



Expression of Interest for Crewe to be the National Headquarters of Great British Railways

Cheshire East Council - Submission for Crewe
March 16th 2022





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1. Context

Why Crewe



Access to Highly Skilled Talent Pool

41% of the population is qualified to NVQ4 or above – higher than the North West average of 38.6%.

33% of residents are aged between 25-49. The population is growing – up by 10.5% since 2001.

- › 12 major universities within an hour commute of Crewe, with a total student population of 271,390.
- › 5,200 new homes being built over the next 10 years.
- › Over 3 million people within a 45-minute commute by road and rail.



At the Heart of Rail Transformation

HS2 arriving in late 2020s – up to 10 years before Manchester.

Heart of a strategic freight centre – will play a major role in the decarbonisation and net zero agenda.

- › Strategic location between the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse regions.
- › Wealth of rail agglomeration opportunities around the Station Hub development.
- › GBR HQ will kickstart this journey.



Rail Supply Chain and Skills

Crewe has 7% of the rail workforce in England despite having just 0.1% of the population.

Alstom – investing in new bogie manufacturing facility as part of a **£2 billion Hitachi-Alstom High Speed contract**

Crewe is already home to many rail businesses including; Avanti, Arriva Train Care, Unipart Rail, TBM Rail, Freightliner, DB Cargo, DRS.

- › Freightliner – key hub for rail freight with multi-million pound investment in modern maintenance facility.
- › Strong technical education and apprenticeship provision through the Crewe Engineering and Design University Technical College (UTC) and a new £13m Institute of Technology, led by Cheshire College (South & West).



Quality of Life

Crewe has ranked in the **top three** UK residential locations for the past 3 years (Property Week)

House prices in Crewe are very competitive with prices **39% cheaper than the UK and 19% cheaper than the North West** for a semi-detached house.

Cheshire's Peak District encompasses nearly **100 square miles of inspiring scenery.**

- › Proximity to vibrant market towns like Nantwich, Sandbach, Knutsford, Alderley Edge and Wilmslow.
- › Cheshire East consistently ranks as one of the top places to live in the North West.
- › Excellent cultural assets such as Crewe Lyceum Theatre, Crewe Market Hall, Crewe Lifestyle Centre and Crewe Alexandra FC.
- › A diverse range of visitor destinations attract tourists from across the UK and overseas



Unrivalled Connectivity

6 rail lines from Crewe – offering 360° rail connectivity across all nations and regions of the UK.

3 international airports within 1 hour.

- › Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham are all within an hour commute by rail – reducing to less than 30 mins with HS2.
- › Up to 40 Crewe-London rail services per day and journey times as fast as 90 minutes – reducing to 55 min with HS2.
- › Strategic distribution hub for the rail freight industry with connections to ports servicing the Irish Sea and the Atlantic.



Value for Money and Investment Plans

Headline office rents in Crewe are 84-87% lower than Birmingham or Manchester. (£15per ft² in Crewe compared to £37per ft² in Birmingham and £38.50per ft² in Manchester).

£38 million secured for town centre regeneration projects.

- › £45 million committed to date for a new HS2 station.
- › £300m investment planned in local transport improvements.
- › Investing in nearly 500,000 sqft of new commercial floorspace, providing space for growth and coalescing of supply chain industry.

The 4th July 2022 will mark 185 years since the first train arrived at Crewe railway station. It would be fitting for this anniversary to be marked by the announcement of Crewe becoming the home of Great British Railways.

Crewe was born from the railways. The town was developed following the Grand Junction Railway Company's 1837 investment in a new station connecting the Liverpool & Manchester Railways and the London & Birmingham Railways, along with the opening of Crewe Works in 1840.

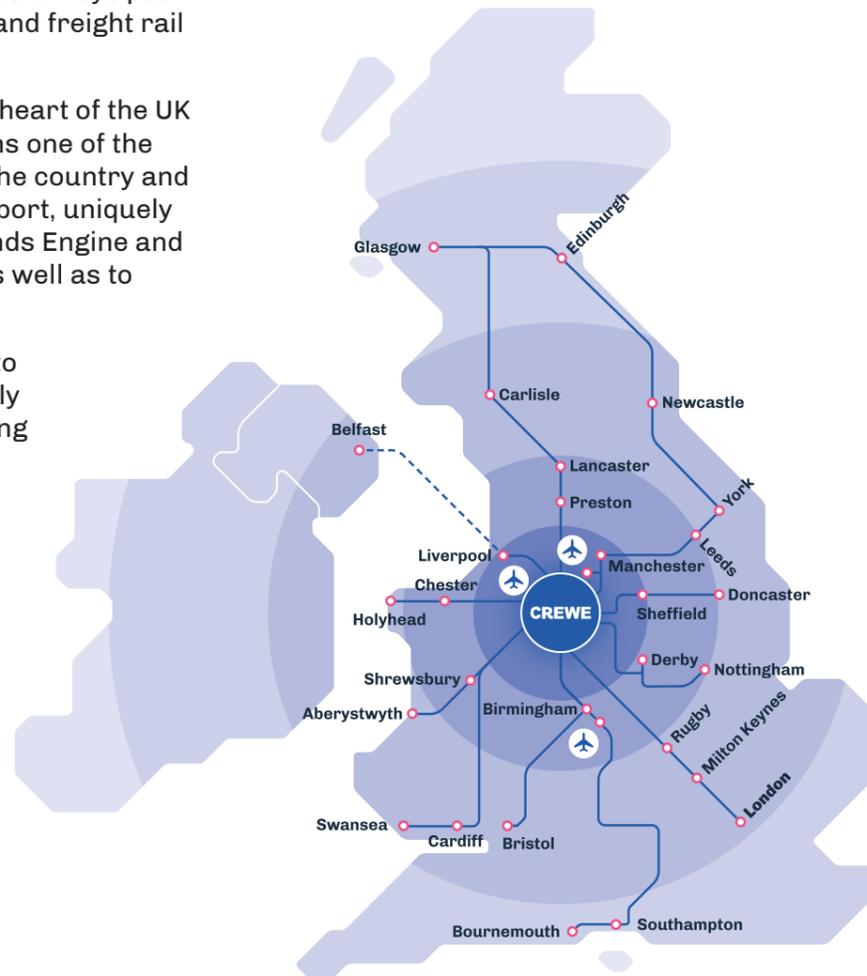
The town's growth has always been inextricably linked to the railways. From the golden age of building steam trains to electrification and diesel programmes, its rail connections combined with its engineering workforce has always put it at the centre of the passenger and freight rail industry.

Crewe's strategic location at the heart of the UK rail network means that it remains one of the most important interchanges in the country and a major hub for rail freight transport, uniquely acting as a gateway to the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse regions as well as to Scotland and Wales.

Crewe has grown and evolved into a modern town and remains highly regarded for its skilled engineering workforce. Although best-known today for being home to Bentley Motors, Crewe is also home to Alstom, Atos and Fujitsu. However, despite its skilled workforce, it is a town in need of levelling up – a fact often masked by the wider success of Cheshire as a whole.

The arrival of HS2 and the development of a new Station Hub will mark the next chapter

in Crewe's rail-led transformation, part of an ambitious masterplan for a commercial district with new offices, hotel and retail offer. Locating the GBR headquarters around the Station Hub area will be a catalyst for the regeneration of Crewe. It will give confidence to investors and businesses and offer tangible prospects for the local workforce and future generations, making Crewe an exemplar model for the levelling up of 'left-behind' towns across the UK.



Rail is at the heart of Crewe...

- › Crewe has 7% of the rail workforce in England despite having just 0.1% of the population.
- › An extended labour pool of over 3 million people within a 45 minute commute by road or rail.
- › A need for Levelling Up. The lack of investment in railways has impacted Crewe.



Crewe is at the heart of Rail...

- › Arguably the most important interchange on the rail network and a strategic hub for the freight industry.
- › Six rail lines offering 360° rail connectivity to all nations and regions of the UK.
- › Connects the Midlands Engine and Northern Powerhouse regions as well as direct access to Wales and Scotland.



Crewe: A proud rail heritage...

- › Crewe played a pioneering role in rail innovation in the 19th and 20th Centuries.
- › At its height, there were about 20,000 people employed at Crewe Works.
- › More than 8,000 locomotives were built in Crewe.



Crewe: An exciting rail led future...

- › Crewe's strategic location puts it at the heart of rail digitalisation and the decarbonisation of travel.
- › Crewe will be a HS2 SuperHub in Phase 2a - up to 10 years earlier than Manchester.
- › The new Institute of Technology will make Crewe a Rail Skills Centre of Excellence.



Developing and supporting our application

This application has been developed by Cheshire East Council with the support of the Crewe and Nantwich MP and Crewe Town Board. We are proud to submit this application and demonstrate why Crewe is right for GBR, and GBR is right for Crewe.



Councillor Sam Corcoran
Leader of
Cheshire East Council



Councillor Craig Browne
Deputy Leader of
Cheshire East Council



Dr Kieran Mullan
Member of Parliament for
Crewe and Nantwich



Doug Kinsman
Chair of
Crewe Town Board

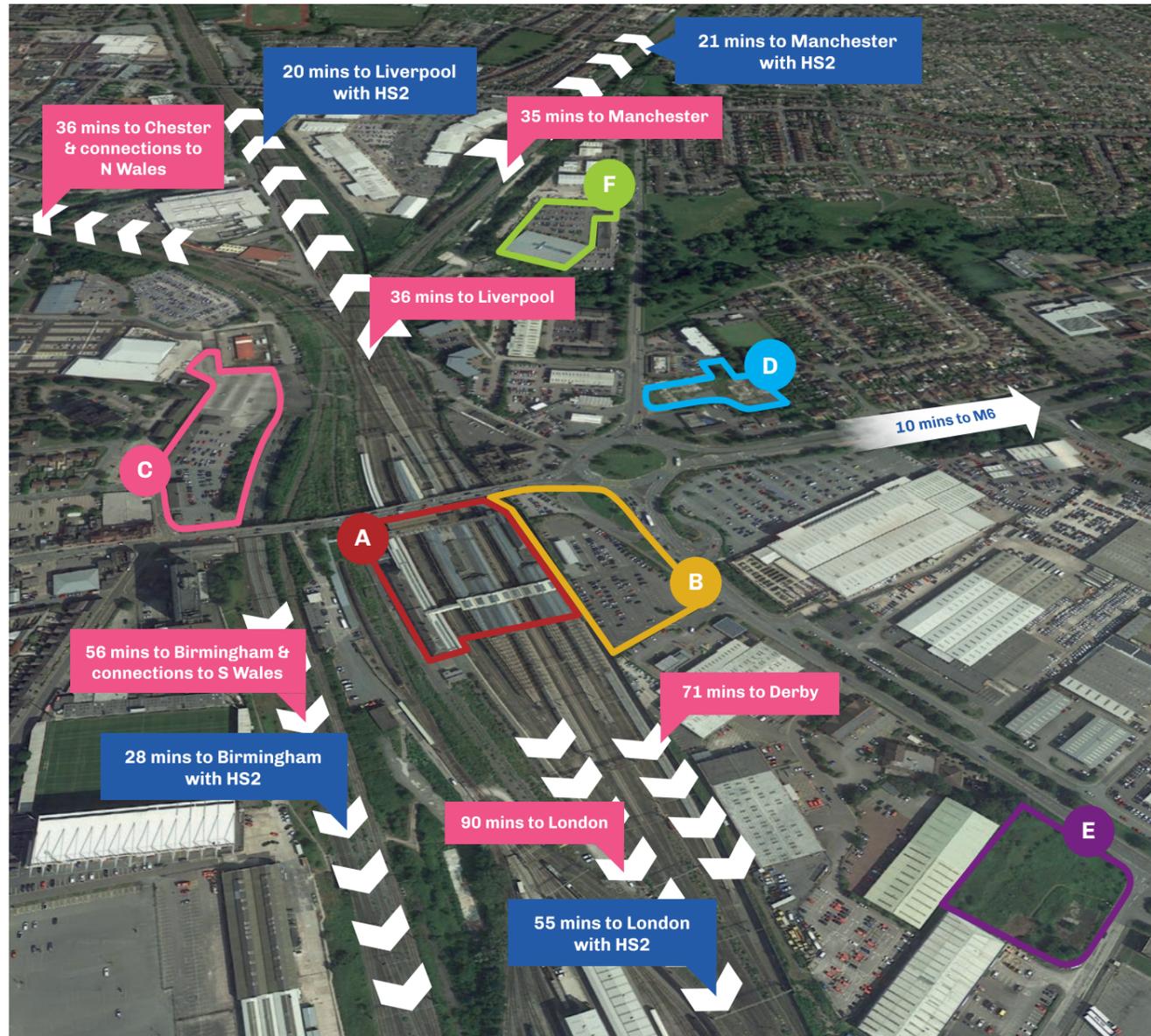
The application is also supported by:



Proposed sites for the national headquarters

There is a portfolio of land and property within the public sector and rail estate in close proximity to Crewe Station. All are at the centre of the Town's existing rail supply chain, skills cluster and future HS2 Station Hub Area. The proposed site options are shown in the map below and table overleaf. All sites have been selected due to their proximity to the station and existing public ownership. We are happy to share additional wider opportunities with you.

Six proposed sites for the national headquarters



Key

- A** Crewe Station
- B** Weston Road Car Park (Station Hub Development Area)
- C** Pedley Street Car Park
- D** Macon Way
- E** Weston Road
- F** Total Fitness & Mannin House on Macon Road

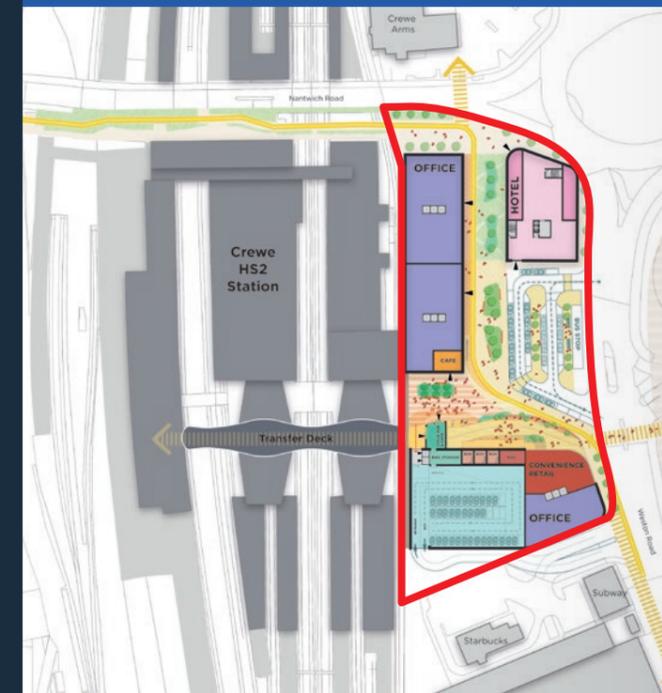
A Crewe Station



Property Size (SqM): 7,050
Ownership: Network Rail (Avanti)
Walking time to Station: 0 mins

- Potential for modest GBR workforce to be located within spare office accommodation during transitional phase. Shorter term measure due to limited space. Longer term, there is an opportunity for GBR offices to form part of a larger development.

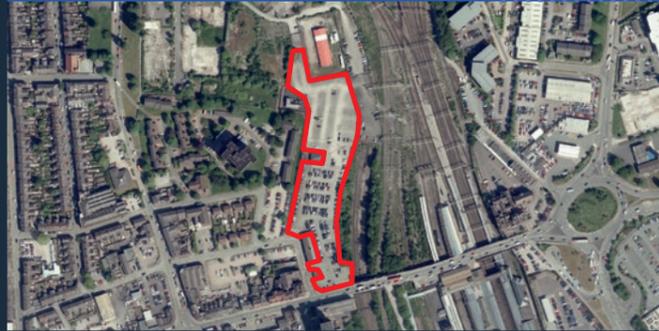
B Weston Road Car Park (Station Hub Development Area)



Property Size (SqM): 10,750
Ownership: Network Rail (Avanti)
Walking time to Station: 0 mins

- Detailed investment plans for c. 200,000sqft of new commercial offices, hotel and station concourse. Adjacent to Hub Station, with improved accessibility to Station. Development area expandable in future phases.

