

Supplementary Papers

Oxfordshire Growth Board

held in the Virtual meeting viewable by weblink
on Tuesday, 26 January 2021 at 2.00 pm

3. **Public participation** (Pages 71 - 73)

The Growth Board's written response to questions asked at the 26 January 2021 meeting

4. **Growth Board Scrutiny Panel update** (Page 74)

The Growth Board's written response to the recommendations made by the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel at its meeting on 19 January 2021

6. **Economic Recovery Plan Update** (Pages 75 - 84)

A copy of the presentation to the Growth Board.

8. **England's Economic Heartland Briefing** (Pages 85 - 98)

A copy of the presentation to the Growth Board

Public speakers

26 January 2021



Question

1. Councillor Debby Hallett, Deputy Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council

On 26 April 2018, as the Chair of Vale's Scrutiny Committee, I submitted a statement to this Board about Vale's concerns regarding the affordability of housing in Oxfordshire. I provided to Growth Board members a report produced by Vale officers about affordability issues in Vale of White Horse, and urged you to *"do all you can under these new rules of working and within upcoming new planning policies to make some measurable headway into solving Oxfordshire's housing problem. Explore the options, be courageous and creative, and find sustainable solutions that improve people's lives here in the county."*

That statement is attached, (**Appendix 1**), and within it is the link to the report I referred to. I asked Growth Board to consider this report in its work on affordable housing in the Growth Deal.

The meeting minute says my points were considered in the debate that followed under minute 85. However, that minute lacks any mention of what the Growth Board decided to do as a result of the information I presented. In fact, it has to do with planning flexibilities and not affordable housing at all. There remains a serious issue of housing affordability in Oxfordshire, which the OxPlan50 is well-placed to address.

Since that time, the Affordable Housing subgroup has contributed to the Growth Deal's work. But I haven't seen any reports on evidence gathering to begin to answer the question of, 'Just how unaffordable IS housing throughout Oxfordshire?'. Any proposed means of solving this problem must come after defining the problem.

It's been nearly three years since I asked about this.

Please can you report on what has been done to gather evidence that establishes the accurate scope and nature of Oxfordshire's housing affordability issues, and what decisions have been taken by the OxPlan50 team or the wider Growth Deal team to consider the particular problems here in Oxfordshire and to provide housing that people who work here can afford?

Answer

Thank you for your question. The task of establishing the need for affordable housing, including an assessment of scale, type and rent levels is the remit of and carried out by district councils.

A summary of the strategies produced by the Oxfordshire authorities was provided to the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel last year and is reproduced below.

	<i>Local Plan Affordability Policies</i>	<i>Supplementary Planning Documents</i>	<i>Tenancy Strategy</i>	<i>Housing Strategy</i>
<i>Cherwell</i>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Oxford</i>	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes
<i>SODC</i>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<i>Vale</i>	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
<i>WODC</i>	Yes	Yes*	No	No

**In development*

It's generally recognised by all councils in Oxfordshire that market rents are at a level where a charge of 80% of market rents, allowed by the national definition of affordable housing, would not be considered genuinely affordable.

The question asks what decisions have been taken by the Growth Board to recognise the need for affordable housing and seek to secure it.

The Growth Deal affordable housing programme supports the ambitions of district housing authorities to provide the affordable housing they assess as required in their policies and strategies by providing funding.

In its first two years (2018-19 and 2019-20) the programme has delivered 528 affordable housing (35% shared ownership, 39% affordable rent and 26% social rent). This total includes an 80-unit extra care housing scheme in Vale of White Horse at Great Western Park, Didcot. Without the Growth Deal funding these affordable units could not have been provided. To set that figure in context, these 528 units from the Growth Deal contributed to an overall total of 3,487 affordable homes delivered across Oxfordshire in that two year period.

The rest of this year and the final year will see at least the remaining 794 units delivered with early indications showing around 25% of delivery is achievable within the first quarter. This includes an innovative scheme in WODC and Vale of White Horse to support the delivery of 65 new build shared ownership units.

The definition of affordable housing has been considered by the Affordable Housing Sub-group. They discussed whether a definition of 'affordable' that better reflected what is truly affordable to local people on average and lower incomes could be set by the Growth Board to apply to Oxfordshire. But the conclusion was that this is matter for individual planning authorities to determine and the growth board has no power to set a definition that differs from that in the NPPF.

Unlike in Combined Authorities, Oxfordshire councils do not rely on a single source of grant funding for affordable housing and to add further restrictions to the housing being delivered through the Growth Deal could make it harder for Registered Providers to take part in the Growth Deal housing schemes.

The Oxfordshire Plan 2050, as you suggest, could be a tool to secure affordable housing and one of its agreed priorities is to "improve housing availability and affordability".

In order to develop a policy approach that seeks to help address this issue, evidence base data and existing strategies will be considered in the development of the Plan. For example, the Oxfordshire Growth Needs Assessment work, which is currently underway, will explore the level of affordable housing need. This and other inputs will be used to help inform the

selection of a range of policy options for the Plan. Those policy options and the supporting studies will be published for consultation in the summer of 2021 to ensure that views can be heard and incorporated into the draft policies of the Plan.

The Board recognise and support the view of all councils in Oxfordshire that securing genuinely affordable housing for those in housing need is a priority and will continue to consider how we can best support the councils in securing that ambition.

2. Michael Tyce, on behalf of CPRE Oxfordshire

The National Infrastructure Commission originally proposed one million homes, and an associated population increase for the OxCam corridor, of which 250,000 were targeted at Oxfordshire. Everyone rushed to disown the figure, saying it had no validity. That now appears to be the case as Bidwells report that it is now 1.5 million, which is 50% higher, and implying 375,000 houses for Oxfordshire, close on four times as high as the current Growth Deal, which is itself about double the number of houses long term population growth suggests are needed. Your Chairman has said that the Growth Board's objective is to "moderate" the Government's plans for the Arc.

What is the figure for Oxfordshire the Growth Board seeks to moderate towards?

Answer

Thank you for your question.

Firstly, I would like to say as a member of the Ox-Cam Arc Leaders Group, and as one of this board's representatives on the Ox-Cam Arc Leaders Executive, I can reassure you that specific housing numbers or targets have not featured in discussions at those meetings with Civil Servants from MHCLG.

The housing figures identified in your question do not have any status in planning policy, and the only known housing figures for Oxfordshire are those identified in Local Plans for the City and District Councils.

The development of the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 will include a new assessment of housing need based on a robust and tested evidence base. Once this work has been completed, there will be a wide-ranging public consultation on several scenarios this summer to gather the views of residents and test options further. Speculation about the outcome of that work and of the consultation would not be appropriate.

The government has identified the Ox-Cam Arc as an economic region to invest in. The Growth Board's 'objective' in relation to this government led project is to continue to engage with our neighbours and partners across the Arc to ensure the best possible outcomes for Oxfordshire. I am pleased to hear that CPRE have a meeting scheduled with our officers next week to discuss these issues in more detail.

**Growth Board response to recommendations of the Growth Board Scrutiny Panel
Recommendations made on 19th January 2021**

The Growth Board is requested to provide a response to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel for decision at its meeting on 26 January 2021.

Recommendation	Agree ?	Comment
Recommendation 1. That the Health Impact Assessment Toolkit and supporting text be amended to greater emphasise that it can also apply to existing developments as part of ongoing and new place shaping initiatives.	Yes	The Growth Board believes that the paper makes clear that healthy place shaping can be applied to existing communities as well as new developments, however we will ask that an additional reference is made to this in the summary on page 1.
Recommendation 2. That the Growth Board write to the Department for Food and Rural Affairs requesting greater investment in preventative measures to address flooding in Oxfordshire.	Yes	The Growth Board first wishes to acknowledge the excellent work being led by the Environment Agency to develop the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme. The Board supports this recommendation to address flood risk in other parts of the county and will ask officers develop an appropriate letter for sign off and submission by the Growth Board Chair.

[oxfordshirelep.com]

Oxfordshire Growth Board

Oxfordshire Economic Recovery Plan

Ahmed Goga, Director of Strategy & Programmes

Tuesday 26th January



HM Government



Agenda Item 6

Economic Recovery Plan

Oxfordshire: Economic Recovery Plan

Leading the UK Economy
Recover | Renew | Rebound

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- Prepared by Oxfordshire partners
- Live document – will need to be agile
- Refreshed economic baseline including structural and labour market analysis
- Informed by insight sessions with business leaders and experts in key thematic areas
- Plan will focus on 2-3 year horizon
- Focus on economic renewal and resilience but also maximise take up of current COVID 19 response measures, where available
- Complement LIS Investment Plan
- Aligned with wider Oxfordshire Recovery Planning (public health / community planning / resilience fora)

