

## **Humber Leadership Board**

### **Humber Strategy**

#### **1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Humber Leaders on the progress on a Humber Strategy in line with the agreed Devolution Deals of Hull and East Yorkshire and Greater Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 To seek endorsement of the Final Draft Humber Strategy in preparation for stakeholder engagement post Mayoral Elections.

#### **2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Through the negotiation with Government to form the Mayoral Combined Authorities of Greater Lincolnshire and Hull and East Yorkshire, a commitment was made to ensuring that there was a coherent strategy in place to support the Humber Opportunity and that the two Mayors would commit to working together for the greater good of the Humber.

The Humber Joint Strategy Unit have worked with partners to develop the Draft Humber Strategy.

- 2.2 The role of this strategy is to articulate the distinctive economic opportunities for the region and the national significance of these.

The Humber Economic Strategy is focused on strategic opportunities where a pan-Humber approach is necessary.

The two Combined Authorities and delivery organisations in the region, including the Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board, have set out other economic opportunities suitable for delivery at a spatial geography.

This strategy identifies:

- Estuary-wide growth opportunities in the Humber of national significance to direct investment in the region over the next 10 years and beyond.
- Mitigation measures to barriers to growth to catalyse and enable significant and positive change in strategic priority areas.
- Game changing and targeted interventions and actions needed across industry and the public sector to deliver pan-Humber strategic aims.

2.3 The Humber is a source of enterprise and ambition. The economic viability and resilience of the Humber places the region in a prime position to support government objectives and missions around sustainable economic growth and security, industrial decarbonisation, clean energy, Freeports, nature enhancement, green skills and innovation.

Linked to these missions, there are three clear priorities that require a pan-Humber approach to activity in the The Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor. These strategic opportunities for the Humber are:

- Clean Energy and Industrial Decarbonisation
- Freeport, Ports and Logistics
- Environment and Natural Capital

2.4 To support the strategy we will develop an investment and delivery plan. It is essential that this is framed to deliver the strategy ensuring that we can unlock the Humber for investors and support our existing businesses to grow and diversify sustainably, to stay strong in existing markets, enter new markets through improved competitiveness and increased productivity.

Removing the barriers to investment is essential, businesses have cited three areas:

- Permitting
- Water
- Energy

One effective area for development would be the consideration of a Local Development Order for key sites in the Humber – the LDOs will be effective in re-vitalising underdeveloped or strategically important areas/sites by removing planning barriers and encouraging targeted investment.

As the public sector we can work with the private sector to support key sectors, Manufacturing, Steel, Food, Pharmaceuticals, Renewable Energy, Housing and commercial infrastructure, aligning development with our Strategic Priorities. By promoting a clear and investor-friendly approach, the LDOs will help unlock capital for projects and as a result, it could play a vital role in fostering our ambition for sustainable, well-planned growth ensuring that investment flows into areas where it can have the greatest impact.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 That the Humber Leaders approve the draft Humber Strategy in preparation for stakeholder engagement with businesses following the mayoral election.

4. **ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Ensuring that the Humber has a coherent strategy that brings the two Combined Authorities of Greater Lincolnshire and Hull and East Yorkshire together is essential to achieving the opportunity in the Humber.

5. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

- 5.1 The draft Strategy has been developed with key partners including Humber Energy Board and Humber Freeport who have endorsed the draft Humber Strategy.

6. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Humber Leaders endorse draft Humber Strategy for stakeholder engagement following the mayoral elections.

# HUMBER ECONOMIC STRATEGY.

2025–2035





# The Humber Proposition

## SHARED ECONOMIC PROSPERITY FOR BUSINESS AND OUR COMMUNITIES

Over the last decade, increasing pan-Humber strategic leadership and partnerships have established a strong proposition in the region. There is a sense of ambition and consensus among leaders across the estuary that the Humber can deliver more for the UK and the time for catalytic investment is now.

The size of the economic opportunity in the Humber is significant at a UK scale – and the range of opportunities that could be delivered in the Humber are at the forefront of the Government's strategy for industrial decarbonisation, advanced manufacturing, innovation, low carbon energy and clean growth. With the potential for the prospect of a fully decarbonised industrial cluster to attract fledging industries to the Humber, it is in the national interest to ensure the opportunities available to the Humber are delivered. These opportunities are wider than the Humber and can benefit the surrounding areas beyond Hull and East Yorkshire and Greater Lincolnshire.

The Humber is experiencing some of the fastest productivity growth outside of London, the Humber is pioneering industrial innovation and has the potential to drive further productivity growth in the North of England. There is a huge opportunity for the Humber to be a driver of the nation's GDP growth in the coming years.

The Humber is paving the way for Britain's future. Its evolution from a traditional maritime hub and industrial economy to a green energy powerhouse symbolises a new era of growth and sustainability, positioning the Humber as a region of critical importance in Britain's journey toward a prosperous, low-carbon and decarbonised economy.

The region's unique combination of a strategic position as a critical port hub and Freeport, deep-water ports, cutting edge energy, industrial innovation, world leading climate change research and resilience, critical asset base and abundance of development land along with its interface with the Southern North Sea means that the Humber is a cornerstone in Britain's plan to become a clean energy superpower. The industrial decarbonisation and net zero opportunity in the Humber will also drive synthesis between existing industry and assets maximising the Humber's potential to become a world leading circular economy and host opportunities outlined in the National Industrial Strategy.





# The Humber Proposition

THE HUMBER IS A NATIONALLY IMPORTANT STRATEGIC ASSET



There is an increasing recognition of the economic opportunity being incubated in the Humber, demonstrated by the high appetite for both domestic and foreign direct investment in the region's economy. The Humber Freeport provides the tools to incentivise investment and accelerate the region as a world-leading hub for clean energy, clean growth, and advanced manufacturing and the Freeport builds on the success of the Enterprise Zones which were key to attracting industry leading and innovative businesses to the Humber.

In addition, catalysed by clear policy levers and a vision for a modern national Industrial Strategy focused on growth driving sectors, businesses have earmarked at least £15bn of capital investment to deploy in the region to create new and enhance existing assets to deliver the energy transition.

