



# Private Capital in the North West

2026











UK PRIVATE CAPITAL

Invested in a better future

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# Foreword from UK Private Capital

**This report is launching at a time when regional economic growth is at the forefront of political discourse. The new Government's ambition for 'growth in every postcode' is a laudable goal that will only succeed by matching stronger local leadership with the investment needed to deliver it.**

Private capital already plays a substantial role in the North West economy, backing businesses across every sector. Life sciences is a particularly powerful example. The concentration of research and specialist facilities across Liverpool, Daresbury and Alderley Park gives the North West the foundations for a globally competitive cluster.

Through active ownership, private capital firms strengthen management and operational capability, helping promising businesses navigate the difficult journey from innovation to sustainable scale, and helping established businesses compete in a rapidly changing economy.

The industry's commitment to the North West is significant. Over the past five years, the region has attracted over £8.5 billion of private capital investment. Venture funding rose from £88 million in 2023 to £181 million in 2024 and £214 million in 2025, pointing to greater confidence in the North West's pipeline of young companies. Those headline figures sit behind thousands of day-to-day decisions in firms right across the economy.

The scale of that contribution matters and with the right conditions, the industry can play an even bigger part in the region's success. This means having a policy and regulatory environment that enables firms to move from start-up to scale-up, gives businesses access to the skills and talent they need, and delivers the infrastructure required for investment and expansion.

With those foundations in place, private capital can play an even greater role in turning the North West's ambitions into growth that reaches every part of the region and the wider United Kingdom.



**Michael Moore**
Chief Executive, UK Private Capital

# Foreword from Gallagher

**The data continues to demonstrate why the North West remains one of the UK's leading destinations for private capital investment. With strengths across technology, healthcare, advanced manufacturing and professional services, the region continues to attract investment into ambitious, high-growth businesses.**

For Gallagher, partnering with UK Private Capital underscores our dedication to empowering local and regional enterprise, and supporting resilient businesses by providing trusted advice and solutions in insurance, benefits, and risk management.

The North West has seen significant benefits from the £1.8 billion invested by private capital in 2025, with private capital supporting over 247,000 jobs and 873 companies across the region. This additional investment has had a positive economic impact across the North West, with a total of £15.7bn generated by private capital-backed companies in 2025.

As this report shows, academic institutions are increasingly helping drive growth across the region, with the North West home to 171 spinouts. However, there remain plenty of opportunities for private capital to make an even greater impact. The industry is already strengthening the North West's life sciences supercluster by providing the financing that businesses need to grow and helping the new technology emerging from places like Liverpool's biopharma base break into new markets.

Research in this report shows how private capital-backed businesses in the North West are 1.2 times more likely to also achieve annual revenue growth of more than 10%, highlighting the importance of continuing to connect UK funds with businesses across the North West. The UK Private Capital Platform is an outstanding way of coordinating this collaboration to ensure further growth across the region.

Gallagher's partnership with UK Private Capital in this report exemplifies our mission to empower enterprises and foster resilience and, through our work with investors, advisers and businesses across the North West, we see first-hand the positive impact private capital has on growth, job creation and innovation to help ensure regions like the North West continue to thrive as a beacon of economic growth and opportunity.



**Alistair Lester**
CEO of the Private Equity and M&A Practice, Gallagher



**Tom Mullock**
Associate Director, PEMA (Private Equity M&A), Gallagher

# How private capital supports business growth

**Private capital supports growth by combining long-term funding with active ownership.**

Businesses backed by the industry can benefit from stronger governance, clearer strategic planning and access to specialist networks, helping management teams make faster and better-informed decisions. This support can include professionalising finance functions, improving management information, investing in digital tools and strengthening boards with relevant sector and scaling expertise. For founder-led and family-owned firms, private capital can also help with succession planning and leadership development, so the business is set up to grow sustainably over the long term.

These interventions matter because they translate into measurable outcomes. Private capital-backed businesses in the North West are **1.2x more likely to also deliver annual revenue growth above 10%**[1].

