

# **The Oxford – Milton Keynes - Cambridge Growth Corridor**

## **Building A Shared Economic Vision**

### **OUR AIM**

**To create a shared long term economic vision and strategic Investment Plan for the Oxford - Milton Keynes - Cambridge Growth Corridor to 2050, to guide policy and investment decisions by partners in response to the Industrial Strategy White Paper, building on the emerging Local Industrial Strategies, existing Strategic Economic Plans & growth, infrastructure and skills strategies, which focus upon the potential of place and supported by robust evidence and economic intelligence.**

### **Strategic Context**

#### ***Autumn Budget 2017***

In the Autumn Budget the Chancellor reinforced Governments support for the NIC recommendations across the corridor by announcing that “Today we back their vision and commit to building up to 1 million homes by 2050. Completing the road and rail infrastructure to support them. And as a down-payment on this plan, we have agreed an ambitious Housing Deal with Oxfordshire to deliver 100,000 homes by 2031. Capitalising on the global reputations of our two most famous universities, and Britain’s biggest new town, to create a dynamic new growth corridor for the 21st Century”. At the heart of this commitment is the alignment and development of ambitious Local Industrial Strategies led by LEPs and the MCA across the corridor.

#### ***Governments Response the NIC Report - November 2017***

The Government alongside the Autumn Budget 2017 published an interim response which set out an initial package of infrastructure, planning and development measures that together were intended to Kick-Start the process of meeting the corridors long term potential.

In doing so it asked the local partners to work with Government to agree a more detailed and ambitious corridor wide vision by the end of 2018. In order to support that approach and boost the corridors economic strength, Government invited the LEPs across the corridor along with the Mayoral Combined Authority of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to develop ambitious Local Industrial Strategies which would back the corridors world class science and innovation assets as well as supporting growing sectors and business in “Place”.

#### ***The Industrial Strategy***

The Government’s Industrial Strategy White Paper published in November 2017 is potentially the most important policy development in a generation. Following the decision to leave the EU and the imminent arrival of BREXIT, the strategy is seen as pivotal to shaping the future direction of the UK economy, improving productivity across the country and accelerating growth.

The White Paper identifies 5 foundations of productivity which are designed to transform the UK economy:

- **Ideas** – The world’s most innovative economy
- **People** – good jobs and greater earning power for all
- **Infrastructure** – a major upgrade to the UK’s infrastructure
- **Business environment** the best place to start and grow a business
- **Places** -prosperous communities across the UK

A key objective of the strategy, is to deepen the world leading expertise which the UK possesses and develop interventions, models and collaboration between public and private sector parties which can extend these competitive advantages into other areas and markets. The strengths and strategic assets which sit within the CaMkOx corridor and the Golden Triangle between Oxford, Cambridge and London are seen as an important economic drivers in this process but anchored in place.

### *National Infrastructure Commission*

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) published its report on the potential of the Oxford – Cambridge Growth Corridor, highlighting *“The corridor connecting Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford could be the U.K.s Silicon Valley – a world renowned centre for science, technology and innovation. But its future success is not guaranteed... The corridor faces a chronic undersupply of homes made worse by poor east-west transport connectivity. Two of the least affordable cities in the UK lie within the corridor, and the area as a whole has consistently failed to build the number of homes it needs. That shortage puts sustained growth at risk. It is already increasing costs for businesses and diminishing their ability to attract employees at all levels”*

The NIC’s interim follow on report into Strategic Planning and Governance set out that “realising this opportunity will require a step-change in collaboration across the corridor”

Analysis prepared for the NIC suggested that trend-based growth, reflecting established patterns of spatial development, could see the number of jobs across the Corridor increase by 335,000 to 2050, increasing economic output by some £85bn. It also suggests that more transformational growth is possible. In a scenario where the Corridor’s housing needs are better met and in which east-west links succeed in bringing distinct sub regional economies closer together – the area could support a further 700,000 jobs by 2050, increasing GVA by £163bn (Cambridge Econometrics).

### *Developing the Corridor*

The Corridor straddles the distinctive, linked geographies of Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, the four unitary authorities of Milton Keynes, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire and Luton, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough – this comprises 28 local authorities, four Local Enterprise Partnership areas and a Mayoral Combined Authority.

The NIC study and its recommendations to Government and Governments interim response have galvanised both the public and private sectors into responding to the challenges and opportunities which the corridor offers. This is further amplified by the objectives set out within the Industrial Strategy and the strategic assets located across the corridor which can drive the UK economy as a high performing, world leading location.

Partners have committed to work together to develop the Corridor, building on sub-regional geographies. This stated intent, where partners actively recognise the need for cross-corridor alignment and shared working across boundaries, will allow the early progression of a consistent, high level approach to identifying shared priorities. This will include (not

exhaustively) essential physical and digital infrastructure, skills and community infrastructure and critically, key economic growth priorities to improve connectivity and alignment and build on sector strengths.