C Pedley Street Car Park



Property Size (SqM): 13,300
Ownership: Network Rail (Avanti)
Walking time to Station: 2 mins

Existing Rail Regulated Car Park in close proximity to the Station. With appropriate investment and close working with rail operator partners this site generates an opportunity to create increased connectivity within Crewe.

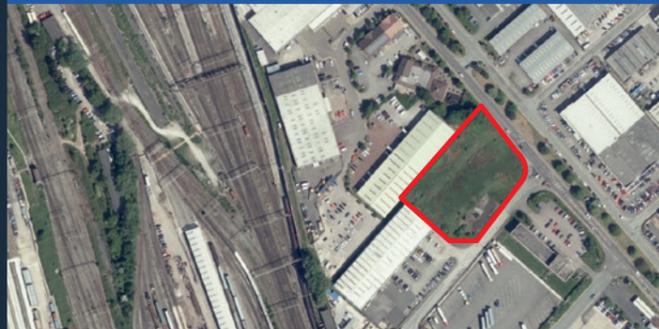
D Macon Way



Property Size (SqM): 7,200
Ownership: Council
Walking time to Station: 4 mins

Cleared site. Acquired and held for strategic reasons associated with HS2. This brown field site offers a great opportunity for a range of rail-related uses.

E Weston Road



Property Size (SqM): 6,000
Ownership: Council
Walking time to Station: 7 mins

Cleared site. Acquired and held for strategic reasons associated with HS2. This brown field site offers a great opportunity for a range of rail-related uses.

F Total Fitness & Mannin House on Macon Road



Property Size (SqM): 6,600
Ownership: Network Rail (Avanti)
Walking time to Station: 7 mins

Network Rail have recently purchased the land outlined in red and is expecting to accommodate 300+ staff on the site once refurbished.

The Benefits for Crewe

Crewe has benefitted hugely from the railway throughout its history and has much to gain from the arrival of GBR. Awarding the HQ to Crewe will:

Enhance Crewe's reputation as the heart of rail by:

- › Being at the heart of rail policy and planning, acting as a magnet for rail innovation and investment.
- › Building on existing strengths in rail manufacturing, maintenance, engineering and freight operations - making it the undisputed centre of the UK rail industry.
- › Securing the public's understanding of Crewe as a dynamic and forward-looking railway town at the heart of the network.

Build confidence by:

- › Creating direct employment opportunities and boosting plans for inclusive growth, raising the aspirations and skills of local people and stimulating wider social benefits.
- › Giving the Rail Freight Sector - which sees Crewe as major strategic hub - an enduring vote of confidence.

Kickstarting a rail-led regeneration:

- › GBR's arrival will be a high-profile anchor investment for Crewe, attracting new business and international investment.
- › Stimulating demand for office space and employment land.
- › Paving the way for the creation of new residential districts around the station and closer to the centre.

Crystallise the benefits of HS2:

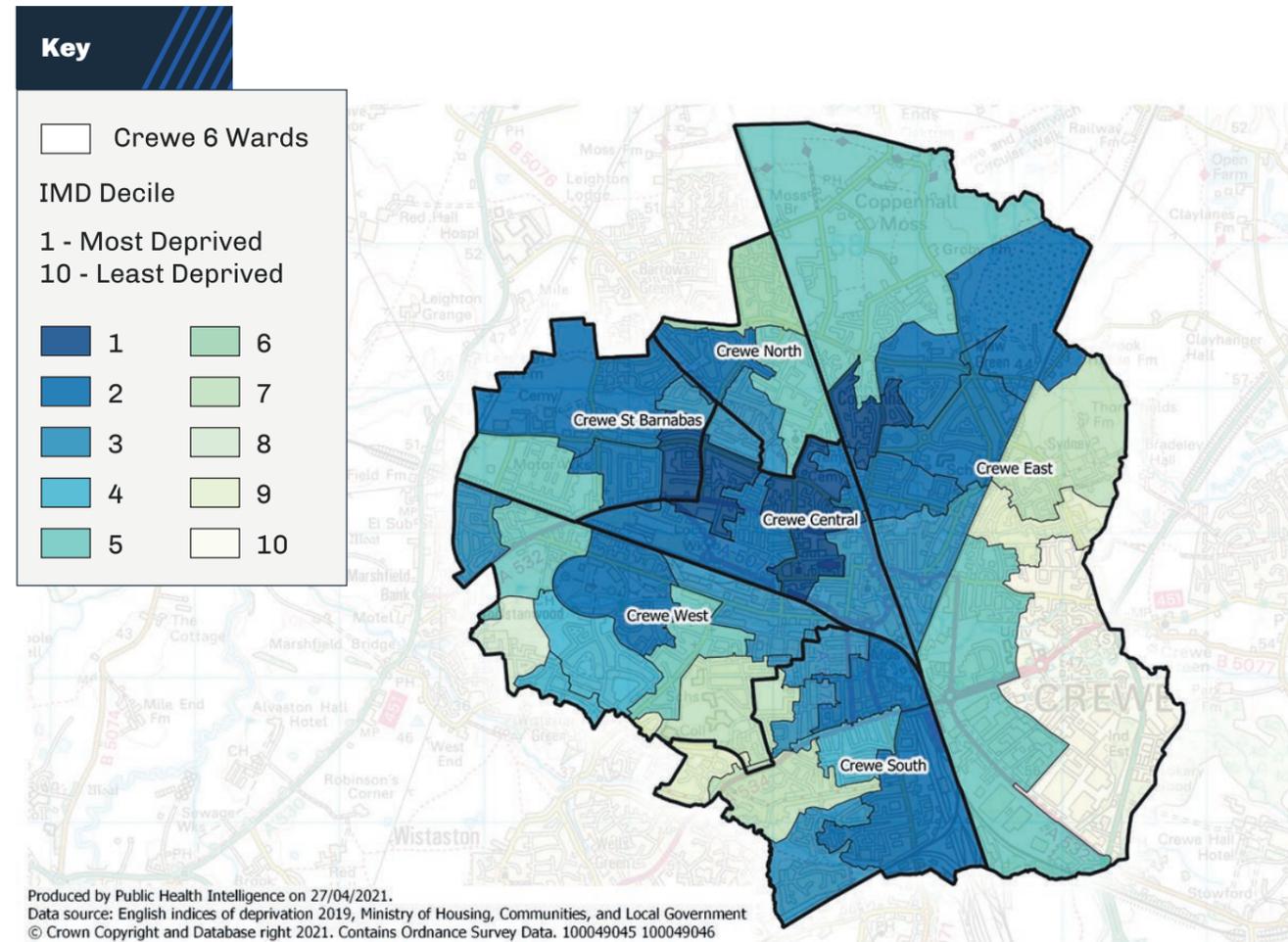
- › Realising and implementing the benefits of HS2 for local people and showing that it can generate employment opportunities.
- › Unlocking station enhancements and accessibility, ensuring that HS2 delivers the maximum benefit to the town and all residents.

2. Levelling Up



Crewe is in need of levelling up

Crewe's growth has always been tied to the railways. As investment in the railways faded, so did Crewe's fortunes. The need for Levelling Up Crewe is often masked by the wider success of Cheshire East as a whole, but the statistics below speak for themselves.



However, we have a 10 Year Strategy for Crewe, outlined here:

› **Crewe's HS2 Station Hub and High Speed Growth Corridor:**

Investment in offices and homes around the station hub to attract new workers and residents. This investment will be accessible and provide opportunities for existing residents with improved connectivity into a transformed Crewe town centre that offers an attractive range of shops, amenities and services.

› **Housing Growth Strategy:**

We will support investment in existing stock, ensure the private rented sector is better managed, and provide enhanced choice through the delivery of modern homes.

› **Better internal and external connections for Crewe supported by our Local Transport Delivery Plan:**

An investment of £100m has been delivered and a further £200m is proposed to ensure that Crewe is better connected to the M6, providing residents with improved access to their homes and places of work by road, foot and cycle.

› **Skills and Education Plan:**

Developing clear career pathways for young people. Working with employers and education and skills providers to shape curriculums with a specific focus on STEM, digital skills and key sectors for the area.

6 out of Crewe's 13 wards

are in the 10% most deprived nationally – concentrated around the town centre.

£5,000

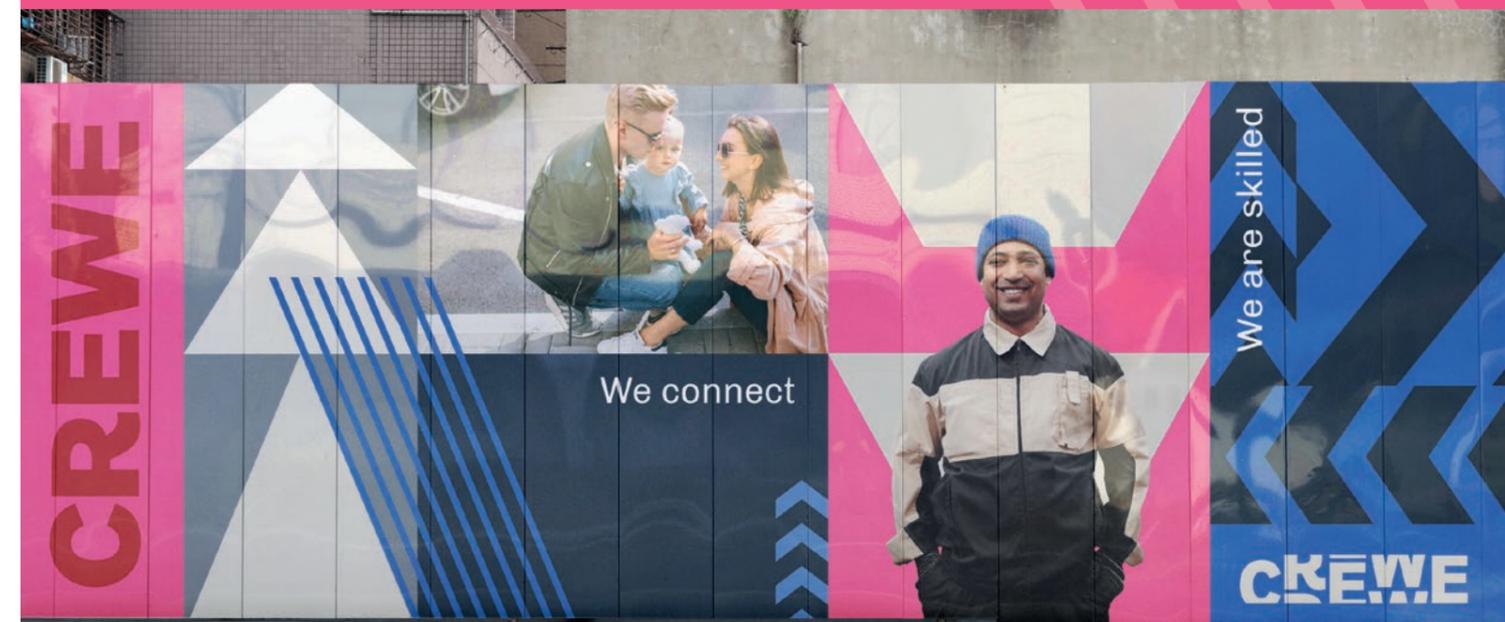
lower household income than the Cheshire East average.



Average life expectancy is **six years below the England average.**

8.4%

of 16-17 year olds in central Crewe are NEET in comparison to an average of 2.3% in Cheshire East.



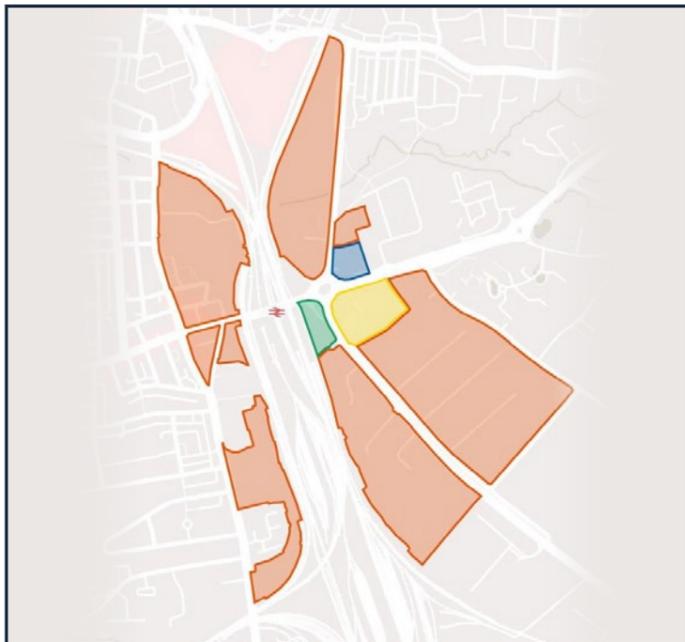
Laying the foundations for levelling up...

GBR will benefit from some of the significant investment that has already been secured to start delivering this 10-year strategy. This includes £14.1 million from the Future High Street Fund and £22.9 million from the Towns Fund. £13m has been secured for a new Institute of Technology. £45m has been committed for a new HS2 Hub Station. The Council is progressing several new retail, leisure and housing developments in the town centre. The area around the Station has been allocated as the 'HS2 Station Hub' strategic employment site, providing opportunity for new investment in offices, hotels and amenities, providing a fantastic opportunity for GBR to become the landmark occupier, helping to shape the future regeneration of Crewe.

Some of the projects underway are illustrated below:

