



# INVEST IN BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN

# OUR APPROACH TO GROWTH

- ◆ Strong, ambitious and stable leadership
- ◆ Robust plans and investment frameworks
- ◆ Clear understanding of business and investor priorities
- ◆ Capacity to move at pace and scale
- ◆ Track record of delivery and working in partnership



# BIG YEAR AHEAD...

- ◆ Progressing new £1bn strategic frameworks to drive our growth:
  - **New Local Plan**
  - **Blackburn Growth Axis**
  - **Darwen Town Deal Investment Plan**
  - **J5 Growth Corridor**
- ◆ Bringing forward major development opportunities – including new Blackburn Town Centre Masterplan to be anchored by a new Business Innovation District
- ◆ Leveraging major opportunities nearby – including new National Cyber Force HQ at Samlesbury EZ and AMRC North West

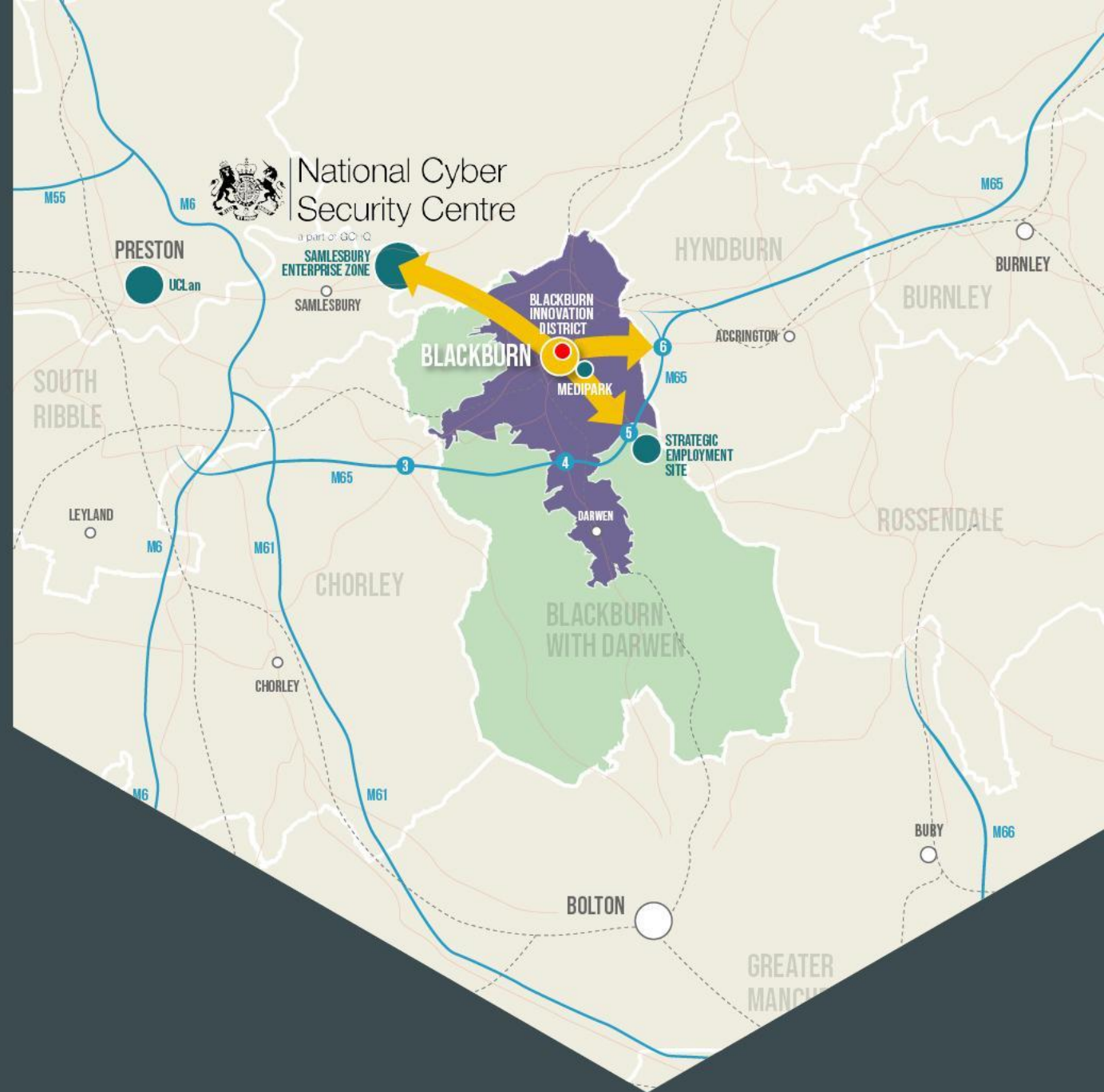


- ◆ Continuing to deliver a housing market offer that attracts and retains talented residents and newcomers
- ◆ Enabling our driven local entrepreneurs and investors to grow and prosper and leveraging their established and expanding international links
- ◆ Supporting and encouraging our talented residents especially our gifted and ambitious young people
- ◆ Presenting our investment prospectus to the market place – we have much to share and attract investor interest



