

# Application Pack

## Chairperson, Mid Cheshire Partnership



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# Background

## Mid Cheshire

Mid Cheshire is a strong economic area rooted in shared industrial heritage and connected by rivers and waterways. The market towns of Middleswich, Northwich and Winsford and the significant rural economy, employ almost 50,000 people, are home to 110,000 residents and offer investment opportunities.

Many of the opportunities and challenges of the area are shared, and as Cheshire & Warrington moves towards a devolution deal with the Government, the articulation of these will become increasingly important. Each of the Mid Cheshire communities has a proud identity, but do not yet identify as one place across local authority boundaries, and the Mid Cheshire Partnership will have a role to play in raising the prominence of the area in the context of devolution and in pursuing the activities set out in the newly developed Mid Cheshire Plan.

## Mid Cheshire Plan

The Mid Cheshire Plan was developed in 2025 to provide an analysis of the current economic position of the area, to understand the priorities of the businesses and communities within the area, and to set out a series of actions. The plan focuses on five themes of:

- Investment, Promotion & Business Support

- Property for employment
- Skills and employment
- Partnerships and neighbourhoods
- Infrastructure

## Mid Cheshire Partnership

The partnership is an independent organisation which will play an advisory role to the Council on matters affecting Mid Cheshire. The Partnership will also seek to influence the actions of agencies across the area to help deliver against the action plan. Board members may also, in some cases, assist with undertaking specific actions. Cheshire West & Chester Council provides a secretariat function to the Partnership.

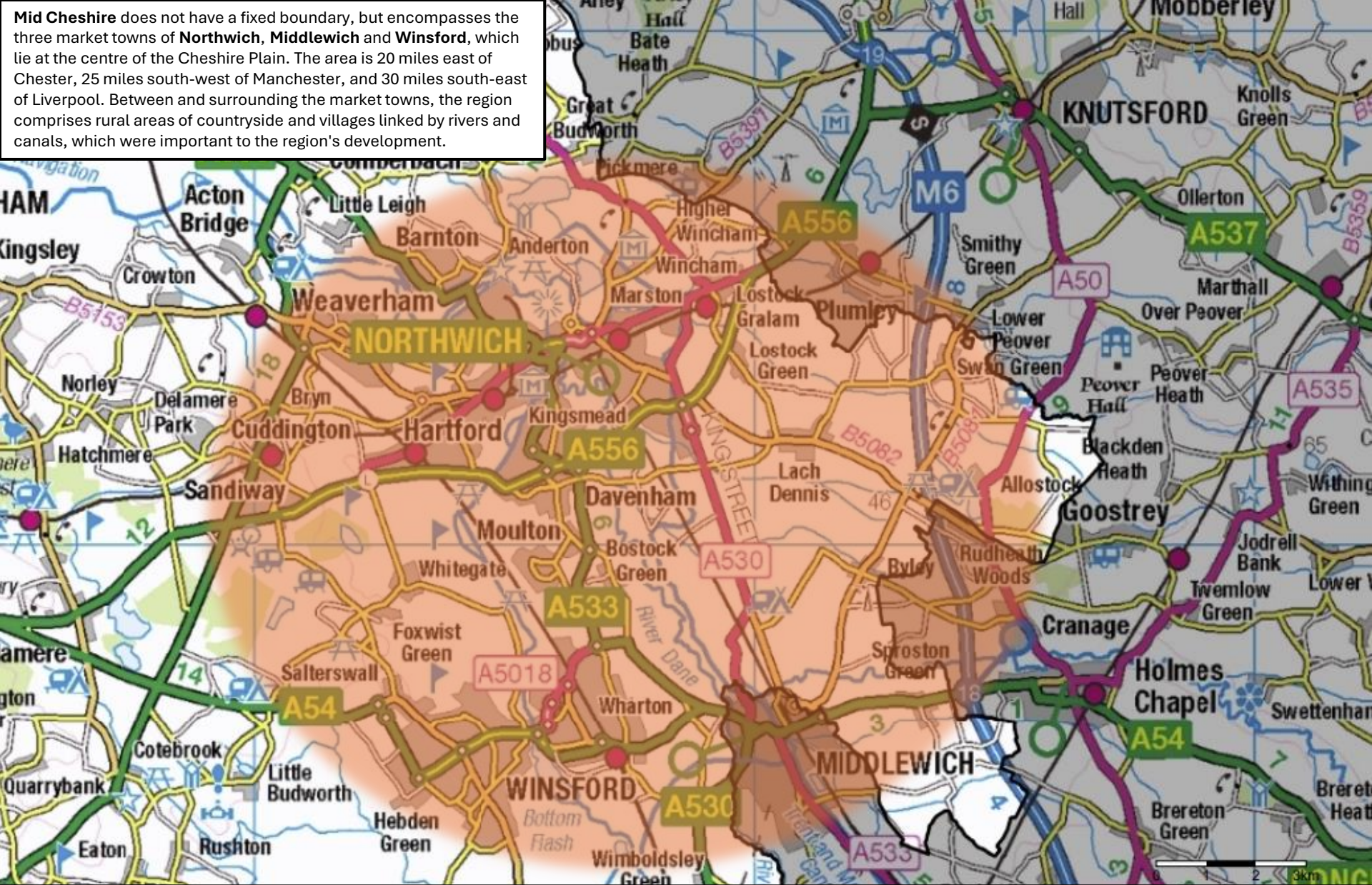
## The Partnership

Mid-Cheshire previously had a board which oversaw a previous regeneration plan. After the completion of the new Mid Cheshire Plan, which has a greater focus on wider economic development, it was decided that the board would be reconstituted.

The new Chairperson will be in place to assist with the selection of a new partnership, which is expected to comprise a mix of Councillors, local business leaders, and representatives of other local agencies and organisations that are important to the area.



Mid Cheshire does not have a fixed boundary, but encompasses the three market towns of **Northwich**, **Middlewich** and **Winsford**, which lie at the centre of the Cheshire Plain. The area is 20 miles east of Chester, 25 miles south-west of Manchester, and 30 miles south-east of Liverpool. Between and surrounding the market towns, the region comprises rural areas of countryside and villages linked by rivers and canals, which were important to the region's development.



10/7/2025

# The Mid Cheshire Area



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# Description of Role

## Description

The Chairperson will serve as a figurehead for Mid-Cheshire and lead meetings to ensure fair and efficient discussions. The Chairperson is responsible for upholding the board's constitution and ethical standards.

The Chair will liaise with the Director of Economy and Housing at Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Chair of the Economic Growth Board, and other relevant organisations as necessary.

## Key Responsibilities:

- Leading Meetings: Facilitating discussions, ensuring all members are heard, and maintaining order and focus.
- Ensuring Compliance: Guiding discussions within the Partnerships remit.
- Representing the Partnership: Serving as a spokesperson for the Partnership and communicating its decisions.
- Upholding Standards: Ensuring the Partnership adheres to ethical guidelines and principles of public life.
- Strategic Planning: Liaising with the Chair of the Economic Growth Board and the Director of Economy and Housing to understand the wider context for the partnership and policy changes within the Council as well as to communicate the priorities of the Partnership.
- Driving progress : ensuring actions and discussion between meetings and ensuring accountability.
- Partnership Development: Contributing to the development and effectiveness of the Partnership as a whole.
- Taking part in recruitment when necessary to ensure the rotation of Partnership members effectively.
- Member Engagement: Encouraging active participation from all Partnership members.
- Promotional Duties: May have additional promotional duties and represent Mid Cheshire at various events.

# Person Specification

## Essential Qualities:

- Demonstrable and relevant experience in the world of business and non- profit organisations that has involved strategic decision making and investment
- Knowledge of the Cheshire and Warrington business community
- An understanding of the public sector agenda and organisational structure
- Significant knowledge of Mid Cheshire and the issues impacting the area
- Ability to analyse and evaluate complex information
- Good representational and networking skills
- Leadership experience at Chair / Board level within high-profile organisations
- Willingness to commit time to the role and champion positive change for Mid Cheshire

## Personal Qualities:

- Good communication skills
- Drive and determination, sound judgement and decisiveness
- High personal integrity, personal reputation and character
- Capacity to be independent and strong-minded
- Empathy with community issues
- Ability to work constructively with others
- Team player

## Desirable Qualities:

- Experience of working within regeneration or economic development programmes
- Successful track record as a business leader or owner
- Experience of working with public and third sector partners

# Partnership Terms of Reference

## Overall Rationale

The overarching remit of the Partnership is to serve as Mid Cheshire's leadership group on the performance of the economy and the opportunities available to its residents. The Partnership will influence the policies of various organisations, including the Council, to stimulate economic growth, productivity, and competitiveness, while supporting Mid Cheshire in delivering its ambitions for inclusive growth and sustainability.

Partnership Members should possess knowledge of the local economy and communities, and be advocates for Mid Cheshire. Members will be expected to promote Mid Cheshire to different audiences as opportunities arise, supporting inward investment activity where possible.

The Mid Cheshire Partnership will form part of, and feed into, wider Cheshire West and Chester governance structures, with the Chair of the Partnership expected to liaise closely with the Economic Growth Board. The Partnership will be a senior leadership group, bringing together the public, private and voluntary sectors to provide advice on the economy and local communities and how the whole area can benefit from economic development activities. Members are expected to take a strategic role rather than act according to their individual interests.

## Purpose of the Partnership

The Partnership will primarily be advisory, providing insights to inform and influence the activities of others. It will advise on:

- How the economy is operating and the key local drivers shaping employment
- Supply-side issues that are holding back the economy's growth.
- Opportunities for growth, innovation or investment across the area
- Challenges to specific communities within the area
- How economic benefits may be delivered to a greater range of residents
- Outline of potential socio-economic development initiatives / interventions
- Line of sight to different funding initiatives (private and public)
- Ideas to help promote the Mid-Cheshire economy more widely

With this in mind, the Partnership will create an annual action plan (SMART Targets), informed by the Mid Cheshire Plan, that focuses on supporting the local economy and its communities.



# Partnership Terms of Reference cont

## Membership

The Partnership will comprise not more than 16 full members (and not fewer than 12), who will be selected through both co-option in the case of Councillors and specific requirements to include certain organisations and an open recruitment process for other roles.

It is anticipated that the Partnership will be made up of

- Portfolio holder for Inclusive Economy, Regeneration and Digital Inclusion and Mid-Cheshire champion
- Business Representatives
- Co-opted members, at the discretion of the Partnership but likely to include the MP for Mid Cheshire and a senior representative from the NHS, social housing provider, transport providers, the College, the VCSE sector.

Partnership members are appointed as individuals (rather than delegated members from an organisation) and will bring experience in or knowledge from their careers.

Partnership members will generally be appointed for a 3-year term (although initially appointments will be made for 2,3 and 4 year terms to ensure staggered future Partnership renewal). Partnership members may serve a second term by exception (and through the recruitment process).

The Chair will be appointed for 4 years with an option to extend for a further year.

The Partnership will at times need to vote, and to emphasises its independence and empower its activity, those in elected office will not have voting rights.

The Partnership will have gender parity, will reflect Cheshire West & Chester's policies on equality, inclusivity and diversity and will represent the entire geography of Mid Cheshire.

The Partnership may also wish to establish a local engagement group, which will help ensure that communications and messaging from the Partnership are effectively communicated and linked to the wider regional network of stakeholders, local members, and civic groups.

## Accountability

Cheshire West & Chester will act as the secretariat function to the Board..

- Individual Members will commit to attending three out of four meetings of the (board) as a condition of membership.
- Support a fully inclusive culture. Recognise the promotion of diversity and the elimination of discrimination and adhere to CW&C Council policies on equality, diversity and inclusivity.
- Maintain high standards of governance at all times, and this will include:
  - Adherence to the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan principles)
  - Declarations of Interest
  - Confidential Reporting
  - Whistleblowing
  - Gifts and Hospitality

## Meetings

The Partnership will meet quarterly unless it decides to increase frequency



# How to Apply

To apply, please submit a CV along with a covering letter that explains why you are a suitable candidate for the role.

Deadline: 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Address: [nwilcock@regionaldevelopment.co.uk](mailto:nwilcock@regionaldevelopment.co.uk)

Informal interviews will be conducted with shortlisted candidates during the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025. Although flexibility will be offered, given that this falls within the summer holiday period, a specific schedule will be provided.