Key

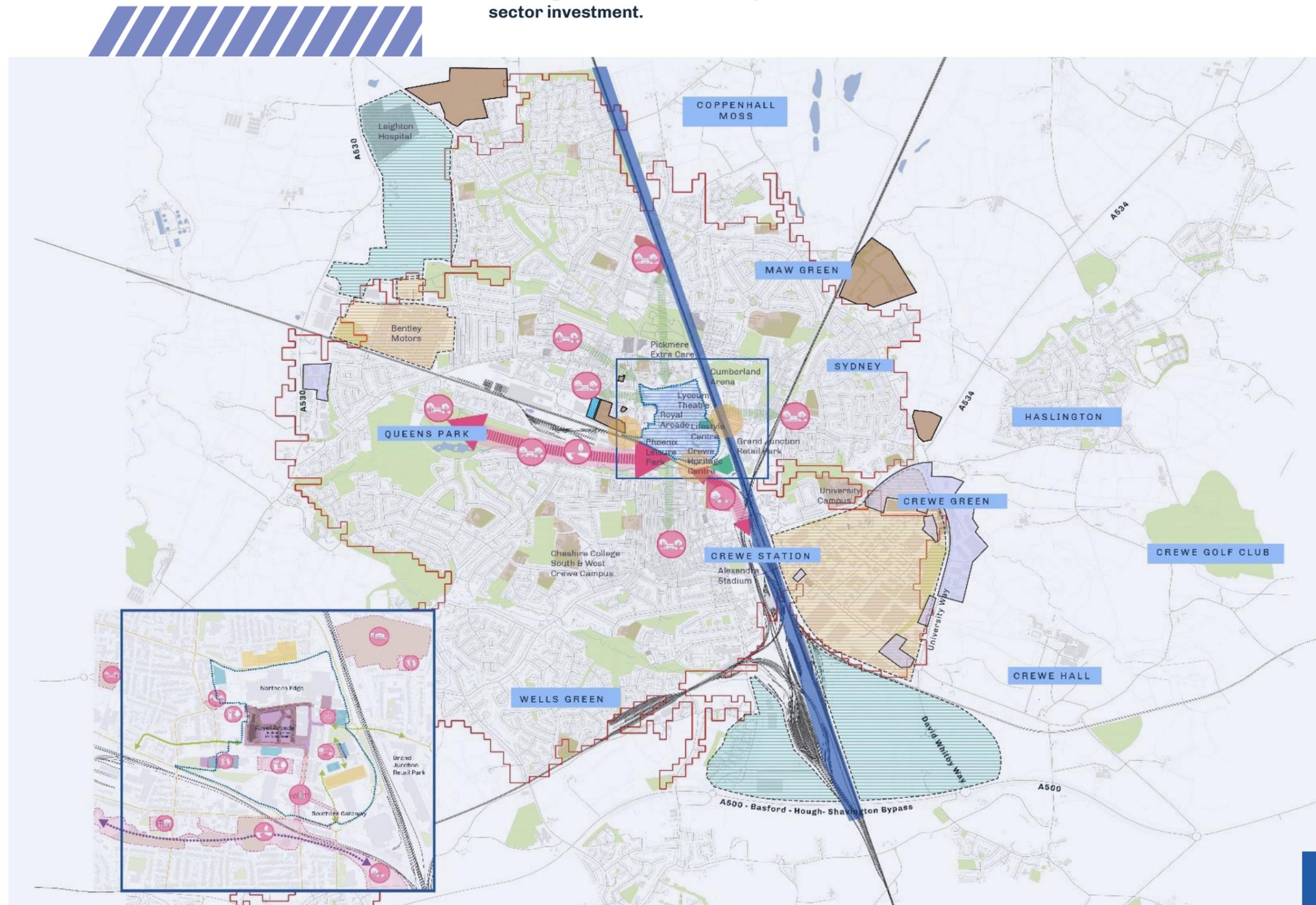
- Railway Lines
- Future High Street Fund Accessibility Improvement Projects
- ▬ Key projects of the Town Investment Plan
- Safeguarded land for HS2
- ▬ Expansion zone for HS2 Hub
- Allocated site for Residential
- Allocated site for Mixed Use
- Allocated site for Employment
- ▬ Strategic sites for Development
- ▬ Strategic Employment Site



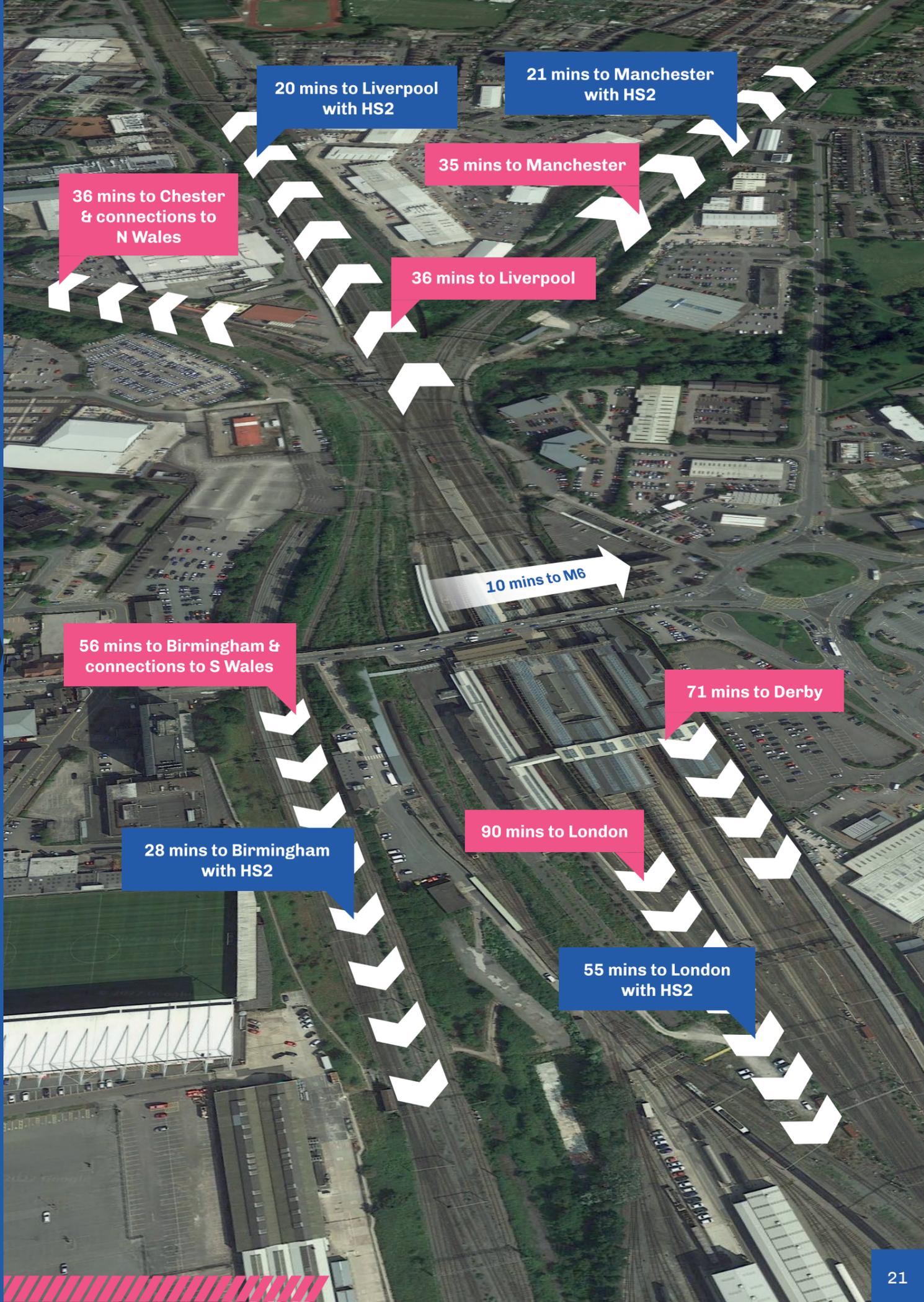
Future levelling up opportunities

Locating GBR's headquarters in Crewe could create levelling up opportunities in the future by:

- › Accelerating the rail-led transformation and the benefits from the town's HS2 links.
- › Enabling Phase 1 of the HS2 Station Hub Development.
- › Stimulating further growth in the strong local supply chain, as seen with the HS2 HQ in Birmingham.
- › Boosting confidence for further private sector investment.
- › Extending levelling up benefits beyond the town to the wider North West, Midlands and Wales.
- › Creating skilled jobs for the future by building on existing expertise to teach the next generation and becoming a national centre of excellence for rail skills.



3. Connected and easy to get to



Unrivalled connectivity with other nations and regions of Great Britain

Crewe's central and strategic position makes it:

At the **heart of the rail network**, connecting Britain together.

