



# West Midlands Innovation Accelerator



In addition to these broader measures, BEIS will invest £100m between 2022-23 and 2024-25 to pilot **three new Innovation Accelerators**. These will be centred on Greater Manchester, the West Midlands, and Glasgow City-Region. All three have been selected for this pilot due to their R&D strengths, their robust

173

#### Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper

private and public innovation governance, and strong local leadership. They also include areas of economic strength and relative deprivation making them ideal candidates for the pilots. Innovation Accelerators will build on the R&D strengths of each area – from health innovation and advanced materials in Greater Manchester, to the future of mobility and data-driven population health in the West Midlands and to the growing Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District in Glasgow.

Innovation Accelerators will develop UK innovation clusters, boosting economic growth by investing in high-quality projects to grow R&D strengths, attract private investment, boost innovation diffusion, and maximise the combined economic impact of R&D institutions. They will empower local areas by bringing together national and local government, industry and R&D institutions in a long-term partnership. Each Accelerator will see local consortia developing a plan and identifying transformational projects to grow their



# The Aim

“To accelerate the growth of regional clusters of excellence in HealthTech & MedTech and CleanTech, delivered through:

- the exploitation of applied and translational research;
- the application of regional strengths in engineering, manufacturing and advanced computing; and
- supported by a robust regional innovation framework”

# Objectives

- Build greater capacity and capability to perform high-quality applied and translational R&D, driving commercial returns and investment for regional growth and societal needs
- Strengthen public R&D assets in areas with a credible case for commercial success and growth of clusters with the highest potential, diversifying and making the regional economy more resilient
- Help double public R&D investment to the region by 2030
- Address significant societal challenges on net-zero and health inequalities

# The Focus

## **HealthTech & MedTech including:**

- monitoring of wellbeing, mental health and telehealth
- wearables, software applications and data
- equipment, medical devices, machines, diagnostics, software and tools

## **Clean Tech:**

- products, processes or services, and associated supply chains
- reduce or eliminate emissions to the environment, waste, and minimise the use of natural resources
- including harnessing sources of renewable energy

## **Innovation Capability and Capacity:**

- supporting cross-sector R&D and innovation
- supporting the operation of the region's innovation ecosystem

# Doing things differently means...

## IA is about...

- Applied and translational innovation – Tech Readiness Levels 5-7
- Very strong emphasis on commercial opportunity and the region's growth priorities
- Linking projects to policy freedoms
- Prompt delivery – spend complete by March 2025
- Longer-term benefits – broader window to crowd-in private investment
- Better connection between R&D funding decisions, local areas and leaders

## Not the focus of IA...

- Not a national competition
- National assurance about deliverability and value for money; not priorities.
- Not purely about academic excellence; it's the impact of R&D in a place, linked to commercial opportunities/need
- Not about blue-sky research or diffusion of technology

# Linking innovation to levers

**A successful innovation system depends on all levers coming together:**

Through the Trailblazing Devolution Deal, the West Midlands is pursuing greater autonomy and funding across:

- Human capital, skills, careers and training
- Infrastructure, including energy and digital networks
- Shaping business support activity and funding for growth capital