This increased likelihood of growing quickly is supported by a higher propensity of private capital-backed firms to engage in export activity. Companies backed by the VC industry in the region are **1.4x more likely to also be strongly internationalised**[2] than those not backed by VCs, which could indicate earlier access to export markets and the investor networks that can help businesses expand overseas.

Private capital-backed businesses in the North West are

**1.2x more likely**

to also deliver annual revenue growth above 10%[1]



[1] Analysis of PitchBook data by Henham Strategy for UK Private Capital.

[2] *Analysis of Beauhurst data by Henham Strategy for UK Private Capital. Strongly internationalised refers to companies with an exports-to-turnover ratio greater than or equal to 25%.*

# Employment

**Supporting jobs across the UK's nations and regions is a key part of what private capital does.**

As of 2025, data shows the real impact of private capital investment with **around 247,000 jobs** supported by the industry in the North West. With more regional businesses being backed by the industry, the number of jobs supported has increased by approximately **31%** when compared with the last data set from 2023. This can be broken down into:

## Private equity

supports around

**225,000 jobs**

in the North West



## Venture capital

supports around

**21,000 jobs**

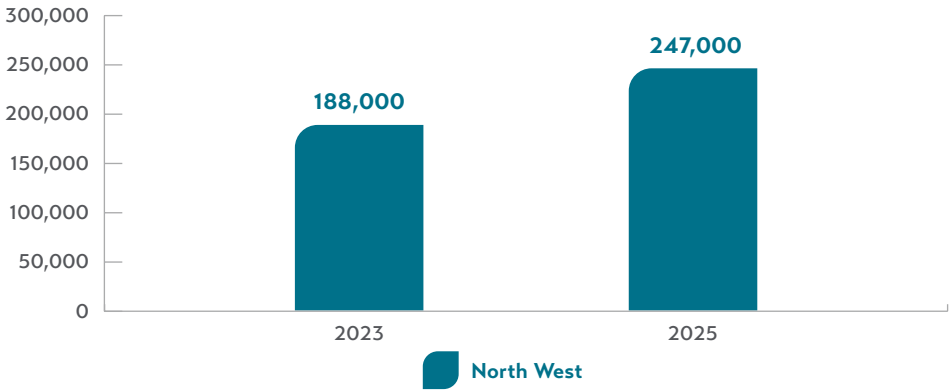
in the North West



# Employment cont.

## Employment

(Figures are rounded)




Private capital's backing of the wholesale and retail trade sector is a unique standout when supporting jobs. In total, **around 53,700 jobs** were supported by private equity and venture capital across this sector, servicing the important hub of the North West of England.

## Employment by sector:

- Wholesale and retail trade: **53,700 jobs**
- Professional, scientific and technical activities: **29,300 jobs**
- Health and social work: **22,200 jobs**
- Administrative and support service activities: **21,700 jobs**
- Information and communication: **21,400 jobs**



# Investment and economic contribution

**Private capital is a major contributor, both directly and indirectly to the economy.**

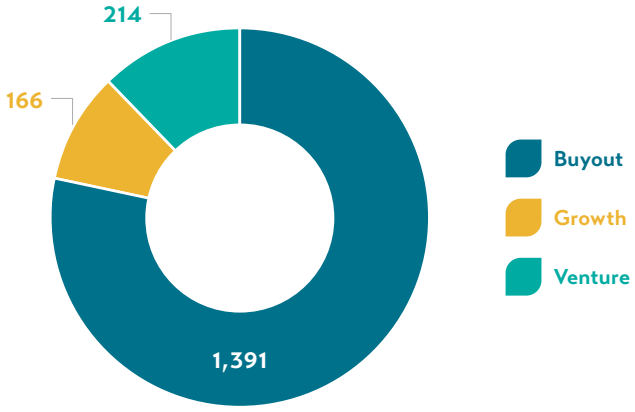
The industry makes long term investments directly into local businesses. Private capital employs an active ownership model, which is a hands-on approach that helps drive value creation in portfolio companies through strategic and operational improvements, whilst supporting wider economic development.