# BLACKBURN GROWTH AXIS

- ◆ Plans to unlock £1bn of new economic activity
- ◆ Opportunity to support 100,000 jobs in the area
- ◆ Focuses on key growth corridors and gateways:
  - Samlesbury EZ - integral part of Govt's new Northern Cyber Corridor running from Lancaster to Manchester
  - Furthergate – J6 Corridor
  - J5 Growth Corridor
- ◆ Includes £250m Blackburn Town Centre Masterplan – one of the largest town centre developments of its kind in the North West



# J5 GROWTH CORRIDOR

- ◆ £30m investment - £20m secured through LUF2
- ◆ Key part of the Blackburn Growth Axis
- ◆ Will improve Junction 5 of the M65 and the Haslingden Road corridor – a strategic location of regional significance
- ◆ The area is already home to new major HQs, including Blackburn-based EuroGarages and Assytems, with new investment in health innovation anchored by Royal Blackburn Hospital too
- ◆ Scheme will help unlock 1,500 new jobs over next five years





# £250M BLACKBURN TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

- ◆ Development partner is Maple Grove Developments
- ◆ Framework developed by BDP Architects
- ◆ 15 acre site includes former Thwaites Brewery
- ◆ Vision includes:
  - New Business Improvement District
  - Potential to relocate Morrisons
  - Low carbon town centre living



# NEW £60M SKILLS & EDUCATION CAMPUS

- ◆ Skills and Education Campus of national significance with leading core partners
- ◆ Boasts cluster of university, training and education leaders with potential to support over 3,000 learners per year
- ◆ Compelling £20m LUF3 bid to be submitted to accelerate scheme







# RISING FROM THE ASHES – ST JOHN'S CHURCH



- ◆ Historic and oldest church in Blackburn destroyed by fire in 2019
- ◆ Set to undergo £7m refurbishment
- ◆ Award-winning OMI Architects to lead on the scheme
- ◆ Grade II listed building will be transformed into a high quality, flexible work space

# NEW OWNERS, NEW DIRECTION

- ◆ £40m acquisition of The Mall Blackburn
- ◆ New retail occupiers and leisure opportunities
- ◆ Faster decision making and delivery



CULTURE,  
CREATIVITY  
& GREAT  
OUTDOORS...

WE HAVE  
SOMETHING  
SPEZIAL!





# BLACKBURN'S NEW CULTURAL QUARTER

- ◆ £50m first phase investment programme underway with:
  - New £8m Reel Cinema – delivered by the Council and Barnfield Construction
  - £30m to re-purpose Victoria Building
  - £5m investment to transform Blakey Moor Terrace – prominent/historic building opposite King George's Hall
  - £2m upgrade of Lord Street West
  - Plans in development for King George's Hall and Blakey Moor Building

# HOUSING

## BUILDING A QUALITY OFFER

- ◆ BwD is consistently out-performing national targets
- ◆ Rapidly changing housing offer with over 1,500 new high quality family homes built in the last five years and 2,000 more in the planning
- ◆ Key to attracting/ retaining talented residents and incomers to BwD





# £100M DARWEN TOWN DEAL

By 2030, Darwen will be an attractive modern maker-town that punches way above its economic weight

- ◆ £500m in additional GVA
- ◆ More than 600 jobs created/safeguarded
- ◆ Over 300 new homes
- ◆ New manufacturing, town centre commercial and R&D assets

# £26M REGENERATION OF DARWEN TOWN CENTRE

- ◆ Repurposing of historic Market Hall
- ◆ Refurbishment and extension of Library Theatre set within Carnegie Library
- ◆ New town centre living opportunities
- ◆ Improvement to key town centre gateways, improving liveability





# INVESTMENT IN LOCAL EMPLOYMENT & STRATEGIC MANUFACTURING

- ◆ **£3.5m to help Perspex establish £40m national manufacturing centre with new R&D facilities – safeguarding skilled jobs in the town, and creating new zero carbon opportunities**
- ◆ **New Additive Manufacturing Accelerator at Chapels in Darwen – the first-of-its-kind in UK, complements AMRC NW with opportunity to link to BAE’s new Tempest programme**
- ◆ **And new employment growth sites will quickly generate new business and job opportunities**



# DESTINATION DARWEN

- ◆ **New Sports Village offering both Olympic standard and community facilities, including investment in Darwen FC, Darwen Cricket Club and Junction4 Skatepark**
- ◆ **£4m to open up Darwen's green spaces as a visitor attraction with 5k, 10k and 12k trails linking town and moors**
- ◆ **Significant investment in the town's digital connectivity through ultra-fast fibre roll-out to deliver city-level capacity and speed**



# COMING SOON

-  **More announcements supporting £1bn key investment priorities**
-  **New major developments to be presented – including new skills & employment campus, Imperial Mill, Medi-Park, North Blackburn Strategic Housing Development, new creative and digital development and more**
-  **Greater BwD presence and profile over the coming year**



**BLACKBURN**  
*with*  
**DARWEN**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL