



<b>Full Council</b>	<b>Tuesday, 30 July 2019</b>	<b>Matter for Information and Decision</b>
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**Report Title:** **Midlands Connect The Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy**

**Report Author(s):** **Adrian Thorpe (Head of Built Environment)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	The purpose of this report is to highlight the proposed Trans-Midland Trade Corridor (Trade Corridor) that has been devised by Midlands Connect. The report also summaries how important the trade corridor currently is to the availability of jobs within England, as well as how more important it can become with the appropriate backing by Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Central Government.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	A document has been prepared by Midlands Connect which aims to raise the profile of the Trade Corridor. All local authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area have been asked to sign up to the 'Midlands Connect – The Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy' (at Appendix 1).
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>A. That the Council becomes a signatory to the 'Midlands Connect The Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy'; and B. That the Council becomes a Member of the A46 Partnership</b>
<b>Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):</b>	Stephen Hinds (Deputy Chief Executive) (0116) 257 2681 <a href="mailto:stephen.hinds@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">stephen.hinds@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>  Adrian Thorpe (Head of the Built Environment) (0116) 257 2645 <a href="mailto:adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>
<b>Corporate Objectives:</b>	Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities (CO1) Growing the Borough Economically (CO2)
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	"A Stronger Borough Together" (Vision) Teamwork (V3) Innovation (V4)
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	Economy / Regeneration (CR9)
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.

Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
<b>Statutory Officers' Comments:-</b>	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	None.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Report entitled 'Midlands Connect The Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy' to Place Shaping Working Group, 26 June 2019 (Internal Only)</a></li> </ul>
<b>Appendices:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Midlands Connect The Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy</li> <li>2. A46 Partnership Terms of Reference</li> <li>3. A46 Partnership Governance</li> </ol>

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A document has been prepared by Midlands Connect which aims to raise the profile of the Trans-Midland Trade Corridor (trade corridor) (**Appendix 1**). The trade corridor is largely defined by the A46 corridor which runs for over 250 kilometres from the M5 at Tewksbury to Grimsby and Hull via the A15 (see attached appendix for further details).
- 1.2 The purpose of the document is to present an offer to national Government surrounding the importance of the trade corridor and therefore the need for national infrastructure investment. The document seeks to strike a balance between making an attractive offer to Government whilst meeting the aspirations of the partners along the A46. This is intended to feed into the Government Spending Review later this year.
- 1.3 The document is not specific to any particular location or route but it does refer to the strategic case for investment in priority sections of the route to deliver housing delivery and job creation.

## 2. Key Points to Note

- 2.1 The trade corridor is currently home to approximately 5 million people and accounts for a quarter of all England's jobs in the automotive sector, and a third of all England's jobs in clothes manufacturing.
- 2.2 Subject to appropriate funding, development opportunities within the trade corridor have the potential to deliver over 275,000 new homes and approximately 190,000 new jobs.
- 2.3 The realisation of such housing and jobs numbers can only be realised with a committed partnership approach that transcends local authority boundaries.

## 3. Next Steps

- 3.1 All of the local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) within the trade corridor are working closely with Midlands Connect to develop an overarching strategic case for the development of the entire trade corridor.

- 3.2 In addition, Midlands Connect is working up a list of priority projects within the trade corridor, which once finalised, will be highlighted to national government to ascertain whether infrastructure funding is available to develop them further. Only those projects that have the full backing of local authorities and LEP's within the project area can be assessed for their priority and funding potential.
- 3.3 Leaders of all local authorities within the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area have been asked to sign up to a Statement of Commitment and Collaboration within the Midlands Connect – The Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy (see attached appendix). It is Officers understanding that most other councils in Leicester and Leicestershire have already indicated their support for the document.

#### **4. A46 Partnership**

- 4.1 The A46 Partnership consists of a collection of like-minded Local Planning/Highway Authorities and LEPs, with an interest in the section of the A46/M69 between M5 Junction 9 at Tewkesbury and Syston north of Leicester. The Partnership is formed of two elements, an officer group (A46 Multi-Agency Group) and the A46 Member Partnership. These meet three times per annum.
- 4.2 Most other Leicester and Leicestershire Council's are already Members of the Partnership. The Governance and Terms of Reference are attached at **Appendix 2** and **Appendix 3**.

#### **5. Place Shaping Working Group**

- 5.1 This report was discussed by Members of Place Shaping Working Group at its meeting on 26 June 2019.
- 5.2 Members recognised that this document is not specific to any particular location and that it is solely to do with the existing and potential economic benefits of the A46. As a result Members recognised the benefit of the Council becoming a signatory to the Statement of Commitment and collaboration.
- 5.3 Members recognised that a level of momentum already exists surrounding the A46, including the relationship between the A46 and the Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan which makes provision for growth south and east of Leicester up to 2050. Therefore, Members were of the opinion that it would be beneficial for the Council to join the A46 Partnership. Members were keen that the Council remains involved in discussions at all levels so as to have the opportunity discuss and influence any future proposals to route the A46 to the south and east of the Borough.