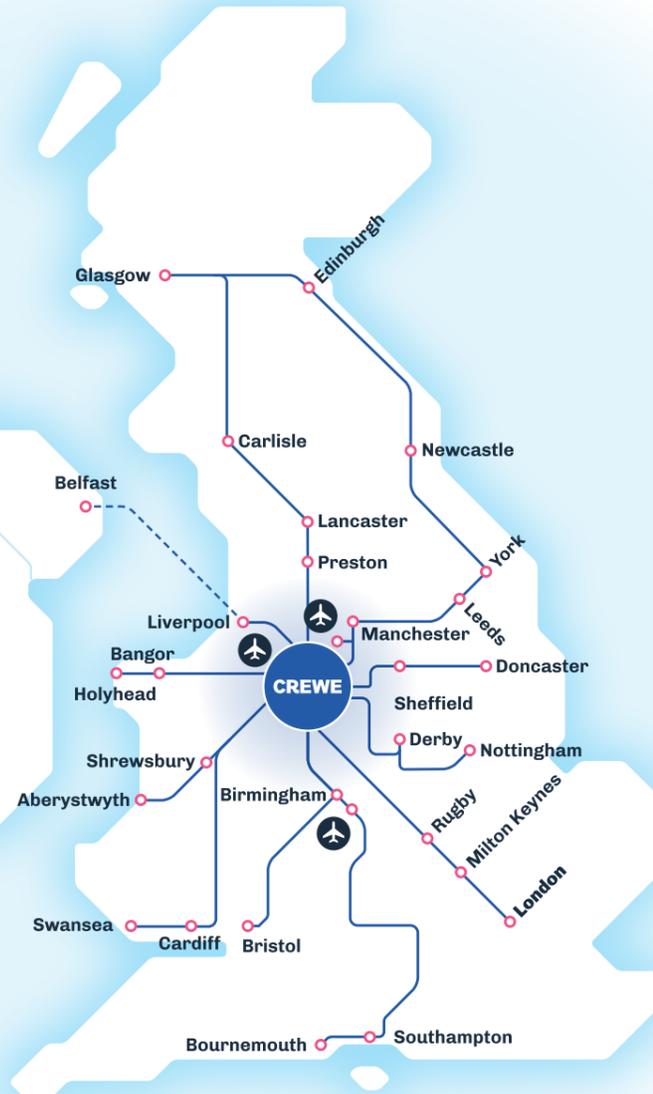
A major junction on the UK rail network with **six rail lines offering 360° rail connectivity** across all regions of the UK.

A station with **direct access** to three domestic and international airports.

A key rail junction for the **freight industry**.

The only station on the mainline connected to all national and regional capitals.

Set for even greater connectivity with **HS2 and NPR**.



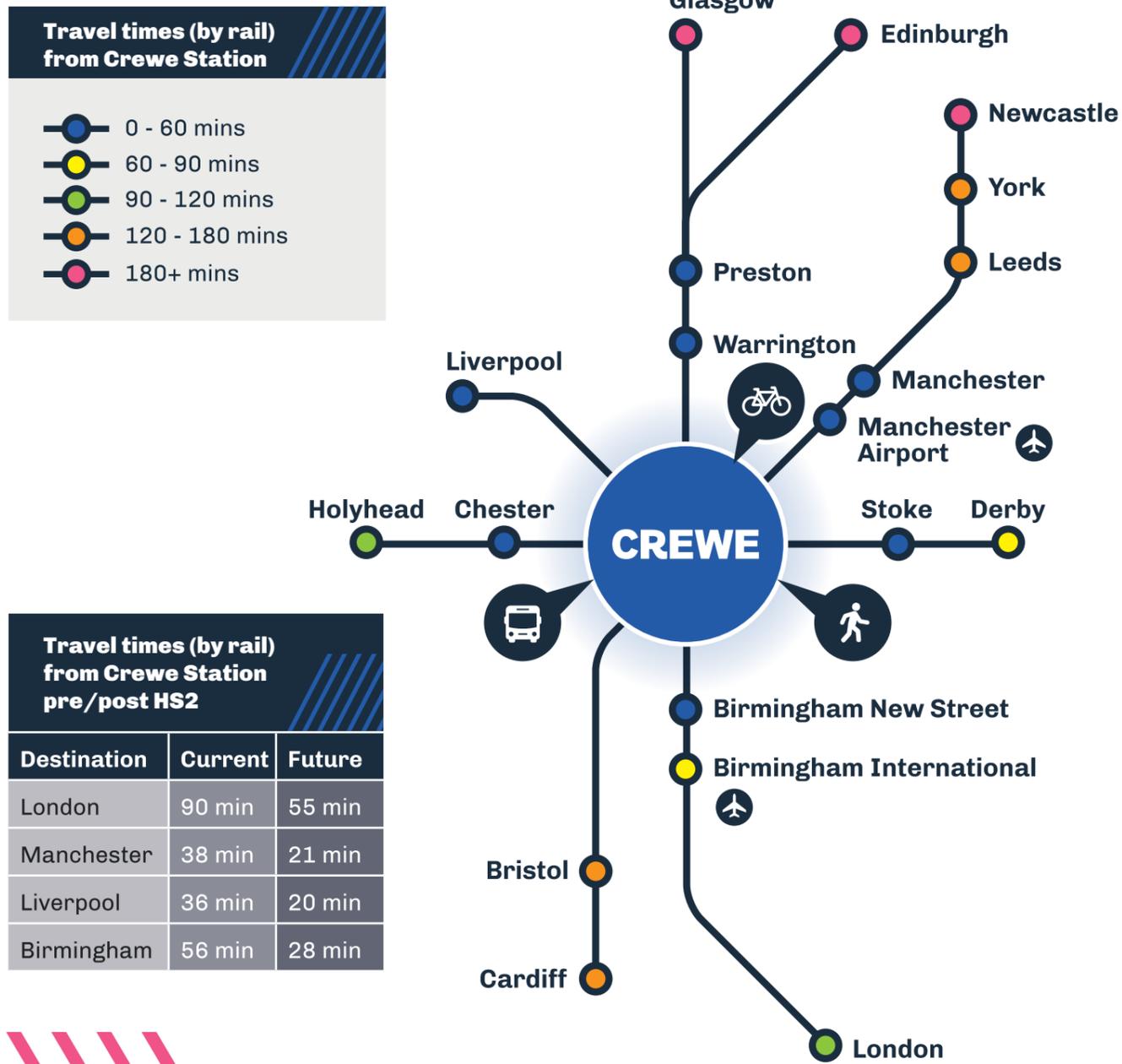
How being based in Crewe will enable GBR to engage with customers, the private sector and wider transport industry

- › Once HS2 arrives, Crewe to London will be 55mins and Birmingham, Liverpool and Manchester will all be accessible within 30 minutes.
- › Crewe is already home to many of GBR's customers, suppliers and wider transport industry. In addition to the rail engineering sector, it is also a key strategic hub for the rail freight transport industry and passenger rail operators.
- › Crewe offers a unique opportunity to grow a strong supply chain cluster around a new headquarters located close to Crewe Station.



Accessing the National Headquarters, via rail routes and other sustainable modes of transport

A GBR national headquarters located within the immediate environs of Crewe Station, with plans to enhance walking and cycling facilities around a new passenger concourse, would mean unrivalled connectivity with direct rail links from all regions and nations of the UK:



Why GBR's Crewe HQ will be equally accessible to all members of society, in line with Public Sector Equality Duties

All available sites are within a 0 to 7 minute walk of Crewe Station and are in public ownership, giving us direct control over their development, meaning they will be designed and delivered to the highest standards of accessibility.

The Crewe HS2 Hub Station Phase 1 scheme incorporates a new entrance including a new fully accessible passenger concourse and a new multi-modal interchange. This will include: bicycle, bus, taxi, pick-up and drop off and a 420-space multi-storey car park immediately adjacent to the Station.

Cheshire East Council is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion across all of its activities and services and has a robust equality and diversity strategy. In addition there is a named, elected member champion for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and nominated Equality Champions across all Council teams. Full Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) will be undertaken at each phase of new development.



How Crewe has supported successful collaboration between local authorities, business and other organisations across the UK to further social, economic and transport objectives.

Examples of successful collaborations include:

› Establishment of the Crewe Town Board, a collaboration of local political and business leaders and local community representatives that led the development of the Town Investment Plan which secured **£22.9 million** through the Towns Fund.

› The successful case to re-route HS2 via Crewe in Phase2a and to establish a HS2 Super Hub in Crewe with up to **7 trains** per hour.

› A Local Transport Delivery Plan that has delivered **£100 million** in transport improvements with proposals for a further **£200 million**.

› **Growth Track 360** – This partnership has delivered transformation across the North Wales and Cheshire regional economy to deliver **70,000** new jobs over 20 years.

› **North Midlands Growth Corridor** – A project focusing on growth along the 90km A500/A50 manufacturing corridor, supporting **30,000 new homes** and **17,000 new jobs**.

› Partnership led by **Cheshire College South & West** for a **£13m Institute of Technology**.



4. Opportunities for Great British Railways

Opportunities that Crewe offers for working with the rail supply chain, manufacturing hubs and institutes

Crewe is home to a thriving rail industry ranging from;

Multi-disciplinary professional service firms which offer rail and transportation related consultancy services:



Businesses directly operating in the rail sector which provide a range of locomotive manufacturing and rail engineering services:



Businesses with major distribution centres and maintenance yards:



Businesses in the rail supply chain that are able to supply materials, trained personnel, supply chain packages and rail refurbishments:



The presence of the Crewe Engineering UTC and Institute of Technology at Cheshire College create an opportunity for Crewe to be known as a Centre of Excellence for Rail Skills, capturing existing rail expertise and wider complementary skills to teach the next generation.

Opportunities for collaboration with the retail, economic and environmental sectors in Crewe and the benefits to GBR

GBR will have an opportunity to become a key partner in the delivery of the 10-year strategy for Levelling Up Crewe. A key part of this plan is the redevelopment of the Crewe HS2 Hub Station Area into a thriving business district. Future phases will see further development of commercial and industrial space, creating an opportunity for rail industry organisations to coalesce around the station. By getting in at the first phase of the development GBR can have a big say in shaping the design of the scheme and future initiatives to promote rail supply chain and innovation opportunities.

There are also exciting plans to invest in our growing creative and cultural sector with the ambition to drive participation with our communities through skills development and by attracting many more visitors. We would welcome the opportunity for GBR to collaborate on these plans and participate in the varied programme of annual events such as the Lumen Festival of Lights and TrAction festival of Science and Engineering.

The Town Investment Plan also aims to transform the connectivity between the Station Hub area and new retail, leisure and housing developments in the town centre through enhanced public realm and pedestrian and cycling routes. This creates opportunities for GBR to collaborate on the design of environmental schemes such as new pocket parks and e-bikes.

The Council is also developing plans for a District Heating Network to provide affordable and sustainable heating solutions to businesses and residents. This is currently being piloted in the town centre with opportunities to expand the network to new developments around the Station Hub.



Courtesy of Peter Robinson



Opportunities that the site(s)/building(s) offer GBR to develop as an organisation

All proposed locations are in close proximity to the Crewe Station Hub. Its Masterplan will:

- › Deliver nearly 500,000 sqft of new commercial floorspace.
- › Create an integrated multi-modal transport network with unparalleled connectivity to local, regional and national destinations.
- › Demand exceptional design quality to maximise the benefits of change and help improve perceptions of Crewe.
- › Build upon existing and future assets to generate value in the short, medium and long-term.

For GBR this means:

- › Benefitting from relatively low land values now ahead of projected uplifts.
- › Having the opportunity to become the landmark occupier and shape the design of Station Hub area to meet your requirements.
- › Enjoying unrivalled connectivity to the country's leading cities and links to regional headquarters.
- › Having access to a highly skilled local talent pool and a huge labour market within a one-hour journey time.
- › Locating in a quality place to live and work with over 10,000 new homes making it affordable to live in Cheshire.
- › Benefitting from millions of pounds of public funding investment in infrastructure for growth.



5. Railway heritage & links to the network

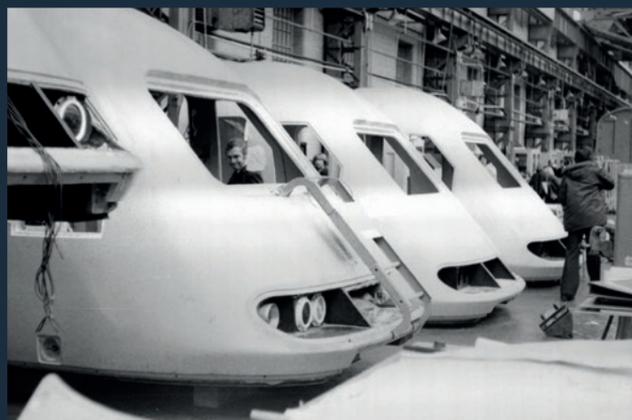


Crewe's railway heritage and the benefits it offers to GBR

Crewe owes its existence to the railways. In the early 1830s the arrival of Crewe Station and Crewe Works transformed a small Cheshire Village into a hugely significant hub of the UK's railway industry.

Rail has been in the blood of the local people ever since. Multiple generations of families have worked in the rail industry. At its height, 20,000 people were employed at Crewe Works. Although no longer such a major employer, a significant proportion of the workforce is connected to the railways.

This rail heritage is celebrated at the Crewe Heritage Centre and is recognised in Crewe Alexandra FC's nickname - 'The Railwaymen'.



Crewe offers GBR:

- > A proud rail heritage
- > An exciting rail led future
- > Crewe is at the heart of rail
- > Rail is at the heart of Crewe

How the headquarters could preserve and enhance Crewe's railway heritage

This town played a critical role in pioneering rail investment across UK in the 19th and 20th Centuries. As the importance of the railways faded, so did Crewe's fortunes. The UK is now embarking on the next evolution of rail

transformation and Crewe has the connectivity, the skills, the industry base, the track record, the opportunity and the passion to be at the heart of these plans. GBR's arrival would kickstart the next chapter in our rail-led regeneration.

Links with existing rail employment, innovation and sector bodies

As the rail industry innovated and adapted over the years, many local jobs were lost or relocated. Nonetheless, Crewe has retained and attracted many of the rail and rail supply chain businesses as they too, have innovated and evolved, meaning that it is well positioned and ready to be at the centre of rail reform and innovation through the 21st Century and beyond.

The town's appetite and ability to be at the forefront of rail innovation is already being recognised by the rail industry with Alstom

choosing their site in Crewe for the production of the bogies for HS2 and Freightliner investing in a new maintenance facility for freight locomotives while Avanti West Coast Partnership has established its nationwide talent academy here.

Although Network Rail and HS2 Ltd already have a presence in Crewe there is an opportunity for much greater coalescing around a GBR HQ to expand their presence in the town.



6. Value for money

Land values in Crewe are just 5-10% of those in nearby Manchester, making it an extremely attractive place to invest. At c.£15psf headline office rents in Crewe are between 84-87% lower than Birmingham (£37psf) and Manchester (£38.50psf), which means we can offer potentially huge savings compared to big cities in the North and Midlands and London and the South East.

Selecting Crewe creates a win-win situation for both GBR and Cheshire East Council and its partners. By being present at the first stage of the Station Hub development as landmark occupier, GBR can have a big say in shaping the design and development of the scheme to ensure that it is tailored to your requirements. At the same time a pre-let from GBR backed by the government's covenant would significantly make the scheme much more attractive to private sector investors, helping to reduce the viability gap and significantly reducing the need for public sector funding.

Attracting GBR to Crewe would be the catalyst for the regeneration of the area, ensuring that we maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits of the arrival of HS2. Our ambition is to create a new mixed-use neighbourhood that provides a new gateway for Crewe, connecting the Station to the revitalised town centre. GBR would ignite a regeneration programme that could deliver:

- › 500,000 square foot of new Grade A office space
- › 4,400 new homes
- › 2,400 new jobs
- › Add £756m GVA to the economy

