

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	EXECUTIVE	Item 12	Page 1
Report Originator	Martin Hammond Executive Director	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i> A17/003	
Wards Affected	All	14 th June 2017	
Title	NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE COMMISSION REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF THE OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE CORRIDOR : JOINT RESPONSE		

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ian Jelley

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To outline the conclusions of the National Infrastructure Commission's (NIC) recent report and to share with members the joint response that has since been submitted, following the agreement of such an approach by the North Northants Joint Delivery Committee at its meeting in April 2017.

2. INFORMATION

2.1 The National Infrastructure Commission was tasked by government to look at the potential for growth across the Oxford to Cambridge corridor. The NIC carried out an evidence gathering process during summer 2016, to which we made a collective response on behalf of the four districts in North Northamptonshire. The County Council, SEMLEP and a partnership of all the affected LEPs also made submissions, and the North Northamptonshire submission sought to tie in as closely as possible to those others.

2.2 The NIC report was published in November and said:-

- The corridor could be the UK's Silicon Valley but this was not guaranteed
- There was a chronic undersupply of housing, made worse by poor east west connectivity
- This shortage put growth at risk – increasing business costs and the ability to attract employees at all levels
- Investment in infrastructure was required but it must be properly aligned with a strategy for jobs, homes and communities, not developed in isolation
- Government, local authorities and LEPs must work together

The report recommended that:-

- Local authorities, LEPs, government and national agencies should:-
 - develop an integrated strategic plan for infrastructure, housing and jobs across the corridor

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	EXECUTIVE	Item 12	Page 2
-----------	------------------	---------	--------

- develop proposals for joint governance arrangements to deliver co-ordinated planning across the corridor
 - The NIC should develop a second stage report on these recommendations
- 2.3 The NIC subsequently produced their second stage report (available at the following link – <https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/strategic-planning-governance-cambridge-milton-keynes-oxford-corridor-discussion-paper/> about how to tackle some of the challenges described in their initial report.
- 2.4 A comprehensive report was prepared on this subject which was considered by the North Northants Joint Delivery Committee in April 2017. Rather than repeat the contents of that report, an abridged version is attached at Appendix 1 – this provides all the background and outlines the key issues.
- 2.5 The draft minute from the meeting of the North Northants Joint Delivery Committee is reproduced below;

16.JDC. NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF THE OXFORD-CAMBRIDGE CORRIDOR

A report was submitted which outlined the conclusions of the National Infrastructure Commission's (NIC's) report and which sought approval for a joint response to the current consultation.

Members of the Committee noted the conclusions contained in Section 4 of the report and made the following observations:-

- *It would be beneficial for North Northamptonshire to be included*
- *Any response should align with the SEMLEP response*
- *Any new governance arrangements should include democratically-elected representatives*
- *The growth corridor involved more than just transport issues*
- *There should be democratically-elected responsibility for any funding decisions*

It was felt that different areas had different identities and priorities. North Northamptonshire had a good track record in partnership working and joint delivery, which might not be replicated elsewhere. This could mean that funding might be directed away from North Northants if it was not included within the corridor.

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	EXECUTIVE	Item 12	Page 3
-----------	------------------	---------	--------

RESOLVED that

- (i) *the Joint Delivery Committee endorse the inclusion of North Northamptonshire in the Oxford-Cambridge corridor; and*
- (ii) *a joint response to the Commission's second stage discussion paper be developed and the observations outlined above be taken into account to inform the response.*

2.6 Subsequent to the above, there has been a series of meetings and communications between local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships and other partners to assist formulating a joint response to the NIC's second report. The deadline for the submission of the response was 31st May 2017. Accordingly it has been a significant task for a joint response to be formulated that was generally acceptable to all parties. A copy of the joint response that was submitted is attached at Appendix 2.

2.7 Members should note that the joint response does not commit this council to anything specific at this stage however, given the resolution of the North Northants Joint Delivery Committee is was considered appropriate to keep the authorities that form the North Northants JDC 'in the game' at this stage so that we can be part of any future negotiations with the Government and ultimately decide whether we wish to be formally part of the corridor – as it progresses and the details are clearer.

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

3.1 None as a direct result of this report.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None as a direct result of this report – there are likely to be some key issues that will need to be considered in the future depending upon how any subsequent negotiations with the Government progress.

5. FINANCIAL RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None as a direct result of this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None as a direct result of this report.

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	EXECUTIVE	Item 12	Page 4
-----------	------------------	---------	--------

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Committee;

7.1 Receives the update provided in this report.

7.2 Notes the joint response that is attached at Appendix 2.

Background Papers:

Title: NIC Report to NN JDC

Date: April 2017

Contact Officer: M Hammond

Previous Minutes/Reports:

Ref: As outlined in section 2.5 of this report