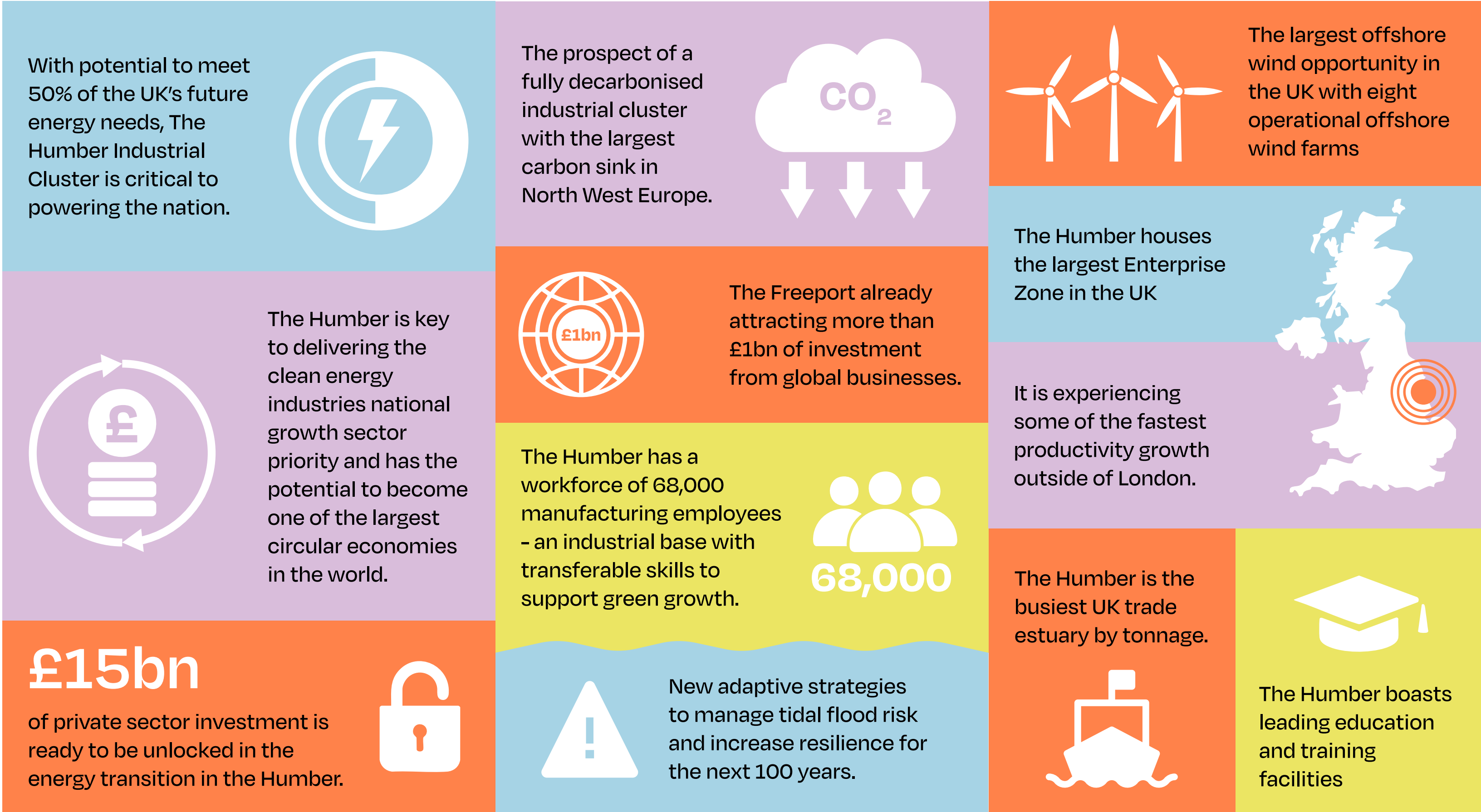
Building on this platform, the Humber has an unrivalled opportunity to transform the economy by:

- Attracting investment and securing jobs in traditional forms of industry but with a focus on clean energy.
- Driving up skills and educational opportunities and helping to lift the region's significantly below average performance against key socio-demographic indices.
- Working in partnership across the region to retain and enhance the sensitive natural environment which characterises the Humber Estuary.



# The Significance of the Humber Industrial Cluster

THE HUMBER'S PROJECTED ECONOMIC IMPACT EXTENDS BEYOND LOCAL GROWTH, FUELLING SECTORS AND SUPPLY CHAINS ACROSS THE UK AND CONTRIBUTING TO NATIONAL RESILIENCE IN ENERGY SECURITY AND TRADE



# Introduction



# Background

## HUMBER ECONOMIC STRATEGY

Through their respective devolution deals and together with government, the Hull and East Yorkshire Combined Authority and Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority recognise that optimising the Humber's economic potential will require the public and private sector on both banks of the Humber Estuary continuing to work together on pan-Humber economic opportunities alongside the Humber Energy Board and Humber Freeport; with Government acting as a supportive partner.

Once elected, a new Mayoral Joint Committee, including representation from the Humber Energy Board and Humber Freeport, will be established in the Humber with both Mayors, leaders of each local authority and businesses and academia coming together on shared pan-Humber priorities as set out in this Humber Economic Strategy. This builds on the increase in strategic partnership working in the region between partners over recent years in the form of the local authorities working together with the Humber Freeport Board and Humber Energy Board and the previous Humber Industrial Cluster Plan, which began the process of defining a route to decarbonisation by 2040.





# Overview and Strategic Role

## HUMBER ECONOMIC STRATEGY



©Humber Nature Partnership

### This Strategy

The role of this strategy is to articulate the distinctive economic opportunities for the region and the national significance of these.

The Humber Economic Strategy is focused on strategic opportunities where a pan-Humber approach is necessary. The two Combined Authorities and delivery organisations in the region, including the Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board, have set out other economic opportunities suitable for delivery at a spatial geography.

This strategy identifies:

- Estuary-wide growth opportunities in the Humber of national significance to direct investment in the region over the next 10 years and beyond.
- Mitigation measures to barriers to growth to catalyse and enable significant and positive change in strategic priority areas.
- Game changing and targeted interventions and actions needed across industry and the public sector to deliver pan-Humber strategic aims.

### Other Sectoral Priorities

The implementation of two separate devolution deals in the Humber requires a clear strategic framework between priorities at the pan-Humber level and those undertaken at the geographic level by respective Combined Authorities, local authorities, the Humber Freeport, Humber Energy Board or delivery organisations.

The two Combined Authorities will have control over areas such as transport, housing, place and adult skills, and will be developing local growth plans and investment strategies to shape the future of their areas and outline how local levers will drive growth.

Both devolution deals include the need for the two Combined Authorities, local authorities, the Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board to continue to collaborate on pan-Humber economic opportunities. As well as economic priorities rightly undertaken at the Hull and East Yorkshire and Greater Lincolnshire spatial level, both the Combined Authorities local growth plans and investment strategies and the Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board Strategy and Investment Plans will include the pan-Humber priorities as shared priorities and set out the actions and investments they will undertake to help deliver them.

The Combined Authorities, local authorities, Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board, alongside educational providers and the private sector in the geography will collaborate and explore the potential for the joint design and commissioning of plans and activity where it makes sense to do so.