Economic Baseline Assessment

Draft Final
27 November 2020

Oxfordshire's Economic Recovery Plan:
The Economic Baseline Assessment



steer economic
development

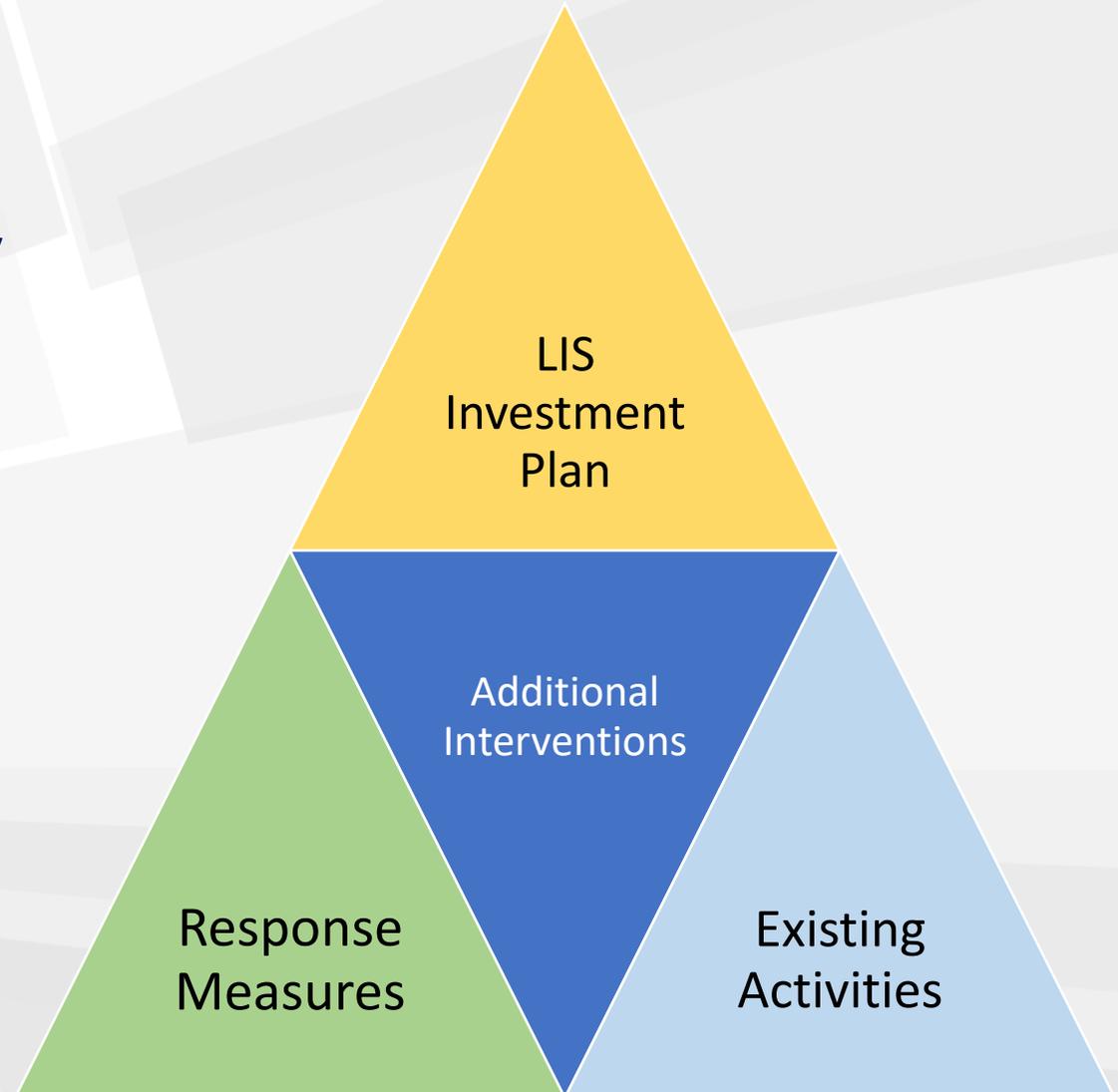
Oxfordshire LEP

- Overall, Oxfordshire economy hit less hard than wider UK but exposed key challenges
- Visitor economy most significantly affected
- Unemployment up but from historical low and levelled off by Autumn 2020 – note closure of furlough scheme in April 2021
- Variation across Oxon - Cherwell and City more impacted than other district areas
- Expectation of short contraction and strong recovery due to underlying strength
- Significant contraction in Apprenticeship opportunities but now on upward trend
- Opportunity to accelerate key strengths in economy but will need investment in skills, supply chain resilience and technology

Economic Recovery Plan – Core Components

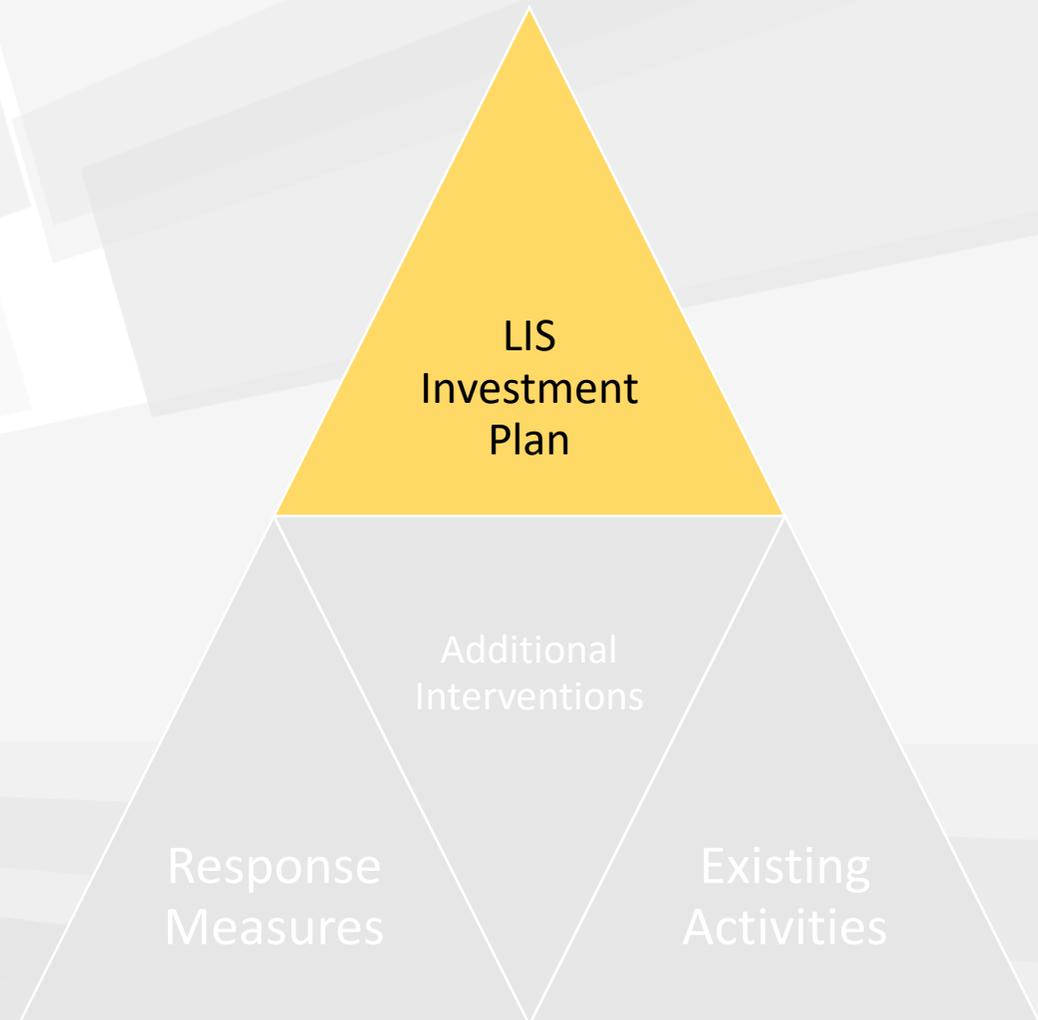
Plan encompasses c50 projects

- **LIS Investment Plan** – activities which focus on labour market and the arts and visitor economy
- **Existing Activities** – projects which can be flexed and repurposed to support recovery
- **Response Measures** – COVID specific business support schemes introduced in 2020
- **Additional Interventions** – targeted proposals responding to economic baseline assessment



