

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 2nd September 2019

PUBLIC REPORT: Y

EXEMPT REPORT: N

Report Title	The Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor Prospectus – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy
KEY DECISION	N
Report Author	Tess Nelson – Strategic and Local Planning Manager
Purpose of Report	To recommend that the Council becomes a signatory to the Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor Prospectus – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy prepared by Midlands Connect.
Reason for Decision	To enter in to a Statement of Commitment and Collaboration with other local authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) within the Trans-Midlands Corridor. The Statement presents Government with the partnership’s support for the preparation of an Economic Development Strategy for the Trans-Midlands corridor.
Portfolio (holder)	Cllr King (Strategy)
Corporate Priorities	PLACE: An enterprising, vibrant place CO 2 Wider Employment Choice CO 3 Quality Homes for All
Financial Implications	There are no costs associated with this recommendation. However, there will be an impact on staff resourcing by entering the partnership. This can be met through existing staff resources.
Risk Management Implications	Not entering the partnership would represent a loss of opportunity to enter into a wide cross-boundary partnership seeking support and investment from Government.
Environmental Implications	No environmental implications from this recommendation have been identified.
Legal Implications	Entering the partnership and becoming a signatory to the Statement is not legally binding on the Council, but represents a commitment on behalf of the Council.
Equality Implications	No equality implications from this recommendation have been identified.
Data Protection Implications	No data protection implications from this recommendation have been identified.

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Consultation	No consultation has taken place.
Options	<u>Not entering the partnership and not signing the Statement of Commitment and Collaboration to support the Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor Prospectus – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy prepared by Midlands Connect.</u> – This option is not recommended since it would result in a lost opportunity for the Council to demonstrate its support for the wider cross-boundary partnership seeking support and investment from the Government through the preparation of an Economic Development Strategy for the Trans-Midlands Corridor.
Background Papers	None
Appendices	Appendix A: The Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor Prospectus: Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy, Midlands Connect, August 2019 Appendix B: Midlands Connect Project Overview – Trans Midlands Trade Corridor
Recommendation	That Cabinet note the Trans Midlands Trade Corridor Prospectus (Appendix A) and confirm that the Council sign the Statement of Commitment and Collaboration contained within it.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A document has been prepared by Midlands Connect which aims to raise the profile of the Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor (**Appendix A**). The trade corridor is largely defined by the A46 corridor, part of the Strategic Road Network (SRN), which runs for over 250 kilometres from the M5 at Tewksbury to Grimsby and Hull via the A15.

- 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. A brief overview of the proposal is set out at **Appendix B**.

- 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 Facts

- 2.1 The Trans Midlands Trade Corridor proposal sets out the economic credentials of the area. It proposes to develop Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor Strategic Plan, recognising that plans must move beyond transport and embrace economic development areas such as skills, training, trade links, planning and supply of commercial land.
- 2.2 Ultimately, the aim is to secure commitment from government to work with local authorities, LEPs and industries to maximise the growth potential and continue to grow the UK's trading role globally.
- 2.3 The offer to government is to collaborate across political boundaries to develop a strategic economic growth plan for the corridor. This new strategy and delivery plan will set out how each partner can contribute to a wider national agenda and collectively support the functional economic geography of the corridor.

3. Next Steps

- 3.1 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 Prospectus – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy (see Appendix A). It is officers' understanding that most other councils in Leicester and Leicestershire have already indicated their support for the document.
- 3.2 If approved, officers will arrange for the Council to become a signatory of the Statement of Commitment and Collaboration within the Midlands Connect – The Trans-Midlands Trade Corridor Prospectus – Proposal for an Economic Development Strategy.