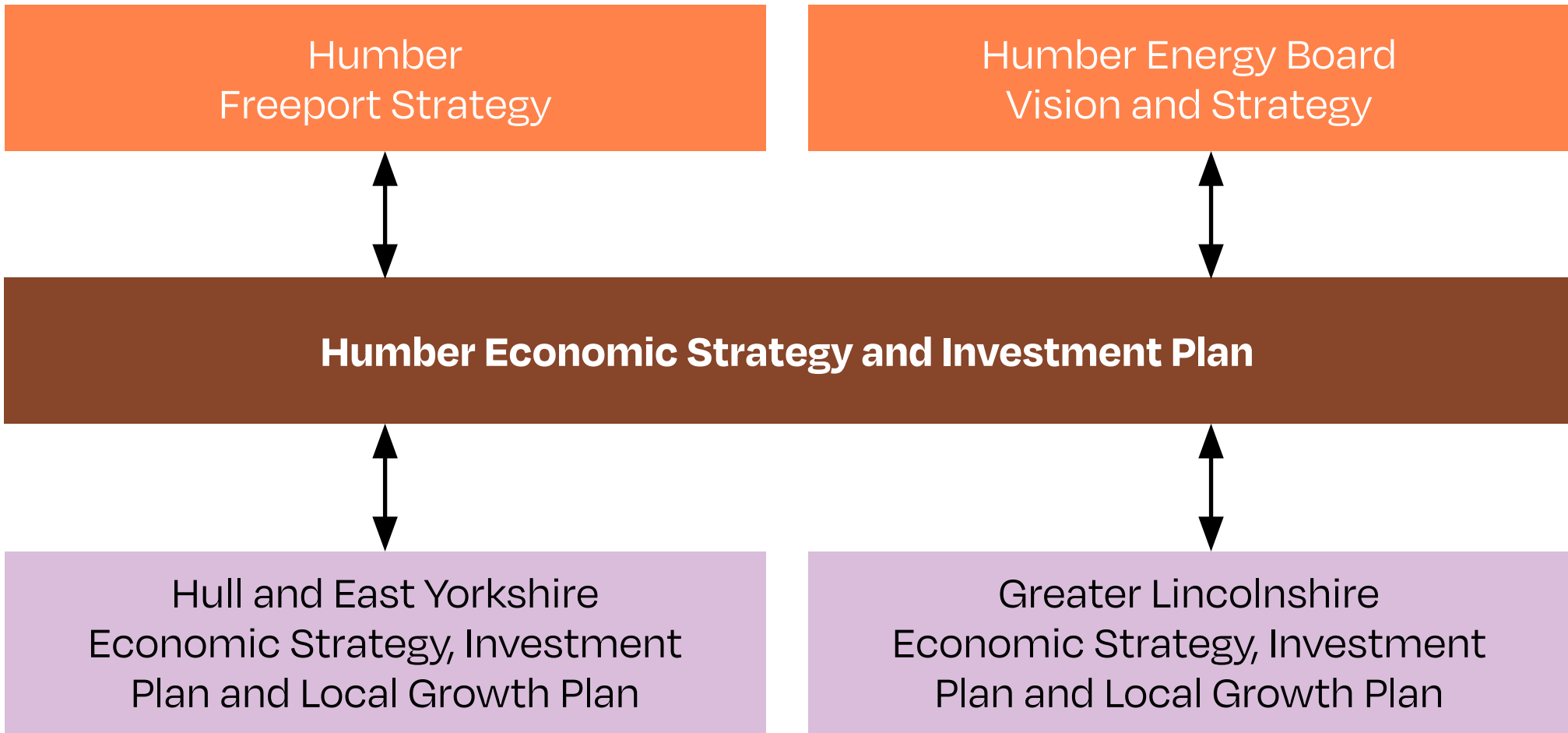
# Wider Context

HUMBER ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The Humber Economic Strategy considers the Humber Freeport Strategy and Humber Energy Board Net Zero Strategy, in addition to the economic priorities, drivers for growth and emerging Local Growth Plans for the Hull and East Yorkshire and Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authorities and the role of associated partner and delivery organisations. Both Combined Authorities, Humber Energy Board and the Freeport are developing their plans on how they will support the Humber strategy directly or through complementary activity to ensure they are aligned and continue to collaborate, codevelop and work together on joint priorities for the Humber.

The Humber Industrial Cluster Plan set the strategic roadmap for decarbonising energy-intensive industry in the Humber to support the transition towards a Net Zero cluster by 2040. The Humber Economic Strategy builds on these foundations and further considers the Humber’s importance in delivering the National Industrial Strategy and growth priorities in clean energy, alongside the Humber 2100+ strategic approach to managing the long-term impacts of tidal flooding and sea level rise to ensure the region can stay open to business in a changing natural environment.

## Developing Strategic Landscape





# The Humber Vision

To bring large scale growth and prosperity to the Humber region by securing unprecedented private sector capital investment to transform the economy into a world leading net zero industrial economy and, through the Humber Freeport, a national hub for global trade and investment. All whilst protecting the natural environment and sharing the benefits with communities and businesses across the region.



# The Humber Opportunity



# Drivers for Change

## STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

The Humber is a source of enterprise and ambition. The economic viability and resilience of the Humber places the region in a prime position to support government objectives and missions around sustainable economic growth and security, industrial decarbonisation, clean energy, Freeports, nature enhancement, green skills and innovation.

Linked to these missions, there are three clear priorities that require a pan-Humber approach to activity in the The Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor. These strategic opportunities for the Humber are:

1. Clean Energy and Industrial Decarbonisation
2. Freeport, Ports and Logistics
3. Environment and Natural Capital

These growth opportunities in the Humber are of national significance due to the scale of potential job creation and impact. In addition to the scale of potential contribution to government objectives.

Realising the full economic potential of the Humber and unlocking growth by overcoming barriers to investment will require holistic consideration of the place ecosystem and enablers for future investment. This includes enabling innovation to drive growth in priority areas, ensuring the labour force is equipped with skills required by future industries to attract and retain business, investing in infrastructure, and coordinating leadership and inward investment at a Humber wide level.

Places that also proactively build climate resilience into their growth strategies will be better positioned to thrive in the long term by protecting people and assets and attracting investment. This will boost productivity, enable the Humber to remain competitive, attract investment and maximise future opportunities presented.





# Drivers for Change

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES

These growth opportunities in the Humber are of national significance due to the scale of potential job creation, impact and contribution to Government objectives.



# Strategic Opportunity 1. Clean Energy and Industrial Decarbonisation

THE HUMBER IS THE LARGEST DECARBONISATION AND ENERGY SECURITY OPPORTUNITY IN THE UK

The Humber is nationally significant and has a key role in meeting the UK decarbonisation agenda and is central to the success or failure of the Government’s missions around industrial decarbonisation, net zero, clean energy and energy security.