In 2025, **total investment into the region stood at over £1.8 billion**, of which the largest single proportion was £1.4 billion in buyout investment into established and mature companies. Venture capital accounted for £214 million, reflecting early-stage funding for innovative businesses seeking to enter the market, with a further £166 million going into growth capital, supporting early and mid-stage companies looking to scale their operations.

While the £1.8 billion invested in 2025 is lower than the total of investment in 2024, when £2.3 billion was invested, over the past five years, private capital has cumulatively invested over £8.5 billion into the region's businesses.

The prominence of buyout investment points to an established and mature regional business base, with North West companies at the stage where they are looking to expand internationally and have a significant impact on the region's economy.

## North West investment by stage (£m)



# Investment and economic contribution cont.

As of 2025, data shows that **£15.7bn of Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** was generated by private capital backed businesses in the North West. Some of the key sectors to note are:

## Economic contribution by sector (GDP £)

**Wholesale and retail:**

**£2.90bn**



**Manufacturing:**

**£1.98bn**



**Information and communication:**

**£1.74bn**



**Finance and insurance:**

**£1.55bn**



**Professional, scientific and technical activities:**

**£1.52bn**



# Businesses

**Backing local business is the bedrock of what private capital does.**

It's easy to see why the North West is a great place to grow a business. The area has its own unique advantages that make it a desirable location for a range of different companies. The North West is a region historically tied with the United Kingdom's industrial heritage, and this pattern continues into the modern day. Private capital therefore recognises the unique strength of the local manufacturing sector, and by supporting businesses across the region, this industry alone generates almost £2 billion for the local economy each year with private capital's backing.

As of 2025, data shows how many businesses are backed by private capital, with **873 companies** being supported across the North West. This can be broken down into:

**Private equity**
backs
**393 businesses**
which is a +12% change from 2023



**Venture capital**
backs
**480 businesses**
which is a +19% change from 2023

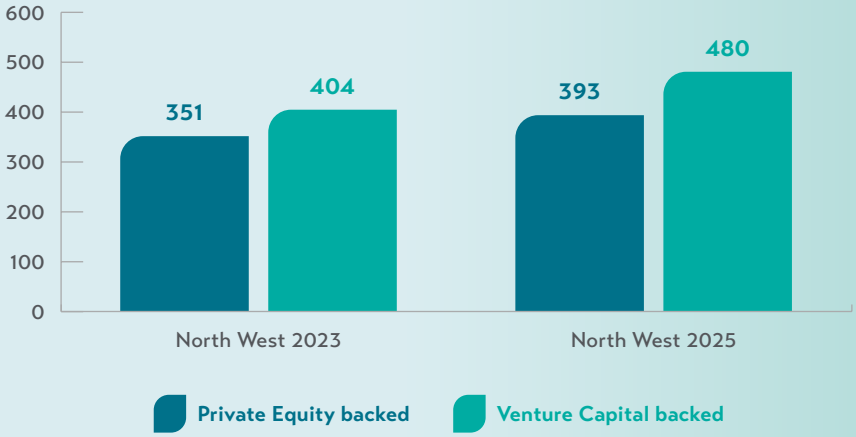


# Businesses cont.

The North West has a strong base of ambitious businesses, research institutions and sector clusters, but a persistent North–South divide continues to limit investor engagement. Many fund managers remain reluctant to establish a physical presence outside London and the South East, reducing the depth of local networks and access to decision-makers. While Manchester and Liverpool both have distinct investment offers, Manchester increasingly serves as the region's focal point for capital and attention.

Commercialising the North West's university research remains a critical but underdeveloped part of the ecosystem, with structural and cultural barriers still slowing the journey from discovery to investable business. These challenges are compounded by a persistent shortage of early-stage and follow-on private capital, reflecting the low density of locally based venture investors. Strengthening commercial pathways and expanding the regional funding base would help more promising companies start, scale and remain in the North West.

## Companies backed by private capital



# Sector deep dive

## Life sciences

The North West's life sciences sector is a major economic asset and a compelling opportunity for private capital. In the Liverpool City Region alone, the sector contributes £5 billion to the economy and accounts for 14.2% of GVA[3], nearly double the average for England. Across the wider region, private capital-backed businesses already represent more than a third of life sciences companies[4], demonstrating how long-term investment is helping translate scientific excellence into commercial growth.

The opportunity combines rapid employment growth with highly productive jobs. Life sciences employment across the North West increased by 61% between 2019 and 2024[5], making it the fastest-growing region outside London for life sciences infrastructure. Liverpool has the second-largest cluster of life sciences jobs of any English city region, with GVA per job of £136,000 - 82% above overall productivity levels nationally[6].

The Liverpool City Region's ten-year Life Sciences Investment Zone provides a platform to accelerate that momentum. It has the potential to unlock more than £800 million of public and private investment, create 8,000 jobs and build on a £2 billion research and development pipeline spanning world-leading campuses in Liverpool and Daresbury[7]. This scale of coordinated investment can strengthen specialist infrastructure, deepen supply chains and give growing companies clearer routes from research to market.



[3] Analysis of Beauhurst data by Henham Strategy for UK Private Capital. The majority of firms captured were VC investments, but there may be a small percentage of PE.

[4] *Ibid.*

[5] Sci-Tech Daresbury, *Why the North West is becoming a hub for Science and Innovation*, March 2026.

[6] LCRCA, *Liverpool City Region Growth Plan 2025-2035.*

[7] Liverpool City Region Life Sciences Investment Zone, *A Wealth of Life Sciences Innovation and Opportunities.*

# Sector deep dive cont.

The region also benefits from institutions that connect scientific capability with commercial and investor expertise. The Medicines Discovery Catapult, based at Alderley Park in Cheshire, has supported 407 organisations to raise more than £2.1 billion of R&D investment[8]. Alongside assets in Liverpool and Daresbury, this support helps businesses validate technologies, navigate development pathways and become better positioned to secure venture, growth and follow-on funding.

Private capital is therefore central to the next phase of the North West's life sciences growth. With 34% of the region's life sciences companies already backed, investors are providing not only finance but also strategic expertise, networks and the discipline needed to scale research-intensive businesses.

The importance of the life sciences sector is clearly understood by investors, not just in the North West, but across the country. In UK Private Capital's September 2026 Pulse Survey of senior investment professionals, 59% of respondents specifically highlighted the life sciences sector as being one of the most likely sectors to drive the next investment cycle. Expanding that backing can help firms invest in clinical development, specialist facilities and talent, commercialise intellectual property and reach international markets. By linking the region's research pipeline with patient, long-term capital, the North West can convert more of its scientific strengths into high-productivity jobs, resilient companies and sustained economic growth.

**Life sciences firms**
backed by venture capital are
**2x more likely to have a patent**
than those without venture capital investment



[8] Medicines Discovery Catapult.

# Spinouts

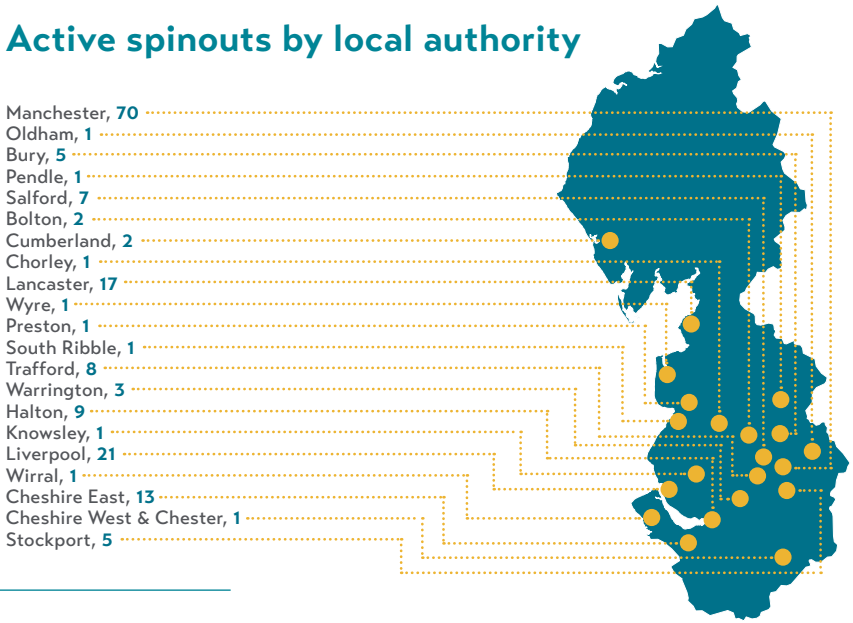
**Spinouts are increasingly driving regional growth and attracting venture capital investment.**