6. Value for money

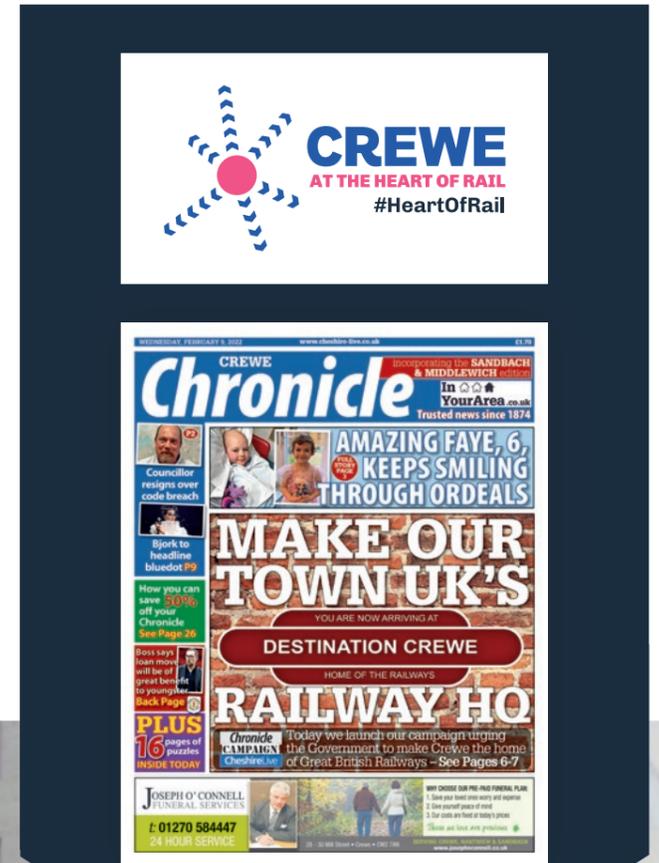




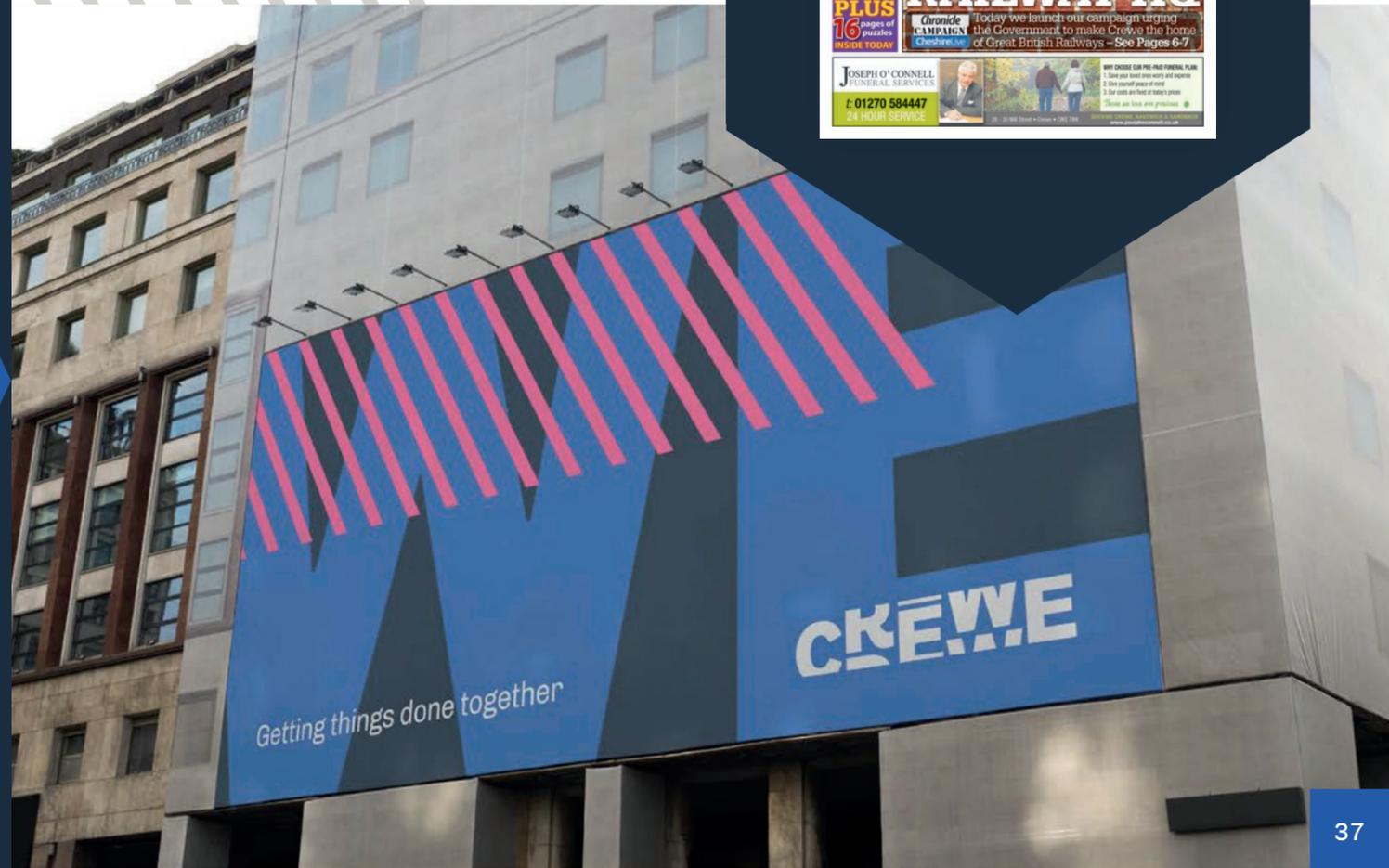
How our intentions for the national headquarters tie in with the needs of our local communities, our identity and values?

Crewe's population is fiercely proud of the town's railway heritage. This is seen in the results of a survey run by local newspaper The Chronicle, who are backing the bid, which found that an overwhelming **97% of respondents** were in favour of the arrival of GBR, which has also won the support of local education providers, politicians, industry leaders and celebrities.

Our place brand and values, developed with the people of Crewe, are intrinsically linked to the town's industrial and railway heritage and the opportunities here now and in the future. Now the town is talked of as a people-powered place full of potential, with a self-starting attitude, engaged communities and the motivation to get things done.



7. Public support



7. Public support

Here is a snapshot of the views of the people of Crewe explaining why it is an ideal location for GBR.

“Crewe is an important hub for rail freight with many rail freight operators having operational bases here and all freight operators run services through the town. Therefore, it would be a real vote of confidence and support for the freight sector to base the GBR Headquarters in Crewe. Furthermore, as GBR will be structured in five distinct geographic regions, it is important that the headquarters is seen to be independent of these regions, making Crewe a good candidate location because of its position in the country.”



Peter Graham
Head of Policy & Regulatory Affairs,
Freightliner Group Limited

“The railways play a major part in Crewe's history and the community today. This really would be a great thing for both business and will have a positive impact on the town. The railway plays such a major part of Crewe's heritage and history, this opportunity would further strengthen the towns connection with rail transport and have a positive impact on the area and the community.”

Peter Kanalos
Cheshire College learner

For more detail on the public support behind our bid, please visit:
www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/gbrpublicsupport

“When Lord Crewe sold a piece of land to the Grand Junction Railway in the 1830s, little did he realise the importance that Crewe would have in the industrial revolution. With its freight and passenger connections it has always been super connected. After years of no investment it still has the best connectivity outside of the Capital, and with HS2 it could lead to another chapter in the history of Britain with the GBR HQ based here.”



Pete Waterman
Music producer,
railway enthusiast and
Cheshire East resident

“When you combine Crewe's rich rail history with its fantastic links across England and the Union – it's not hard to understand why there's widespread community support for our bid for Crewe to host the GBR headquarters. I have been contacted by a wide range of businesses, community groups and individual residents who passionately support our ambition. Residents understand the role the HQ can play in helping level up Crewe as it strives to fulfil its potential and spread opportunity across the town in the face of pockets of deprivation. Crewe is at the heart of rail and residents have seen first-hand the benefits the railway can have on a community and are eager to see further investment and levelling up as the hosts of Great British Railway headquarters.”



Dr Kieran Mullan
MP for Crewe and
Nantwich

7. Public support



All four Cheshire East Council group leaders support this application, as do local Members of Parliament.



Fiona Bruce
Member of Parliament
for Congleton



Esther McVey
Member of Parliament
for Tatton



David Rutley
Member of Parliament
for Macclesfield



Edward Timpson CBE
Member of Parliament
for Eddisbury



Chris Matheson
Member of Parliament
for City of Chester



Mike Amesbury
Member of Parliament
for Weaver Vale



Andy Carter
Member of Parliament for
Warrington South



Jo Gideon
Member of Parliament for
Stoke-On-Trent Central



Jonathan Gullis
Member of Parliament for
Stoke-On-Trent North