Utilising the natural advantages of the Estuary's geography, and its complementary industrial asset base, the Humber can drive growth, attract unprecedented levels of private sector investment, and improve productivity through clean energy and industrial decarbonisation that creates a pathway to long term economic growth and prosperity.

As the UK’s Energy Estuary, the Humber is revolutionary and pivotal to advancing towards a more resilient future and is pioneering progress towards net zero carbon emissions. There is a world leading opportunity to embrace net zero and industrial decarbonisation as a growth opportunity in the Humber. This is visibly evident across the array of transformational energy projects in the region, major industrial and power assets in Drax, Scunthorpe, Immingham and Saltend and the size and scale of existing industry.

With the existing foundational sectors and energy infrastructure and capacity to allow the UK to meet zero carbon targets and demand for clean energy, the Humber will be critical to the Government’s missions to boost economic growth and stability and for the UK to become a clean energy superpower. With the potential to meet 50% of the UK’s future energy needs, the region can support the UK to adapt and thrive in a changing world.

**£15bn of private sector investment is ready to be unlocked in the energy transition in the Humber.**

This opportunity in the Humber can also deliver new jobs and supply chain opportunities to support the national economy. One in ten regional jobs will be safeguarded and thousands of new jobs created by decarbonising the Humber. By embracing opportunities presented by the green transition, the Humber can maximise opportunities to unlock substantial private sector investments in clean energy and advanced manufacturing, creating new jobs, and economic resilience as the Humber moves away from carbon intensive energy and industrial processes.

## The UK’s Energy Estuary



The infrastructure and **existing energy capabilities** to allow the UK to meet future demand for clean energy.



**£15bn of private sector investment** is ready to be unlocked in the energy transition in the Humber.



The Humber has the potential to meet **50% of the UK’s future energy needs.**



**One in ten regional jobs will be safeguarded** and **thousands of new jobs created** by decarbonising the Humber.



**66% of the UK’s licensed CO2 storage capacity** is accessible from the Humber.



**33% of total UK offshore wind capacity** operates from the Humber and growing.



# Strategic Opportunity 2. Freeport, Ports and Logistics

THE HUMBER IS THE UK'S BUSIEST PORT COMPLEX



The Humber is a critical transport and logistics hub with excellent rail, road, air and sea connections. As the UK's busiest trading estuary, the Humber serves as a hub for international trade and plays a vital role for the UK as a global gateway.

The Humber is resourceful, and its strategic location allows the region to embrace and catalyse on trade and employment opportunities presented by the four major ports of Goole, Hull, Immingham and Grimsby. Connectivity, vast investment and robust supply chains means the Humber has become a central hub for business development and inward investment.

The Humber Freeport enhances the Humber's competitiveness in logistics activity, and support a greater share of UK trade in the Humber geography, including improving port infrastructure and connectivity.

**Freeport status will inject £650 million of further investment** into the Humber, providing a catalyst for job growth and innovation. This presents opportunities to support added value activities in the Humber, and to use the ports as an asset not just a throughput of goods.

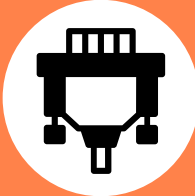
## The UK's Global Gateway



**£75 billion** passes through the Humber ports each year.



The Humber ports handle **17% of the nation's trade**.



The Humber ports **support over 24,000 jobs** in the region, contributing £2.5billion to the UK economy.



**Strong land, air and sea connectivity**, with over 60 sailings a week to mainland Europe.



**Freeport status will inject £650 million of investment** into the Humber.



Cluster projects could unlock up to **£7 billion of investment across the value chain**.



## Strategic Opportunity 3. Environment and Natural Capital

THE HUMBER IS A UNIQUE PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK

The Humber geography presents opportunities to restore and transform the natural environment with commitment to balancing economic development with the need for biodiversity.

The environment of the Humber presents economic and innovative opportunities to preserve the natural and biodiverse environment and enhance quality of place as an asset to regeneration. The Humber is part of a unique ecology system and forms part of a Special Protection Area, a Special Area of Conservation, Ramsar and Site of Special Scientific Interest. There are opportunities for innovation in process to deliver biodiversity benefits in the Humber.

Main enablers to any ambitions around the Humber will be increasing resilience to and adapting to the impacts of climate change (rising sea level, flood risk, coastal erosion, water scarcity, increased temperatures, food scarcity). It will be critical to plan proactively to integrate infrastructure, land use and environmental mitigation proposals from the outset to make investment future-proof and maximise growth whilst balancing land availability with requirements for biodiversity and development need.

This will require a shift in processes and governance structures. There will need to be joint working and a clear strategic consideration of environmental mitigation and management at a wider level to ensure future investment enhances flood protection, biodiversity and carbon sequestration.

Placing climate change resilience and environmental enhancement and mitigation at the heart of economic strategy and investment plans in the Humber will protect the Estuary's precious natural resources, alleviate the risk of flooding to communities and industries around the Estuary, improve water availability and quality, and proactively support investor plans from the outset to ensure investment opportunities are maximised alongside environmental mitigation and enhancements.





# Strategic Priorities for Investment in the Humber

# Opportunity Plan

This map seeks to identify the key spatial opportunities of national significance in the Humber and highlights the region's major industrial and power assets.

In addition, there are cross cutting opportunities without spatial elements that apply across the whole of the Humber. This includes growth in green jobs across the supply chain, industrial decarbonisation, generation of clean energy, climate mitigation and adaptation, nature enhancement and innovation related to low carbon energy and advanced manufacturing.

The Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor is the focus area for this Humber Economic Strategy and accompanying Investment Plan.

Key

Local Authority Areas

Freeport tax site

Offshore wind operations and supply chain

Major industrial and power assets

Pipeline infrastructure for low carbon energy distribution, storage and carbon capture

Major road network

Major rail network

Humberside Airport

Humber Bridge

Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor

The Humber 2030 Vision for Decarbonisation sets out the potential net zero investments required at more detailed spatial level.

Arup | February 2025

The map illustrates the Humber region, highlighting its major industrial and power assets, infrastructure, and the Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor. The region is shown in orange, with major roads and rail networks indicated by grey lines. Key locations marked include Newcastle, Leeds, Sheffield, Hull, East Hull, Scunthorpe, Lincoln, London, and Theddlethorpe. The Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor is highlighted in red, running from the Humber Bridge area towards the coast. Major industrial and power assets are marked with icons: a factory for industrial assets, a wind turbine for offshore wind operations, and a power plant for power assets. The map also shows the Humber Bridge, Humberside Airport, and the Humber Estuary. Key infrastructure projects are highlighted, including the Carbon capture and storage pipeline and the Humber Hydrogen Hub. The map includes a key for symbols and a legend for the Humber Estuary Industrial Growth Corridor.