Spinouts play a crucial role in R&D commercialisation of cutting-edge technology, particularly in high growth sectors such as deep-tech or biotechnology.

Boasting a tight cluster of world leading universities like the University of Manchester, University of Liverpool and Lancaster University, the North West is well placed to continue to benefit from a wide range of spinout businesses. Data from Beauhurst shows that the North West has **171 spinouts**. The largest single proportion (70) of these are located in Manchester, with the rest spread across the region's Local Authorities.

The innovative businesses that come from university spinouts often seek support from venture capital in order to continue their growth trajectory. In 2025 alone, 35 businesses in the North West attracted venture capital investment, totalling some £214m invested.

## Active spinouts by local authority




[9] Data provided by Beauhurst directly to UK Private Capital, April 2026.

[10] The University of Liverpool also had 20 spinouts with Salford having 7, and Manchester Met 3. A further 26 universities contribute the remainder of spinouts across the region.

# Spinouts cont.

## North West Universities by currently active number of spinouts[10]

MANCHESTER 1824
The University of Manchester

**85 Spinouts**



**University of Manchester** continues to strengthen its position as a leading source of university spinouts, supported by a broad research base and growing investor interest. Its Innovation Factory provides a structured route from intellectual property and proof of concept through to licensing, company formation and investment. Recent activity points to a diverse pipeline across life sciences, advanced materials, clean technology and digital innovation. The launch of Unit M also reflects a wider shift towards linking commercialisation more closely with regional clusters, scale-up support, industry partnerships and skills.

Lancaster University

**20 Spinouts**



**Lancaster University** has turned research into businesses with clear commercial potential. Its Research Commercialisation Team helps academics protect intellectual property, test demand and choose between licensing and creating a company. Successes include Quantum Base, whose nanoscale security technology is protected by 28 granted patents, and LiNa Energy, which raised £3.5 million in 2024 to build a pilot production facility for its sodium-based batteries. These companies show Lancaster moving beyond early research towards technologies that can attract investment and manufacture at scale.

# Innovation and R&D

**Private capital is already playing a meaningful role in converting the North West's research and innovation strengths into scalable, investable businesses.**

Venture capital investors are backing a pipeline of high-potential companies, shown by the fact that over half (58%) of backed life sciences businesses in the region explicitly use private capital for Research & Development purposes[11]. In 2024, the region saw 28% growth in the number of life sciences sites conducting R&D[12], clearly demonstrates the impact the industry has in helping to drive research-intensive businesses.

Evidence on innovation outcomes highlights the strength of private capital-backed businesses in the North West. Businesses backed by venture capital in the region are 2.5x more likely to also hold a patent than non-backed peers[13]. This underscores the role of long-term capital in supporting R&D activity, intellectual property development and the commercialisation of new technologies.

Innovate UK Business Connect



**Innovate UK Business Connect** is the home of the UK's innovation networks, connecting businesses, researchers, investors and partners to accelerate innovation. As a strategic delivery partner to Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), it combines data, insight and sector expertise to connect people and opportunities, helping ideas move from concept to scale. It works with private investors to increase investment in high-potential UK innovation, helping to bridge regional and sector funding gaps by connecting public and private investors with emerging growth opportunities. Through a network of early and late-stage investors, public organisations and private investment communities across the UK and internationally, Innovate UK Business Connect helps investors identify opportunities, share funding risk, navigate the innovation ecosystem and connect with businesses at every stage of growth.

[11] Analysis of Beauhurst data by Henham Strategy for UK Private Capital. The majority of firms captured were VC investments, but there may be a small percentage of PE.

[12] DAC Beachcroft, *Manchester drives North West life science growth, June 2024.*

[13] Analysis of Beauhurst data by Henham Strategy for UK Private Capital. The majority of firms captured were VC investments, but there may be a small percentage of PE.

# Private capital and productivity

**The UK has a long-established productivity challenge. Over time, output per worker and per hour has grown more slowly than in many comparable economies, leaving the UK with a persistent gap that constrains wage growth, living standards and the sustainability of public finances.**

Productivity performance is also uneven across the UK: London's output per hour worked is 28.5% above the UK average and the South East is 7.7% above, while all other nations and regions are below. The North West sits at the higher end of this distribution, with output per hour worked 5.2% below the UK average[14]. And since 2019, output per hour worked has grown by 9.9%[15], the highest growth in productivity of all of the UK's nations and regions.

Improving firm-level productivity is an area where private capital has a proven track record and can offer lessons to the wider business population. Analysis of published academic studies by Public First found that private capital-backed businesses increase their productivity by 1.1% per year more than the business population as a whole[16]. This reflects a central feature of the industry's active ownership model – a focus on management capability, good governance and adopting technology to enhance business operations.



[14] Office for National Statistics, *Regional and subregional labour productivity, UK: 2023.*

[15] *Ibid.*

[16] Public First, *Private capital and the UK's productivity gap*, 2025.

# Case study: RiskSmart



RiskSmart

Manchester

Technology

## RiskSmart

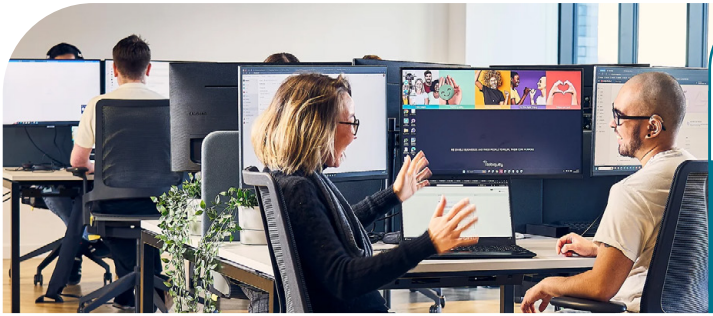
Backed by Maven Capital Partners

**Based in Manchester, RiskSmart is transforming how SMEs approach risk management through its data and AI-enabled Integrated Risk Management platform. Designed as a modular, 'plug and play' solution, the platform reduces time, cost and complexity associated with traditional risk management processes.**

By mapping SME data against risk profiles, RiskSmart identifies control weaknesses, emerging risks and mitigation performance, providing real-time insights and AI-driven guidance to strengthen resilience. Accessible via smartphone, tablet and desktop, the platform is democratising access to enterprise-grade risk management tools for smaller businesses traditionally underserved in this space.

Since Maven Capital Partners first invested in RiskSmart in May 2022, the company has more than doubled its customer base, achieved exceptional revenue growth and expanded its footprint across the financial services and legal sectors. Maven's initial and follow-on investments have provided essential growth and working capital, enabling rapid scaling, accelerating product development and supporting commercial success.

# Case study: Robiquity



Robiquity®

Manchester

Technology

## Robiquity

### Backed by Growth Capital Partners

**Robiquity is a specialist AI and automation consultancy, helping large and mid-sized businesses, and a growing base of public sector clients, to design, implement and manage end-to-end automation and agentic AI solutions that deliver measurable transformation and efficiency.**

Headquartered in Manchester, the business has built a reputation for turning ambitious AI strategy into operational results: at Evri, its automation solutions freed up 441,000 hours a year and delivered £7.4 million in first-year savings. At Durham Constabulary, Robiquity built an automated case management system for Clare's Law and Sarah's Law disclosures improving victims' safety and police efficiency. All of this is underpinned by a close partnership with Microsoft, where Robiquity is accredited as one of its first Power Automate partners.

Growth Capital Partners (GCP) recognised Robiquity's potential to become a market leader in AI and intelligent automation, and its investment has underpinned a step-change in strategic and operational capability. GCP has worked closely with the founders to strengthen the leadership team including new CFO, CMO, CCO and CHRO hires and to build out a dedicated Public Sector vertical. Alongside this, GCP has supported Robiquity in deepening its technology partnerships and backed further investment in sales, account management and the back-office systems needed to scale.

# Case study: Movera



Movera

Stockport

Business Services

## Movera

Backed by Inflexion

**Movera is the UK's leading technology-enabled, vertically integrated provider of residential property legal services. Movera provides technology solutions that enable home moves, plus conveyancing and remortgage solutions through seven complementary brands. In doing so Movera has touchpoints across approximately 550,000 property transactions each year, partnering with nine out of ten of the largest direct lenders and all major introducers.**

The business operates across the entire home-mover value chain, combining legal expertise with advanced technology to bring greater speed and certainty with market leading experiences in what has historically been a fragmented sector.

Inflexion first invested in Movera in 2018, recognising the opportunity to consolidate and modernise a market ripe for disruption. Under Inflexion's ownership, five strategic acquisitions have been completed, creating a unified, multi-brand platform with a differentiated, scalable operating model. Inflexion's backing has also fuelled continued innovation, including accelerating the integration of AI into core processes.

# The investment ecosystem: Recommendations

**The private capital landscape in the North West has evolved significantly over recent years. The region now boasts 22 private capital firms headquartered there, playing a vital role in attracting investment into dynamic businesses throughout the area.**

While there is successful private capital investment into these areas, the fact remains that investment still disproportionately goes into London and the South East of England. Redressing this balance will require a range of barriers to be overcome - from increasing support for Government investment vehicles, to more pension fund investment and business-friendly infrastructure.

## Early stage innovation & university spinouts

The UK's world-class universities have a history of producing innovative companies, and there has been good progress in terms of the number of spinouts generated and the amount invested, with the UK now producing a similar number of spinouts per capita to the US. Over the past decade, average university equity stakes have fallen from 25% to around 16%, which can be attributed to progress following the 2023 Independent Review of Spinouts. However, the UK still falls behind in supporting spin-outs to commercialise and raise external funding. Further, speculation about a clawback mechanism for funding provided to spinouts by UKRI or other government institutions is concerning and risks weakening the ecosystem. Alongside the welcome announcement of a new Founders Relief, UK Private Capital recommends scaling those programmes that are already delivering impact for early-stage companies and welcomed the substantial increases in the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS) and Venture Capital Trusts (VCT) limits. However, the reduction in income tax relief from 30% to 20% for VCTs is a concern, as it could lead to a decline in fundraising which will potentially impact high growth and high-risk investments.



# The investment ecosystem: Recommendations cont.

## Local Government Pension Schemes (LGPS) and Pensions Reform

The UK pension landscape is one of the largest in the world, yet on average, foreign pension funds invest approximately 16 times more into UK-managed funds than domestic pension funds do. The LGPS funds and pools are well placed to support regional growth opportunities, and have a strong track record of doing so. As the LGPS landscape consolidates, UK Private Capital calls to ensure LGPS pooling supports regional growth, a diverse private capital ecosystem, and promotes innovative investment models. The Government's steps to reform the DC pension sector are welcome, but more must be done to ensure savers can benefit from innovative businesses like those in the North West, in the same way as those in other countries currently do.

## British Business Bank

The British Business Bank (BBB) plays a significant role in supporting regional and growth funding in the venture capital ecosystem. The BBB must ensure it catalyses competitive investment ecosystems across the UK, both through its regional angel funds, regional funds and wider programmes. The Bank is now able to invest in lower mid-market private equity funds focused on backing SMEs, with a preference for regionally focused funds and those focused on Industrial Strategy sectors, especially after the launch of the British Growth Partnership fund-of-funds structure and the UK Scale-Up Fund. It is hugely welcome that the Government will provide the British Business Bank with an additional £5 billion, taking its total financial capacity to £30.6 billion. However, is vital that the Government continue this approach as part of wider efforts to support growth across the nations and regions.

## Investment signals

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority 'plan of plans approach' and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's local growth plan do not mention private equity, despite highlighting the need to attract greater investment into key sectors. However, both regions do understand the importance of attracting greater venture capital investment. The Government decision to create Good Growth Funds, based on the Greater Manchester Good Growth Fund model, which brings together public funding and external investmentincluding from LGPS pension funds, should assist . However, to attract even greater levels of private capital investment in the region, local government should help improve understanding of private equity among SME businesses seeking long-term growth funding.

# The investment ecosystem: Recommendations cont.

## Skills and talent

Both domestic and international skills shortages remain a persistent barrier to growth for businesses. The Government's announcement it will almost double the size of its High Potential Individual visa scheme, increasing the number of eligible universities from 80 to 150, is a welcome move. However, more can be done to introduce specialist visas for sectors critical to national security and innovation, aligned with the UK's Industrial Strategy. To close domestic skills gaps, the Government should also improve regional skills infrastructure, in partnership with industry and Skills England. This means promoting STEM and enterprise education, skills training programmes that focus on the North West's sectoral strengths, and investing in universities, Further Education colleges and Institutes of Technology as anchors for regional workforce development.

## Regulatory barriers

Private capital is a key driver of growth and productivity in strategic sectors like advanced manufacturing, energy, digital technology, and life sciences. Yet, this potential is often constrained by a regulatory environment that is outdated, duplicative, and slow. For the UK to compete globally and attract more of the £207 billion in deployable capital held by UK-led private funds, regulation must evolve from a brake on investment to a bridge for economic growth. UK Private Capital recommends that the Government ensure the UK's regulatory and competition institutions across all growth-driving sectors maximise the private equity and venture capital industry's ability to invest in businesses of all sizes. This means delivering predictable, pro-innovation regulation that establishes stable frameworks so that investors can plan with confidence.

## Planning and infrastructure

A place-based approach to economic growth requires transport, energy, digital and commercial infrastructure that enables businesses to start, scale and succeed across all parts of the UK. Strengthening these foundations will improve the UK's attractiveness as a destination for private capital, help regions attract private capital, support business expansion and build sustainable innovation clusters. Planning laws need to be changed to make it significantly quicker and easier to build both the facilities and the supporting infrastructure that enable investment and job creation in the UK. To unlock regional growth and investment in the North West, it is essential to modernise local planning through digitising planning systems, increasing capacity, introducing clear approval deadlines, and prioritising transport connectivity, energy networks, digital infrastructure and strategic growth sites.

## About UK Private Capital

UK Private Capital (formerly the BVCA) is the association of the UK private capital industry. We represent 600 firms including the wider ecosystem of professional advisers and investors.

Private capital consists of private equity and venture capital which make long-term investments to grow British businesses and build a better economy. Private credit and venture debt provide active and engaged debt finance to businesses.

The private capital industry backs 13,000 UK businesses, nine in 10 of which are small or medium-sized enterprises. Businesses backed by the industry employ 2.5 million people across the UK and contribute 7% to GDP.

In 2025, £25bn was invested by private capital into UK businesses in sectors across the UK economy, ranging from consumer products to emerging technology.

This increased investment has fuelled the growth of businesses across the UK, with 6 in 10 (57%) of companies backed by the industry in 2025 being outside of London. These investments are long-term, with an average investment period of six years, in contrast to less than a year in public markets.

UK-based private capital specialists have raised £207bn of funds, known as dry powder, which is expected to be invested over the next three to five years.

**ukprivatecapital.co.uk**







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