GREATER MANCHESTER
DOING DIGITAL DIFFERENTLY

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UK and European centre for cyber and digital ethics, trust and security

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At the recent national Cyber Strategy announcement, Ben Wallace MP confirmed that the North West is now the "Cyber centre of the UK." Greater Manchester's digital security sector is booming. With the partnerships and joint working between local, regional and central government plus academic and industrial investment in research, innovation, infrastructure and capabilities the city region's cyber ecosystem is the most vibrant and diverse in the UK.

We would like to invite you to join and shape our exciting collective journey.

Greater Manchester is a region which presents a unique opportunity for cyber - a place with the ambition and strong civic mandate to ensure our world-class digital ambitions ensures no one gets left behind. Helping everyone to live healthier and happier lives by being able to access and benefit from inclusive public services in an increasingly digital world.

This is the place with a £5+ billion digital economy, recognised by Time Out magazine as one of the world's top 3 cities.

Greater Manchester's diverse cyber and digital security community lies at the heart of the digital sector's success. It has connected the component parts of the city region, – as a testbed for cross-sector collaboration, innovation, specialist talent and a clear vision for the future.

From developing the world's first stored program computer in the 1940s, to being the home of graphene and voted by Data City as the UK's Top Digital Tech City, we have a proud heritage that pioneers Greater Manchester as the new home of responsible cyber that delivers social value for people and businesses.

A world-class cyber vision
Greater Manchester has a world leading responsible cyber ecosystem driven by inclusivity and diversity, for the safety, security and prosperity of the city-region and the UK.

> **The Greater Manchester cyber ecosystem is built on collaboration; our Cyber Advisory Group comprises has increased to over 40 organisations since 2018 and is driving innovation and inclusive growth to realise our ambitious vision to make Greater Manchester a truly world leading ecosystem.** Victoria Knight, Strategic Campaigns Director, BAE Systems Digital Intelligence

A region for bold and ambitious collaborations

The Greater Manchester cyber journey gained pace in 2016, when four universities joined forces with local government to create the **Greater Manchester Cyber Foundry** - a programme for small-medium sized businesses to support business growth through security. The Foundry is a partnership of four universities from the North West, using the strength of academic expertise to help defend, innovate and grow businesses in Greater Manchester, empowering SMEs to protect their operations and assets by strengthening their cyber defences.

The **Greater Manchester AI Foundry** soon followed, as did a series of GCHQ-led engineering and innovation accelerators. The North West Cyber Resilience Centre (then Greater Manchester Cyber Resilience Centre) – a not-for-profit venture between North West police forces and Manchester Digital was scaled nationally, a £10m Greater Manchester Cyber Hub commitment was made and new university research and academic networks established.

The Northwest Partnership for Security and Trust

The team of universities behind the Greater Manchester Cyber Foundry innovate and provide academic support to the industry, developing the Greater Manchester AI Foundry. More recently the University of Manchester joined up with GCHQ along with three other North West-based universities to create a "Security and Trust Partnership" in the North West that will see closer ties with academia. In a first for the intelligence, cyber and security agency, the new partnership will see GCHQ publish its own research jointly with the universities. Previously all research written by the intelligence services has been kept within national security circles only.

SPRITE+

The University of Manchester lead a consortium of five national universities bringing together people involved in research, practice, and policy with a focus on digital contexts. A 'one stop shop' for engagement between academic and non-academic communities - a way for these communities to connect and a platform for building collaborations across the spectrum of issues relating to security, privacy, identity and trust.

This spirit of collaboration extends across sectors, disciplines and geographic boundaries.

Greater Manchester is home to...
The UK's intelligence, security and cyber agency

GCHQ's strategic hub in Manchester complements those in Cheltenham and London with a particular focus on innovation. The hi-tech premises see GCHQ using cutting edge technology and technical ingenuity to identify and disrupt threats to the UK while drawing on the talents of companies and people in one of the most vibrant and diverse cities in the UK.

> **The world is changing at an unprecedented rate. That change is driving extraordinary opportunity, innovation and progress. It's also unleashing amazing complexity, uncertainty and risk. If we want a security and intelligence mission fit for our second century, it's crucial we keep reinventing – which is why our new Manchester facility will be vital to our future success.**
>
> Jeremy Fleming, Director, GCHQ

A thriving and diverse business sector

The city regions cyber profile has attracted national and international attention, with cyber divisions of defence companies, such as Raytheon, Northrop Grumman and BAE Systems AI, creating bases in the city, alongside a growing line-up of businesses setting up or relocating to the city.

Greater Manchester has nurtured homegrown digital security companies, such as NCC Group and Secarma. It has also welcomed Roke and Sophos, which both launched bases in the city during 2021. The cyber economy across the city region has now reached £500m, comprising over 300 companies.

Pioneering not for profit partnerships

Piloted in Greater Manchester before expanding across the region, the **North West Cyber Resilience Centre** takes a leading role in ensuring that every business within the region have the skills and knowledge to protect themselves from online attacks to make the region one of the safest places to live, work and do business. The model has shaped the national approach to Cyber Resilience Centres replicated across all regions of the UK.