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# Achieving the Vision

## FUTURE PRIORITIES FOR THE HUMBER



Achieving the vision for the Humber will require cross-border commitment to both strategic and local priorities.

**Five Humber-wide strategic priorities** have been identified and set out the goals and principles for investment for the Humber which will be vital to the region achieving success. These are complemented by the Humber Investment Plan which will set out how and where developments could be implemented in support of these goals.

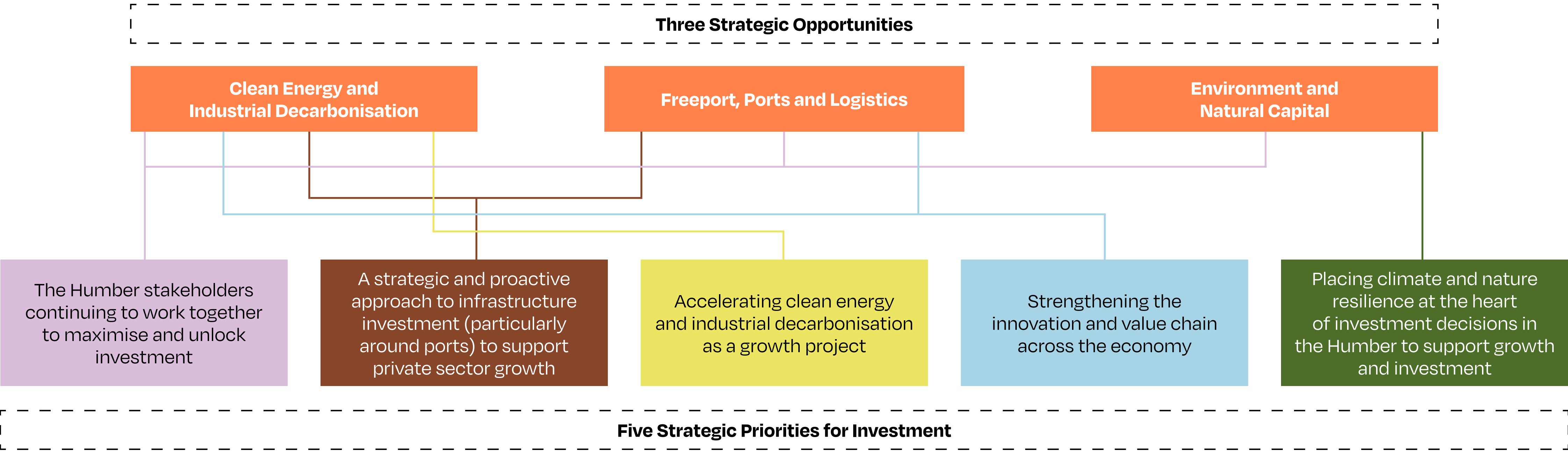
Both Combined Authorities and the Humber Energy Board and Humber Freeport are developing their plans on how they will support the Humber strategy directly or through complementary activity. Local priorities for investment will be delivered locally by the relevant authority and partner organisations.



# Achieving the Vision

FUTURE PRIORITIES FOR THE HUMBER

The five strategic priorities for the Humber are intended to enable and guide the allocation of resources and investment towards achieving the long-term vision across the strategic opportunities for the Humber. This includes enhanced ways of continued joint working among the Humber stakeholders.



## 5 Strategic Priorities

TO UNLOCK GROWTH AND INVESTMENT...

- 1** The Humber stakeholders continuing to work together to maximise and unlock investment.
- 2** A strategic and proactive approach to infrastructure investment (particularly around ports) to support private sector growth.
- 3** Accelerating clean energy and industrial decarbonisation as a growth project.
- 4** Strengthening the innovation and value chain across the economy.
- 5** Placing climate and nature resilience at the heart of investment decisions in the Humber to support growth and investment.

# Strategic Priority 1

The Humber stakeholders continuing to work together to maximise and unlock investment.

## Where are we now?

- 1

The two Combined Authorities will establish **structures and partnerships to deliver plans** and spatial priorities for growth.
- 2

**Co-operation across the region is increasing** with partnerships created to deliver sectoral opportunities. The region is generating new ideas and proactive approaches towards coordinating inward investment.
- 3

The Humber Energy Board and Humber Freeport are **bringing together the public and private sector** in the region to maximise and drive forward investment.
- 4

There is agreement **stronger Humber-level governance** is needed to drive the implementation of the Humber Economic Strategy and Investment Plan.



# Strategic Priority 1

## THE HUMBER STAKEHOLDERS CONTINUING TO WORK TOGETHER TO MAXIMISE AND UNLOCK INVESTMENT

### Where would we like to be?

There is already a strong private sector voice in the region and from May 2025 there will be two elected mayors, who will have a remit to deliver on devolution deals in the region. These deals recognise that there needs to be a strengthening of pan-Humber governance. There has been an increase in pan-Humber strategic economic partnership working over the last decade which can be built on to strengthen the region's voice further. This includes through the pan-Humber design of the Humber Freeport and the Humber Energy Board.

Mobilising and building on positive economic leadership in place, a resourced and dedicated Humber-wide function that acts as a single voice for the Humber with collective oversight of strategic social, economic and environmental considerations will be key to maximising future opportunities. This will be explored further as delivery arrangements for the Humber are finalised.

This will enable the Humber to articulate a clear, consistent, outward-facing and investable proposition around what the region can offer UK PLC, and for businesses to focus investment.

### What needs to happen to get there?

- 1. Humber level leadership and collaboration** - there needs to be a strengthening of pan-Humber governance to drive implementation of economic priorities.
- 2. A concerted and coordinated approach to attracting inward investment** - the Humber needs dedicated, government-backed support to coordinate, promote, and manage inward investment opportunities with the two Combined Authorities, local authorities, Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board working together.
- 3. Clarity of messaging to government** - all stakeholders across the Humber need to continue to articulate a clear and consistent proposition of what the Humber offers and what is needed.
- 4. Security of support from Government** - a statement of intent for the region is needed so the Humber stakeholders can plan with confidence.





# Strategic Priority 2

A strategic and proactive approach to infrastructure investment (particularly around ports) to support private sector growth.

## Where are we now?

1

The Humber has excellent **rail, road and inland links** and proximity to several regional airports. Enhanced rail freight is crucial to facilitating further growth and each Combined Authority will set out the investment required in their Local Transport Plan.

2

**Improvements to grid capacity and water availability** are in the pipeline to ensure the Humber can meet the planned industry growth in particular clean energy generation.

