as a blueprint for industrial decarbonisation, enabling us to export our skills and expertise around the world.
 4. Work with business, public sector and agriculture to speed up the transition to a circular economy (including the use of farm waste and slurry in anaerobic digestion).



For more information about the
Commission and next steps see

cheshireandwarrington.com/sigc

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