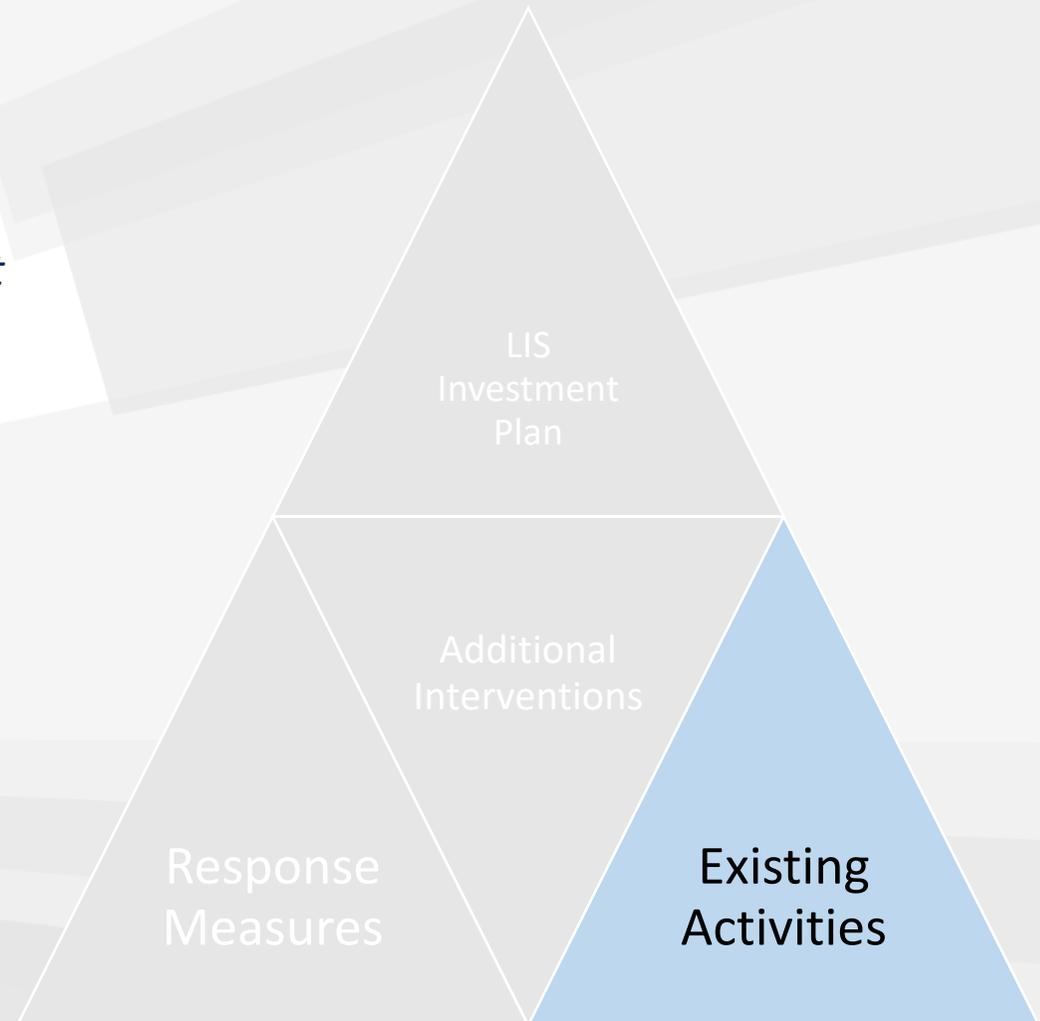
Economic Recovery Plan – Core Components

- **LIS Investment Plan** – activities which focus on labour market and the arts and visitor economy
 - **Creative & Cultural Hub** – new 1,560m2 workspace in Oxford to support digital, creative and social enterprises
 - **Oxfordshire Social Contract** – support for young people to work with employers to develop careers and skills for workplace
 - **Entrepreneurship Hub** – new business hub at Brookes to support start ups and mentoring
 - **Internationalisation Plan** – support businesses to plan for EU transition, increase export potential, promote global investment opportunities



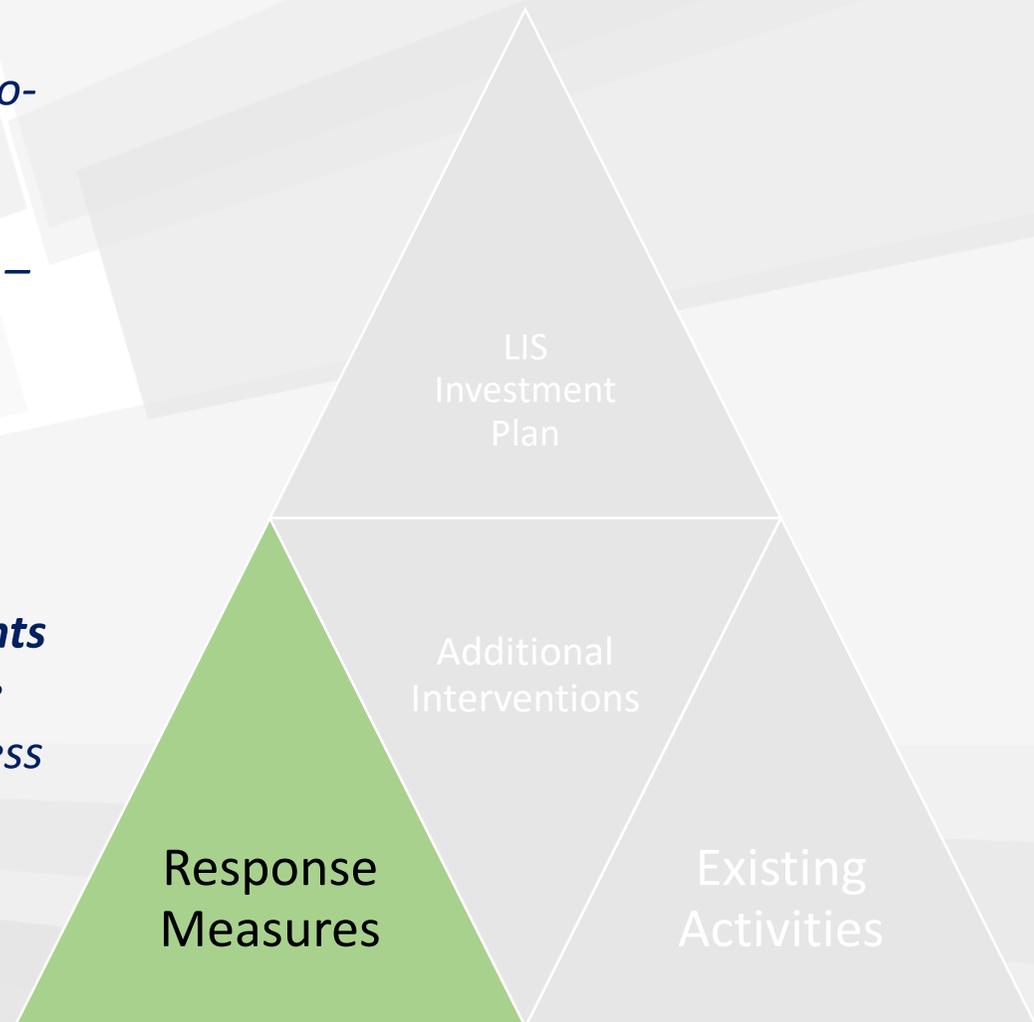
Economic Recovery Plan – Core Components