3

The established **Humber Freeport** is a **catalyst** for inward investment and provides development ready sites and infrastructure.

4

The Humber is centred around the **UK's busiest port complex**. The four major ports of Hull, Goole, Immingham and Grimsby play a vital strategic role for the UK as a global trade gateway.



# Strategic Priority 2

A STRATEGIC AND PROACTIVE APPROACH TO INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT (PARTICULARLY AROUND PORTS) TO SUPPORT PRIVATE SECTOR GROWTH

## Where would we like to be?

For the Humber to meet the level of anticipated future growth, a more coordinated and longer-term approach to infrastructure investment (ports, transport and utilities) between the Humber stakeholders is required to facilitate and encourage development. The two Combined Authorities, Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board are working together on this and with partners.

The ambition is for there to be a common understanding of the infrastructure enhancements required to facilitate cross-border impact and deliver on regional ambitions, and for this to underpin the two Combined Authorities, local authorities, Humber Freeport and Humber Energy Board coordination of inward investment. Infrastructure which enables ambitions for growth in clean energy across the Humber is necessary.

This will ensure the Humber has the foundations to facilitate planned growth and has the facilities necessary to create places where people want to live, work and invest in.

## What needs to happen to get there?

- 1. **A Humber wide infrastructure strategy** - a single plan which considers a pipeline of infrastructure plans that investors, delivery partners and government can partner in based on strategic understanding of what infrastructure is required to deliver growth.
- 2. **A Humber Investor Charter** - which is central to investment coordination between Humber stakeholders and sets out the expectations and requirements for development to potential investors, linked to statutory guidance and good practice.
- 3. **A coordinated response to advancing utilities and grid capacity and connectivity** - to ensure the region can meet anticipated growth demand.
- 4. **Government investment aligned to support the Humber Freeport** - as a catalyst for future infrastructure investment and public and private sector collaboration.





# Strategic Priority 3

Accelerating clean energy and industrial decarbonisation as a growth project.

## Where are we now?

- 1

Due to the size and scale of existing industry and carbon emissions, the Humber is the **largest decarbonisation opportunity in the UK** and central to the success of the Government’s missions around net zero.
- 2

The Humber has the foundational infrastructure, industrial base, wealth of skills and expertise and **existing energy capabilities** to allow the UK to meet future demand for clean energy and energy security. Both banks of the Humber are partners in the relevant net zero hubs.
- 3

Potential for the **prospect of a fully decarbonised industrial cluster** to attract fledging industries.
- 4

There is already work ongoing to develop a **green skills curriculum in the Humber** and deliver the workforce capabilities and skilled population required by future industry, evident in the DfE backed Net Zero Careers Hub, Humber Energy Skills Campus and the expansion of the CATCH facility.
- 5

**Established private sector involvement and engagement** in the mission to decarbonise industry in the Humber through the Humber Energy Board.



## Strategic Priority 3

### ACCELERATING CLEAN ENERGY AND INDUSTRIAL DECARBONISATION AS A GROWTH PROJECT

#### Where would we like to be?

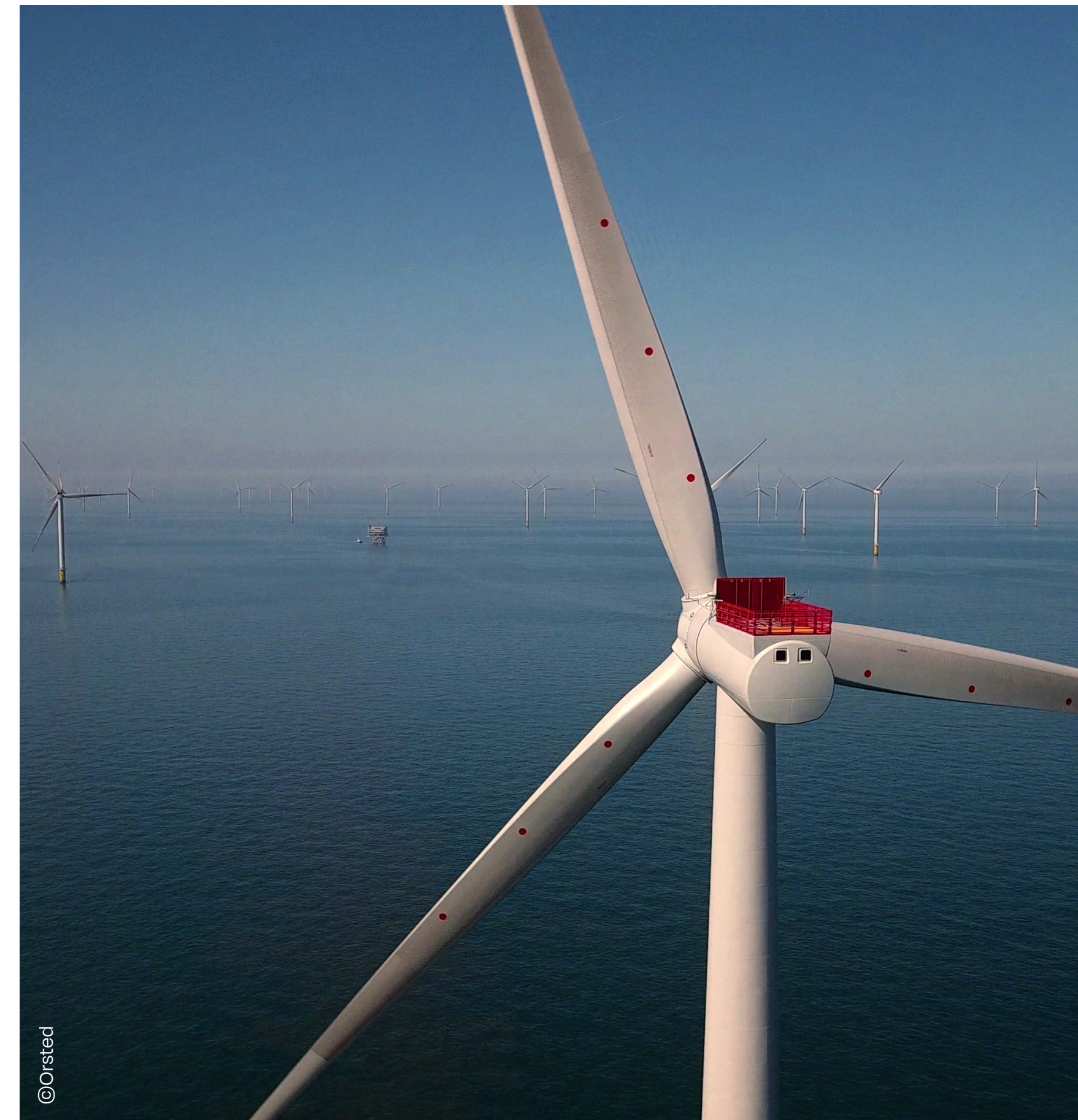
There is a world leading opportunity to embrace net zero and industrial decarbonisation as a growth opportunity in the Humber as outlined in the Humber 2030 Vision for Decarbonisation and Humber Industrial Cluster Plan. There is the potential for the Humber to attract fledging industries with the prospect of a fully decarbonised industrial cluster, transforming the region into a leading net zero energy cluster at a globally significant scale.