## **The Commission**

Corridor Partners are looking to appoint suitably qualified consultants who can work with a steering group **to develop a vision for the corridor**, which builds upon the recently completed LDA study which sets out the corridors assets as a first phase of the commission and thereafter work prepare a cross Corridor Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) delivery plan which aggregates the potential of “place” and maximises the corridors potential to drive economic growth for UK Plc. This second phase would be completed over the course of the 2018 with a view to aligning this with LIS at a place level by December 2018. The vision will articulate the potential of the corridor building upon the key areas of strength, competitive advantage and the thematic areas which offer the most opportunity to drive economic growth and increased productivity across the Corridor. Consideration of the Industrial Strategy, the strategic objectives and aspirations set out in the document and how the Corridor relates to the 5 Foundations of Productivity and 4 Grand Challenges proposed by the Government will be an important part of developing the vision and final Cross Corridor LIS.

Critical building blocks are in place through the recently refreshed Strategic Economic Plans (SEPs) & Growth Strategies from OxLEP, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP SEMLEP and Hertfordshire LEP and the revised economic strategy of the Greater Cambridge and Peterborough MCA. The successful consultant will be expected to work with each core partner as they develop their response to the LIS at a “place” level, this cross corridor work will then build the cross corridor approach from these foundations. We would expect consultants to look closely at these documents and the supporting evidence base in order to frame the vision and the supporting case. In addition to this, key strategies for skills, infrastructure and innovation which underpin and have been produced in support of the original SEPs will also need to be reviewed and considered.

## **Key Stages**

### *Stage 1*

High level review of existing evidence base to include:

- The Arc – Draft produced by LDA February 2018
- Review SEP’s, Growth, Infrastructure and Skills Strategies,
- Review wider evidence bases including sector deals and Science & Innovation Audits
- Alignment to cross corridor transport (emerging Sub-National Transport Body), and spatial planning groups
- Alignment with Industrial Strategy Foundations of Productivity and Great Challenges

### *Stage 2*

Interim Report - Vision:

- Identification of key strengths, clusters of excellence and opportunity areas
- Statement identifying the potential for ambitious economically led growth
- Formulation of ambitious, high level vision for the Corridor, which provides partners with the framework and direction for further detailed work

### *Stage 3*

Final Report - Cross Corridor Local Industrial Strategy Investment Plan:

- Building upon the emerging Local Industrial Strategies of “Place”, identify opportunities for alignment of opportunity and aggregated delivery at a thematic or sector level.
- As part of the commission, prepare an Investment Plan identifying projects, lead delivery partners, timetable and budgets required to support a deal negotiation with government.

## Approach

We expect the selected consultants to work closely with the client contact group and engage with partners through the relevant partnership structures, within each sub-regional area.

### Core Outputs

- Interim Report setting out key findings from stage two High level vision document setting out the opportunities for the growth corridor, strategic positioning in relation to the Industrial Strategy and development of tactical dialogue with Government
- Powerpoint and PDF slidepack summarising data analysis, evidence base supporting the vision and the strategic case for the corridor, for use across the stakeholder group
- Final Report setting out the Vision and potential of the corridor including and investment Plan which sets out opportunity for investment in thematic and sectoral areas of strength at a corridor wide level
- Final report Document to be in Word and PDF format including the provision of 100 copies in hard copy, high resolution print format for partner briefing.

## Critical Milestones

- Publication of brief –w/c 19<sup>th</sup> February
- Interviews & Appointment of Consultants w/c 19<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- Inception Meeting – w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018
- Interim Report –
  - w/c 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018 - Stage 1 Complete
  - w/c 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018 – Stage 2 Complete
- Final Report –
  - w/c 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Draft Final Report
  - w/c 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Final Report for Partner sign off

## Client Management and Contacts

A steering group comprising representatives from LEPs and Growth Board representation will oversee the commission:

- Richard Harrington Chief Executive BTVLEP [richard.harrington@btvlep.co.uk](mailto:richard.harrington@btvlep.co.uk)
- Hilary Chipping, Acting Chief Executive, SEMLEP - [Hilary.chipping@semlep.com](mailto:Hilary.chipping@semlep.com)
- Nigel Tipple Chief Executive OxLEP
- Neil Hayes Chief executive Herts LEP
- Martin Whitely Chief Executive Cambridgeshire and Peterborough MCA
- Growth Board Representatives - TBC
- Joe Manning – BEIS [joe.manning@beis.gov.uk](mailto:joe.manning@beis.gov.uk)

The commissioning party will be Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership contractual arrangements will be based on the standard terms adopted by the Company.