Research excellence and academic partnerships

From the Greater Manchester Cyber Foundry to the Northwest Partnership for Security and Trust, Greater Manchester's universities are at the forefront of cyber research.

The **University of Manchester's Digital Futures** is a highly interdisciplinary network that operates across the whole range of the University of Manchester's digital research. Digital Futures aims to present a coherent overview of the digital research activity to external stakeholders and bring together research communities to explore new research areas and address strategic opportunities.

The location of National Cyber Force in Lancashire and the commitment to support a new North West Cyber Corridor is cementing the regions' role in UK defence.

Catalysing innovation

Continuing to build the cyber community and ensure innovation and successive growth over the next five years

Digital Innovation and Security Hub (DISH)

In early 2021, Manchester City Council selected a consortium, headed up by Barclays Eagle Labs, to operate the new Greater Manchester DISH. Launching in Summer 2022, DISH will work with academia and corporates to drive innovation and growth in Greater Manchester's digital and cyber security sectors.

In addition, DISH will inspire and educate the future workforce by offering cyber and digital skills workshops working with local primary schools, colleges and employers

> **Through this partnership, we have a great opportunity to accelerate the growth of Manchester's digital security ecosystem, at a time when the industry is becoming ever more vital." We'll bring the full benefits of the UK wide Eagle Labs network, along with the world-leading expertise of our partners Plexal, Lancaster University and the University of Manchester to make Greater Manchester a magnet for regional growth and DISH an epicentre of digital security innovation.**
>
> Jon Hope, Director of Barclays Eagle Labs

HOST Cyber

Home to a state-of-the-art Innovation Lab and Security Operations Centre providing a unique sandbox, allowing incubated start-ups to accelerate and validate their IP across real world commercial environment. The Cyber Innovation Lab provides opportunity to test products, supporting the rapid development of industry-leading disruptive innovations in Cyber, Data Science and AI.

Innovation Greater Manchester

Greater Manchester's innovation pedigree was recognised by government in identifying the city region as the site of one of three new innovation accelerator, which will build on the established Innovation Greater Manchester model and provide a catalyst for investment in R&D helping business in the city thrive.

To protect the nation, we have to reflect the nation

It is an exciting time for the cyber sector. Greater Manchester recognises the need to future-proof our sector by developing the next generation of cyber and digital intelligence specialists. We are working with our industry partners to provide new accessible routes into the industry, such as apprenticeships and skills bootcamps, BAE Systems Digital Intelligence engaging with young people to inspire a career in cyber as well as working with industry to ensure we cultivate the cultures to recruit, retain and develop diverse talent.

Over 36,000 students graduate from Greater Manchester universities each year and many more across the North West as a whole, with 51% staying in the city region.

Locally commissioned Cyber Bootcamps and Skills for Growth programmes complement the university strengths to offer re and up-skilling opportunities, with Greater Manchester acting as a testbed for skills development, piloting these new approaches and ensuring these approaches connect with the diversity of the population.

Manchester-based skills providers such as, **CAPSLOCK**, **Tech Returners** and **CodeYourFuture** are helping career switchers, returners and minority groups to access skills training to enter the sector.

Greater Manchester performs well in several skills areas including cyber security, cloud computing AI and Data science where not only is it second to London but comfortably ahead of the next best city in third for access to talent.

Greater Manchester's cyber story continues – and there are big opportunities for industry leaders, digital businesses, ambitious start-ups, and new recruits to take a role.

A place for business to thrive

MIDAS – Greater Manchester's inward investment agency has fuelled significant levels of new investment for the city region to create and safeguard jobs driving the region's thriving community of more than 10,000 digital and tech businesses, from start-ups and SMEs to global brands as well as numerous homegrown unicorns.

> ## This is a city with a clear vision of how to tackle cyber threats and no fear of approaching the sector in a new way.
> Tim Newns, Chief Executive, MIDAS

Greater Manchester has the highest graduate retention in the UK. The region is a place where the knowledge economy intersects with industry, cyber firms are often drawn to Manchester by the opportunity to collaborate and innovate with the highly-skilled, specialist knowledge holders across the city region's five universities, where more than 100,000 people study. Those universities produce quality graduates every year, providing a sustainable pool of talent in addition to the 86,000 already employed in the creative, digital and technology industry.

MIDAS, Manchester's inward investment agency, helps businesses establish a foothold in one of Europe's top destinations for cyber security innovation and provides free, bespoke, and confidential support to digital and tech companies looking to relocate to or expand in the city region. **www.investinmanchester.com**

Big enough to matter, small enough to care
Greater Manchester has led the way on city-region devolution, through successive devolution agreements that have given the region more strategic power and control to bring civic leadership, investment and profile to support skills and infrastructure and ensure we have built the conditions for our people and businesses to thrive.

Endless opportunities to innovate and grow
There's digital in the DNA in Greater Manchester's with a proven ability to defend digital assets, combat cyber criminals and work with a collaborative mindset, has created a new breed of cyber security community.

New thinking, sustained investment, academic partnerships, specialist research and access to a diverse pool of talent, is attracting a world class cyber community to develop here.

Scan the QR code to find out how you can be a part of our exciting journey or visit **www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/greater-manchester-cyber-ecosystem/**

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greater-manchester-combined-authority