The Humber can support the UK to adapt and thrive in a changing world due to the size and scale of existing industry and skills asset base and has a role in allowing the UK to meet future demand for clean energy. Offshore wind energy generation, low carbon hydrogen production and carbon capture are strategic opportunities building on the natural geography and asset base. There are emerging opportunities to progress nuclear energy generation and manufacture of green steel locally.

If the Humber is going to support nationally significant infrastructure projects, contribute to net zero targets and be at the forefront of decarbonisation and clean energy in the UK, there needs to be a different approach to infrastructure delivery and creating the workforce required to support this investment. This will ensure the Humber has the foundations to facilitate planned growth.

#### What needs to happen to get there?

- 1. Education providers and the private sector need to continue to work together on workforce** – given the scale of economic change, the Humber needs to be equipped with the capabilities demanded to attract and retain investment and deliver the vision.
- 2. Stakeholders in the Humber need to continue to align their investment plans** – this includes building on partnership work to date to develop skills and infrastructure strategies to match future industry needs around clean energy to ensure investors can access the skills they require.
- 3. Advancing net zero technologies to market** – innovation in green technology will be crucial for the Humber to maintain a competitive advantage in clean growth.
- 4. Develop enabling pipeline networks to cement building blocks for the future** – major energy storage and distribution infrastructure is needed to support net zero policy and unlock growth in clean energy generation and facilitate Co2 transport and storage as industry decarbonises.





# Strategic Priority 4

Strengthening the innovation and value chain across the economy.

## Where are we now?

- 1

The Humber is **experiencing some of the fastest productivity growth** outside of London and has the potential to drive further productivity growth in the north of England.
- 2

Visible examples of innovation in the region, underpinned by **partnership working between academia and the private sector**. The Freeport and Energy Board are key catalysts in this space.
- 3

The Humber is a **global gateway**. Opportunities to support added value activities in the Humber need to be developed, to use the port as an asset not just a throughout of goods.
- 4

The combined manufacturing base and strong educational institutions of the Greater Lincolnshire and Hull and East Yorkshire geographies are perfectly placed to **shape transformation of a new Green Energy and Manufacturing Cluster** – innovation and growth in advanced manufacturing and green technologies supporting clean energy supply chain.

# Strategic Priority 4

## STRENGTHENING THE INNOVATION AND VALUE CHAIN ACROSS THE ECONOMY

### Where would we like to be?

The Humber is resourceful, and its strategic location allows the region to embrace and catalyse on trade opportunities presented by being a global port gateway with access to international markets and supply chains.

However, for the Humber to maximise this, there is a need to strengthen the ecosystem for innovation-led growth and move the Humber up the value chain, and to grow supply chain capacity to match desired scale.

The Humber Freeport is already driving growth and investment in this space and stimulates innovation related to clean energy and advanced manufacturing, a strategic opportunity that is cross-cutting across the Humber. This includes opportunities for innovation in Medi-tech, Agri-tech and rail at a local level.

This will drive greater productivity up the industrial base and enable the Humber to be a hub for innovation in sustainable energy and advanced manufacturing.

### What needs to happen to get there?

- 1. **Increasing collaboration and research and development** - education providers, universities, businesses, investors, the Freeport, Energy Board and government at all levels should work together to strengthen the ecosystem for innovation-led growth.
- 2. **Facilitating an environment that encourages entrepreneurship** – to accelerate innovation by offering incentives that attract and fosters a vibrant business ecosystem and enhances research capacity.
- 3. Endorsement and support from Government for growth in **innovation within priority sectors** across the Humber (clean energy and advanced manufacturing).





# Strategic Priority 5

Placing climate and nature resilience at the heart of investment decisions in the Humber to support growth and investment.

## Where are we now?

1

The Humber is part of a **unique ecological system** and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protection Area (SPA), a Wetland of International Importance (under the Ramsar Convention), and includes four Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

2

The amazing array of nature and wildlife is part of the USP – **a remarkable place to live.**

3

Flood risk – partnership working on **Humber 2100+ strategy**, which will set out a strategic approach for adapting to sea level rise.

4

The South Humber Gateway Mitigation Scheme is pioneering a **strategic approach to BNG**. There are also strategic mitigation sites available for developers to contribute towards across the Humber.



# Strategic Priority 5

PLACING CLIMATE AND NATURE RESILIENCE AT THE HEART OF INVESTMENT DECISIONS IN THE HUMBER TO SUPPORT GROWTH AND INVESTMENT

## Where would we like to be?

The environment of the Humber presents economic opportunities to restore and transform the natural and biodiverse environment and enhance quality of place. The unique environment continues to be protected by National and European designations and the case for the East Atlantic Flyway UNESCO world heritage site has been developed and moved forward.

Investors need to proactively enhance the natural environment and understand mitigation requirements and view these as investment opportunities rather than constraints. This will enable the environment of the Humber to be considered as an opportunity not a barrier and to protect the unique environment for future generations.

To enable successful delivery of priorities, partners are implementing a clear response to growing climate risks, especially rising sea levels. This includes action by investors, and complementary strategic action that needs estuary collaboration. This is building on the work of existing partnerships that operate around the Humber.

This would enable an approach to environmental adaptation, mitigation and enhancement to be considered in advance of any development and ideally at a more strategic level, using existing mechanisms rather than adding further complexity to this sector.

## What needs to happen to get there?

- 1. **Commitments to place shaping and balancing economic development with the need for biodiversity** - to enhance quality of place to create the Humber as a destination.
- 2. **Nurture existing partnerships** - supporting the established partnership working of Humber 2100+, living with water and other strategic groups enabling adaptation to develop a joint response to climate change resilience.
- 3. **Sharing good practice on BNG** - joint working on Nature Recovery Strategies and work by Natural England to develop a strategic mitigation strategy for functionally linked land through the Protected Sites Strategy pilot and for other impacts e.g. recreational disturbance, to understand best approaches for BNG across the Humber.
- 4. **Strategic approach to mitigation sites** - build on the South Humber Gateway mitigation strategy and enhance this on a larger scale, working across the whole estuary to secure mitigation areas.
- 5. **Climate resilient investment decisions** - identifying and responding to climate risks affecting delivery of strategic priorities.