- **Existing Activities** – projects which can be flexed to support recovery
- **Skills for Business** – support for SMEs to undertake workforce planning and build training plans for their business
- **Skills Support for Workplace** – support for individuals at risk of redundancy in vulnerable sectors of economy
- **Innovation Support for Business** – grants, mentoring and advice for businesses to adopt new innovation to build resilience in their operations
- **New skills and training facilities for young people** – focusing on key sectors including hospitality, health engineering, digital technology
- **Accelerate planning and delivery of key infrastructure schemes** - including Active Travel and Connected Oxford



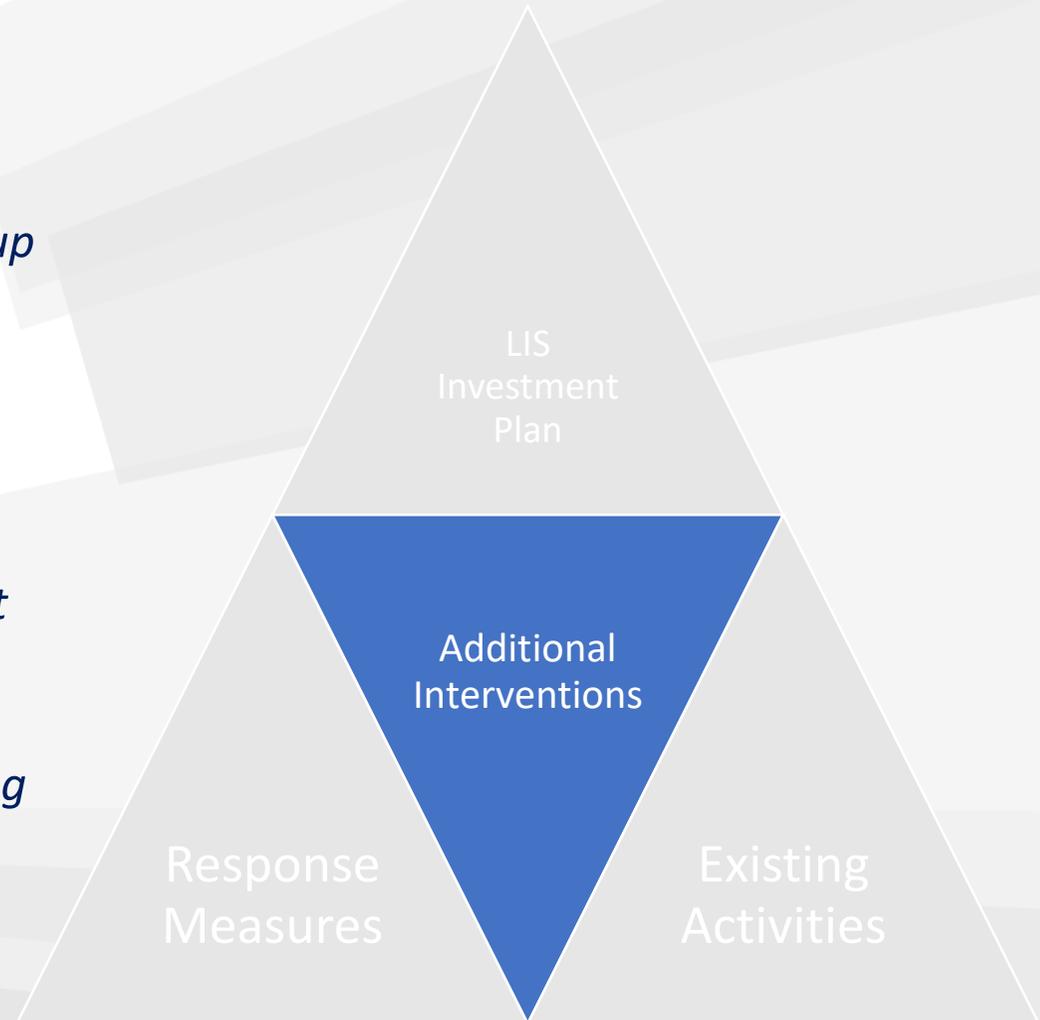
Economic Recovery Plan – Core Components

- **Response Measures** – COVID specific business support schemes
 - **Business Investment Fund** – £4m co-investment fund for businesses to develop
 - **Town Centre ‘Meanwhile Scheme’** – c£2m project to bring back in use vacant retail properties x-County
 - **Gigabyte Voucher Scheme** - £1m project to increase take up of high speed gigabyte technology
 - **Local Authority Discretionary Grants** – maximise take up of c£3m of rate relief and funding offered to business
 - **Growth Hub Support** – c£1m of business support, grants, business resilience planning, sector specific and peer to peer support



Economic Recovery Plan – Core Components

- **Additional Interventions** – targeted proposals responding to economic baseline assessment:
 - **Business Renewal** – including start-up programme, business accelerator, Growth Hub service
 - **Supply Chain Resilience** – including greening supply chain initiative and masterclass programme
 - **Town Centre Renaissance** inc district level town action plans, connectivity and public realm improvements
 - **Visitor Economy Recovery** – including COVID-ready business, digital innovation health checks,
 - **Skills Investment** – skills advice and support for ‘at risk’ young people; training and job matching for adults



Next Steps and Key Milestones

Oxfordshire: Economic Recovery Plan

Leading the UK Economy
Recover | Renew | Rebound

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- 5th Feb - ERP to be considered by OxLEP Board for endorsement
- February – project sponsors take forward and finalise ERP proposals
- March – Spring Budget and expected publication of *Levelling Up Fund* and *UK Shared Prosperity Fund* guidance
- March - addendum to economic baseline assessment
- April – initial impact assessment by partners of economic response measures

[oxfordshirelep.com]

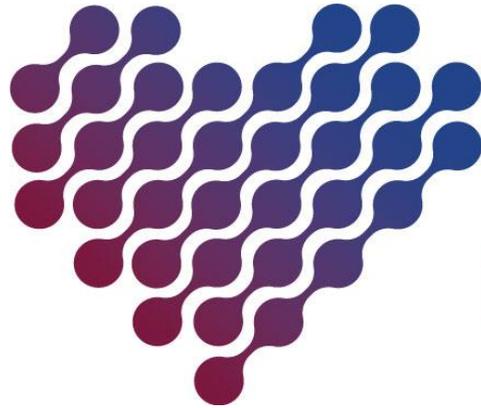
Any Questions?

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HM Government





**ENGLAND'S
ECONOMIC
HEARTLAND**

Connecting People: Transforming Journeys

**Martin Tugwell,
Programme Director**



England's Economic Heartland

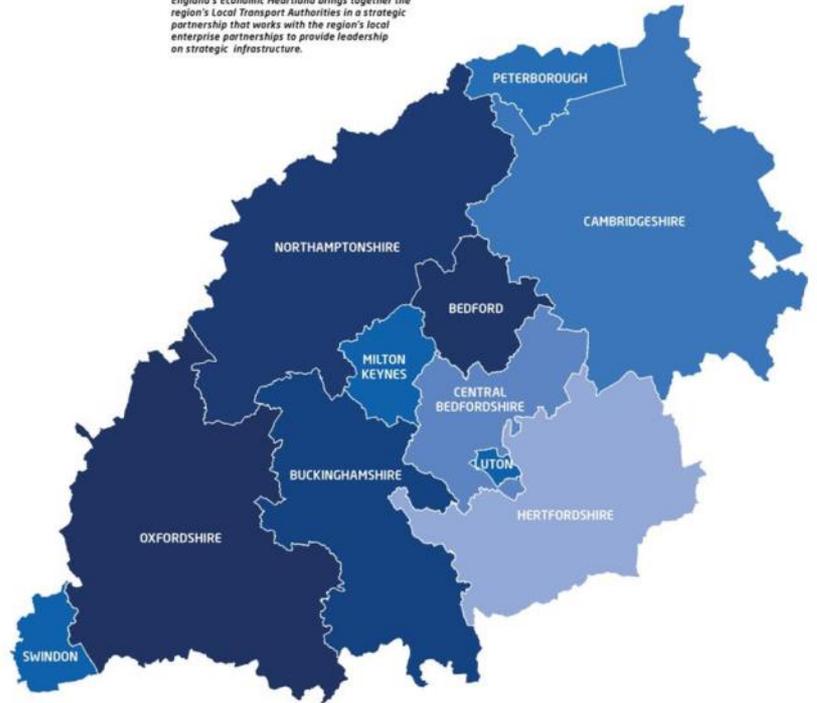
SUB-NATIONAL TRANSPORT BODIES IN ENGLAND

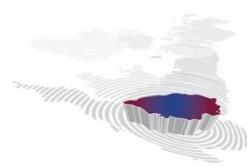
There are seven Sub-national Transport Bodies covering the entirety of England outside of London.



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England's Economic Heartland brings together the region's Local Transport Authorities in a strategic partnership that works with the region's local enterprise partnerships to provide leadership on strategic infrastructure.





Delivering through strategic collaborative partnership

Founded autumn 2014 – to realise the Heartland's economic potential

A movement of like-minded individuals/organisations committed to realising that ambition

Initiative came in response to recognition that:

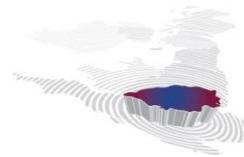
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Strategic infrastructure issues (and solutions) **extend beyond any one single area**

Issues that are common to one or more areas can benefit from a **co-ordinated response**

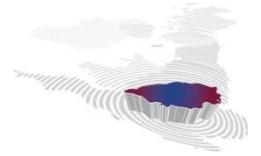
- Need for **stronger integration of investment** by Government, its agencies, local authorities, as well as infrastructure and service providers





A Region of Economic Success





... but with infrastructure under pressure



... against a backdrop of societal changes



As a member you can utilise our beautiful kitchen area complete with fridge freezer, microwave, toaster and kettle as well as our fabulous coffee machine so your needs are fully catered for.
You can bring your breakfast, lunch and dinner with you or we can order something in for you from our fabulous caterers at Stansfield and Hoole or MI-Burger

Air Quality/Climate Change

Digital access to services/opportunities reducing the need to travel



Societal trends – access to services, e-commerce

New Service/Business Models – flexible/hybrid working



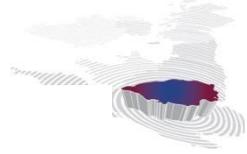
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Development of the Transport Strategy

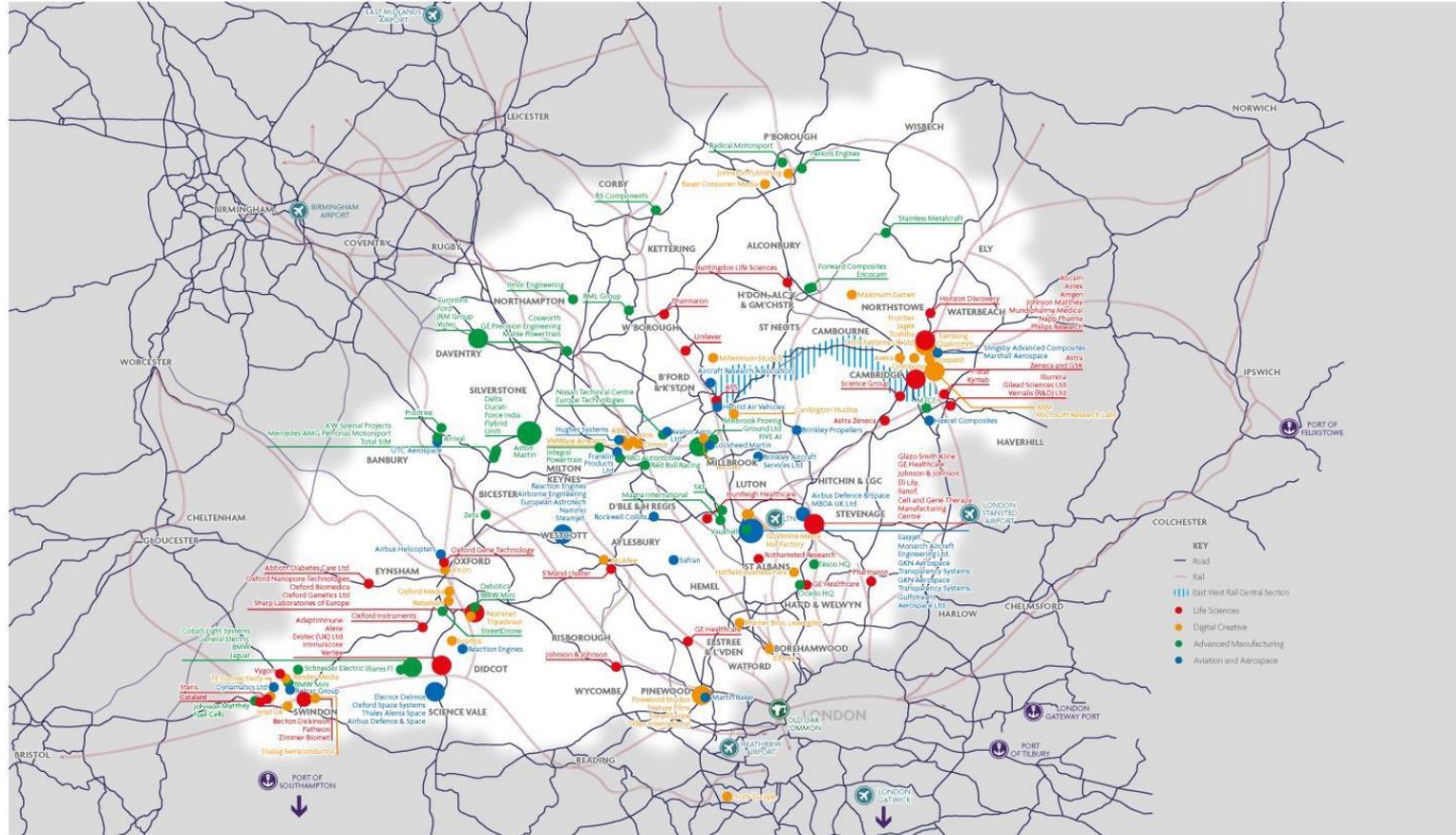
- **Development of a Regional Evidence Base**
 - **Regional Database**
 - **Regional Policy Scenario Model**
 - **Population Segmentation**
- **Commissioned technical work- including**
 - **Freight and Logistics**
 - **Rail Passenger Study**
- **Engagement on outline Transport Strategy between July and October 2019**
- **2nd Round of engagement on draft Transport Strategy between July and October 2020**
- **Integrated Sustainability Appraisal – in parallel**

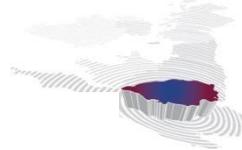




// Key business clusters in the innovation ecosystem

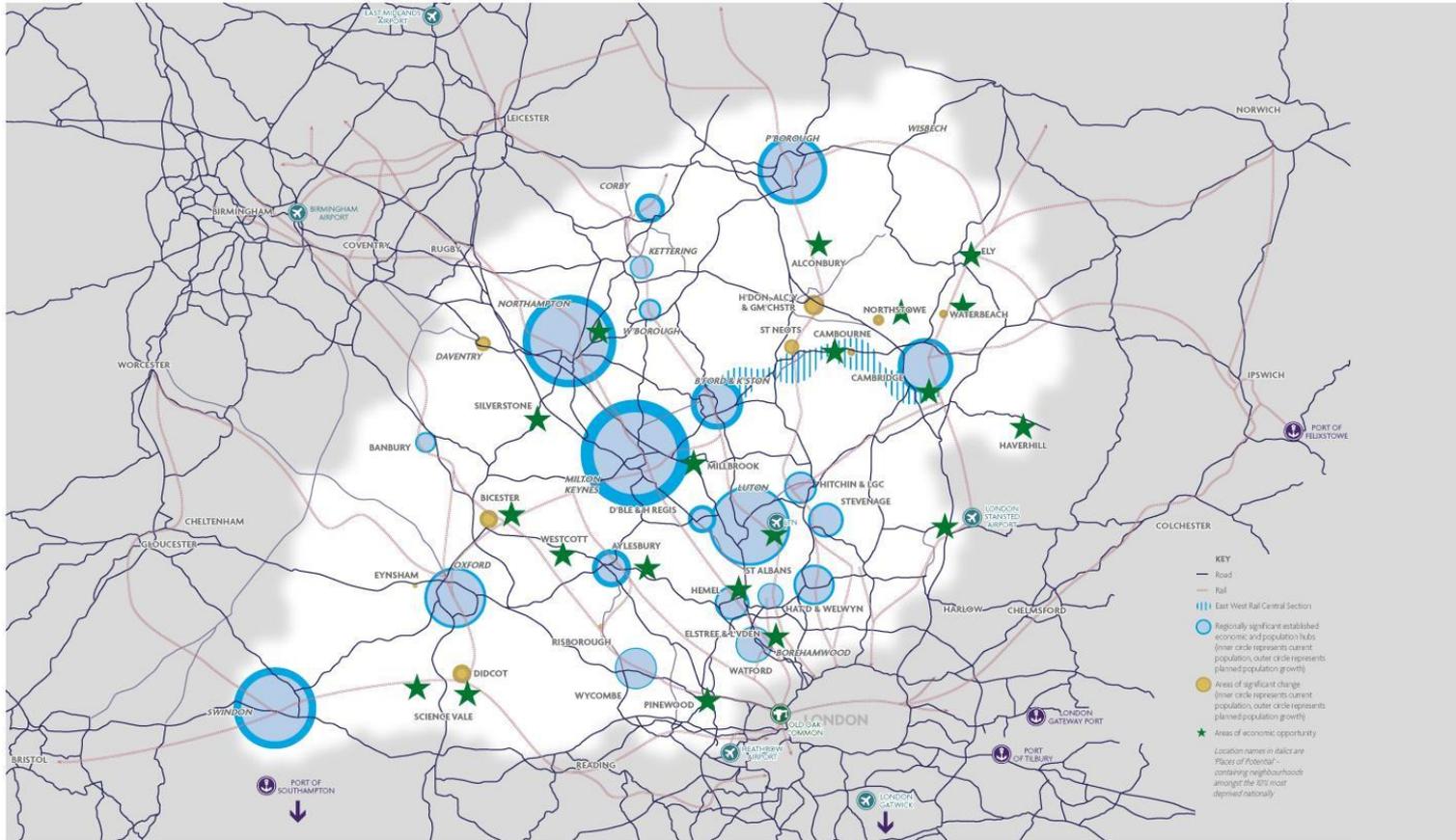
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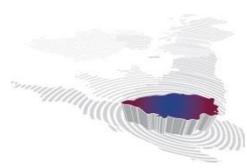




// Places of Strategic Importance

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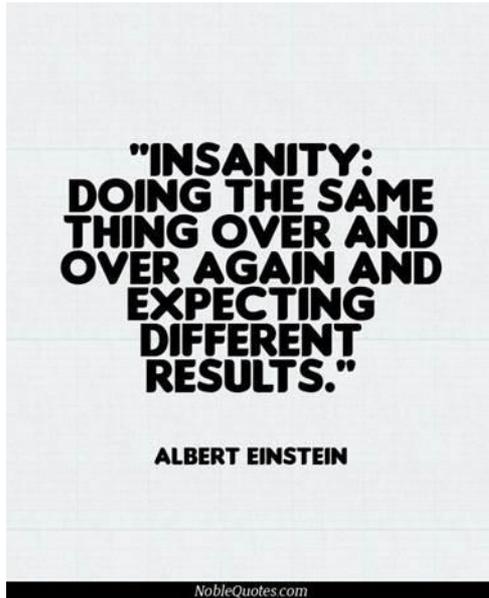


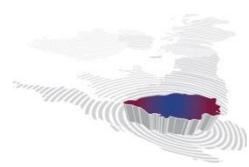


Our Ambition

To support sustainable growth and improve quality of life and wellbeing through a world-class, decarbonised transport system which harnesses the region's global expertise in technology and innovation to unlock new opportunities for residents and businesses, in a way that benefits the UK as a whole.

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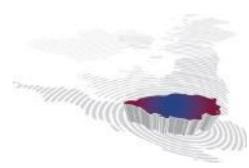


Pathways to Decarbonisation

- Modelling by Oxford and Southampton universities shows how the region can achieve net zero by 2050
- Our strategy builds on two of those pathways
 - A highly connected transport system – reducing the need to travel
 - Policy led behavioural shift – reducing reliance on private car
- Aligned with investment in digital infrastructure and energy systems

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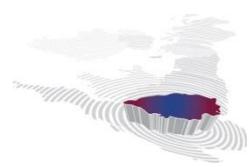


Realising Our Potential

- Decarbonise our transport system – harness innovation and deliver solutions that generate economic growth
- Digital infrastructure – champion investment to improve connectivity and reduce the need to travel
- Use investment in strategic public transport networks – East West Rail and the CAM - as catalysts for transformation
- Investing in local connectivity to ensure access to opportunity for everyone
- Freight and Logistics – ensuring that these needs continue to be met whilst lowering their environmental impact

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Next Steps

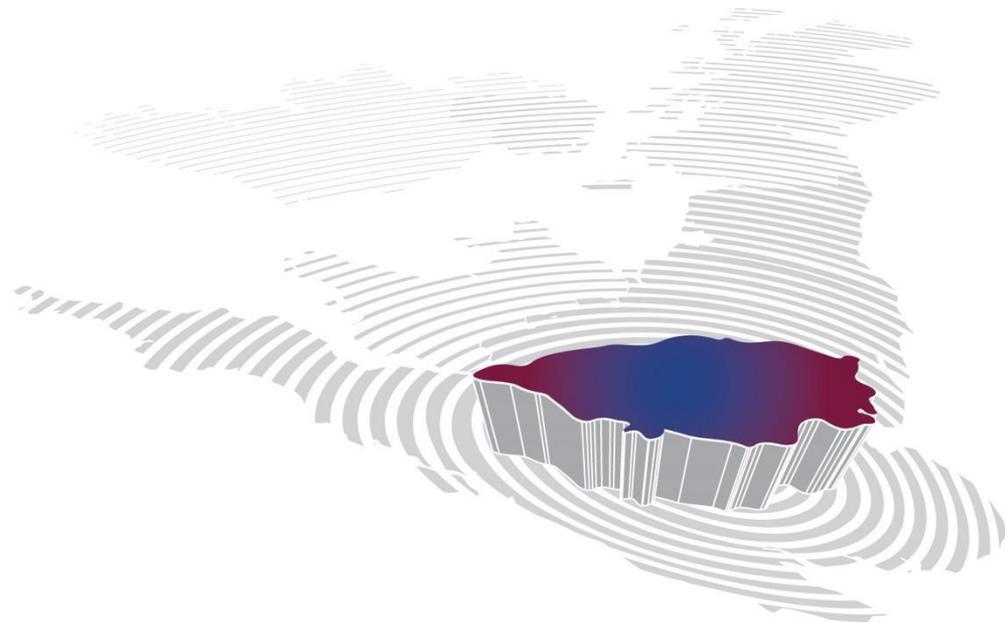
- Submission of Transport Strategy to Secretary of State – end of February – includes initial Investment Pipeline
- Connectivity Studies – programme underway: co-designed with partners, with the outputs feeding into the Investment Pipeline

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Influencing/shaping national investment programmes including:

- Future shape of rail franchises/concessions
- Highways England – Road Investment Strategy
- Major Road Network – Investment Programme
- Decarbonisation – developing regional road map, potentially with inclusion of carbon budgets/targets
- Working with wider strategic infrastructure – digital infrastructure and utilities





ENGLAND'S ECONOMIC HEARTLAND

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