# Conclusion

# Recommendations

## HUMBER ECONOMIC STRATEGY

The time for the Humber is now – with huge potential for targeted public and private sector investment to unlock substantial private sector-led growth.

A resourced, collective and collaborative leadership function for the Humber with oversight of strategic social, economic and environmental considerations will be a key driver in capitalising on future opportunities, but it will be critical to plan proactively to integrate infrastructure, land use and environmental mitigation proposals from the outset to make investment possible and maximise growth.

A series of clear commitments and catalytic investments is needed to realise the opportunities. There is already strong momentum built on historical partnership working and investment and a healthy future pipeline of private sector investment in the Humber which can be unlocked with:

- Increased strategic Humber level leadership.
- Coordination of investment and infrastructure planning between Humber stakeholders.
- A commitment to investment in clean energy.
- Certainty on an integrated programme of long-term investment from across governmental departments.
- Strategic consideration of environmental mitigation and management.

Measured by scale and impact, game changing investments and policy are required to deliver cross border benefits in the Humber. It will be crucial to implement bold, step change and set the building blocks needed to deliver growth. The Humber Investment Plan will set out the game changing strategic interventions required to realise the Humber vision.





## Next Steps and Delivery

### PRINCIPLES FOR INVESTMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Humber Economic Strategy sets out the Humber proposition for investment and an indicative longer-term route map to deliver the economic opportunity in the Humber. The strategic priorities set out the principles for investment and set the strategic direction and scope for future investment in the Humber to unlock growth. These will be agreed with the two Mayors in the region once they are elected to ensure they align, collaborate and codevelop joint priorities.

An accompanying Humber Investment Plan will set out the investment prospectus and pipeline of game changing strategic interventions for the Humber and the specific action required from local, regional and national stakeholders, delivery organisations, government and agencies working in partnership to realise strategic growth opportunities and the vision for the Humber over the next 10 years and beyond. This includes the policy, funding and arrangements in place to deliver each proposition.

Developing strategic investment propositions for inclusion in the Humber Investment Plan will require continued cross-sector and cross-partner codevelopment between the Humber stakeholders. Humber wide capability is required to develop strategic investment propositions to market and a working group is being set up to deliver this.

The Humber Economic Strategy sets the strategic direction for growth in the geography however how the Humber stakeholders are going to deliver on this is crucial to maximising opportunities. Central to realising the Humber opportunity is ensuring clarity of purpose between the multiple organisations and leaders in the Humber exists alongside confirmation of the delivery mechanism to achieve this. There is agreement among leaders in the Humber that Humber-level executive arrangements would drive the implementation of the Humber Economic Strategy and Investment Plan.

### Emerging Humber Delivery Arrangements

A formal governance structure is needed to own and drive the implementation of this strategy, in particular to deliver on strategic priority 1.

There is a need to create an entity who owns the delivery of strategic priorities for the Humber and can manage the common priorities and barriers to growth in a way that benefits the whole of the geography. The Combined Authorities local growth plans and investment strategies will include the pan-Humber priorities as shared priorities and set out the actions and investments they will undertake to help deliver them. The Humber partners will come together with the Mayors to deliver this.

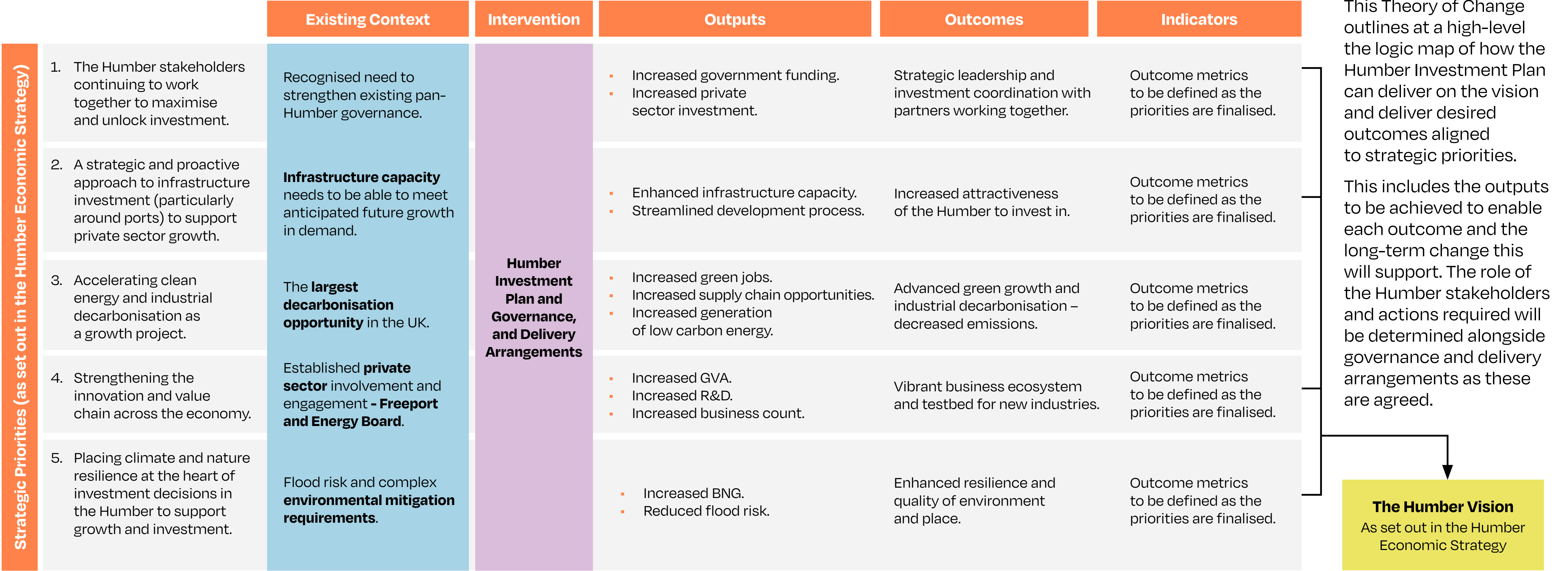
There is a need for governance arrangements to be put in place to ensure the Humber Economic Strategy is implemented, managed and appropriately resourced.

The form and function of the arrangement is also to be agreed, and further work is required to define and implement the preferred outcome. The Humber partners are working together on this and once these arrangements are agreed and finalised, the role of stakeholders, policy changes and actions required to deliver the Humber strategic priorities will be defined.



# Theory of Change

## HUMBER IMPLEMENTATION PLAN





Contact Details:

TBC:

TBC: