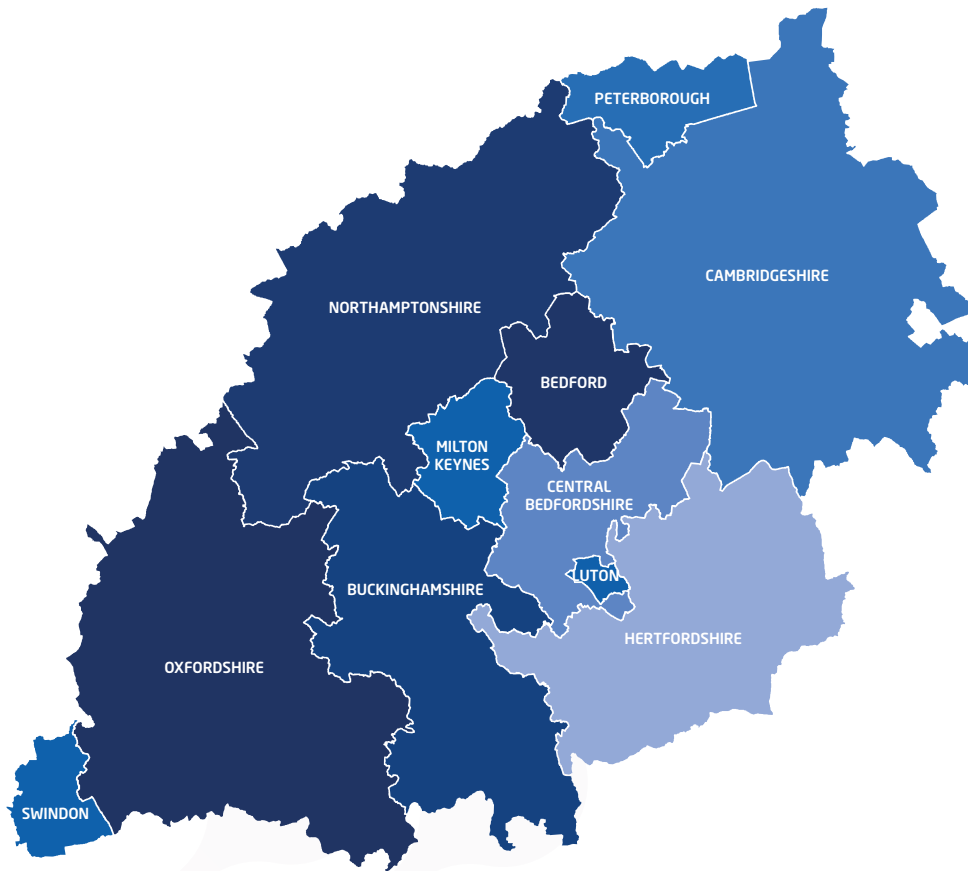


Delivering a World Class Heartland



LEADERSHIP FOR THE REGION



England's Economic Heartland's membership covers 11 local transport authorities but we are also working closely with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, and Suffolk, Norfolk and Essex county councils.

Stretching from Swindon to Cambridgeshire and from Northamptonshire to Hertfordshire, England's Economic Heartland brings political and business leaders together in a strategic collaborative partnership with a shared commitment to realise the economic potential of the Oxford - Milton Keynes - Cambridge corridor and surrounding areas.

We provide the region's voice on strategic infrastructure and services. Our leadership is focused on addressing barriers to realising our potential.

- Our overarching Transport Strategy will be a 30 year strategic vision for our transport system that puts the needs of businesses and individuals at the forefront of investment decisions
- Our work on wider strategic infrastructure is focused on making sure investment in transport, digital and utilities infrastructure is 'joined up'
- Our work with our delivery partners is focused on identifying investment priorities, getting the funding secured and then delivering improvements to budget and on-time.

Working in collaboration with Government and partners across the Heartland, we are committed to creating places where people and business realise their potential, and are able to compete on the global stage for UK plc.

Unlocking opportunity: Delivering a world class heartland

Investment in the right infrastructure in the right places at the right time will leverage significantly greater return to UK Plc. But we must also ensure that growth is delivered in ways that improve our environment, natural and built, rural and urban.

England's Economic Heartland is working with the Government and partners to deliver East West Rail and an Oxford to Cambridge expressway - a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to transform connectivity across the corridor

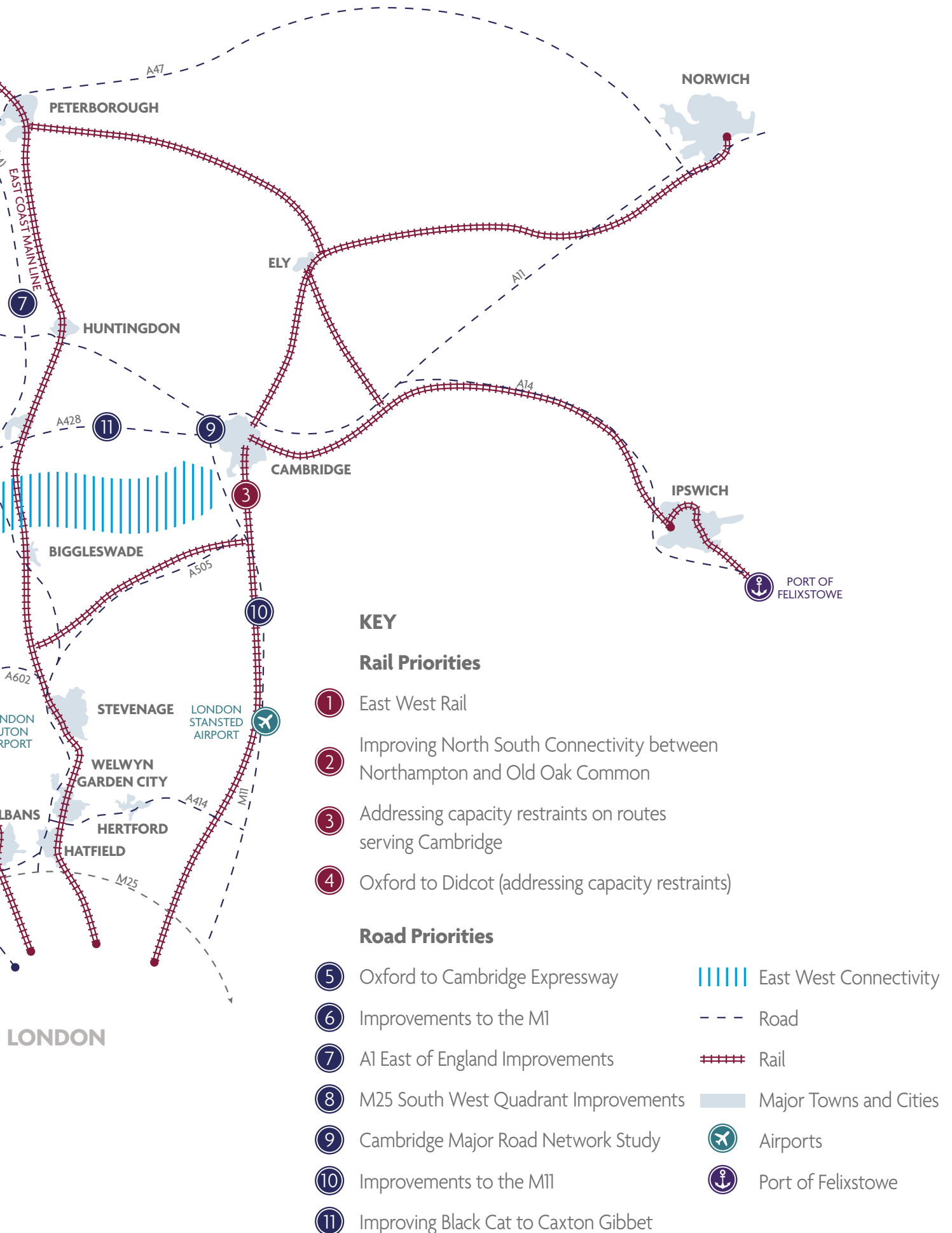
In order to realise the full benefit of this investment it is essential that it connects with the wider transport system.

England's Economic Heartland established the Strategic Transport Forum in February 2016 and is committed to using this as the basis for a statutory Sub-national Transport Body. The Forum's work to put in place the overarching Transport Strategy will be used to make the case for additional investment in support of the business investment that will deliver economic growth.

Unlocking opportunity is also dependent upon a range of wider strategic infrastructure - digital infrastructure, as well as utilities such as power and water. England's Economic Heartland is providing leadership in joining up investment in individual pieces of the wider infrastructure system in a way that gives business investors greater confidence that they can commit their future to this part of the UK.



ROAD AND RAIL PRIORITIES



BUILDING ON SUCCESS MEANS FACING CHALLENGES HEAD ON



England's Economic Heartland is a region of national importance, and not just because it is a net contributor to the UK Exchequer. The Heartland's businesses include world leading innovators in industrial sectors at the cutting edge of global markets.

The National Infrastructure Commission believes our economy could double or even triple in size. But it also warns this opportunity cannot be taken for granted.

Indeed, our success already comes at a price. Economic growth combined with underinvestment in infrastructure and services means that the pressure on our transport, digital and wider infrastructure networks has grown to the point where they operate close to capacity most of the time. The resilience of our networks has dropped, affecting business productivity and making travel for individuals increasingly challenging.

Our transport system continues to be dominated by the legacy of investment that left us with a largely radial pattern of strategic networks centred on London. Travel across the Heartland - and in particular east-west - is hamstrung by poor connectivity and poor integration.

Digital connectivity remains a challenge at a time when lifestyle and business changes mean our demands and expectations of digital infrastructure continue to increase. And economic success brings with it further pressure on wider strategic infrastructure, including power and water supplies.

England's Economic Heartland is the response of strategic political and business leaders to overcome these challenges, with investment in strategic infrastructure and services key to realising our potential.

It is recognition that:

- Strategic infrastructure issues (and solutions) extend beyond any one single area
- Issues that are common to one or more area benefit from a co-ordinated response
- Need for stronger integration of investment by Government, its agencies, local authorities, as well as infrastructure owners and service providers.

England's Economic Heartland gives the region a single powerful voice with which to speak to Government, local communities and the private sector.

Delivering growth which has already been planned requires the investment identified to be delivered. However realising our ambition to deliver transformational levels of growth requires us to look beyond our traditional approach to planning and delivering investment.

We need to ensure that investment choices are focused on enabling the future rather than simply solving problems of the past. We need to transform the role of the public sector, using England's Economic Heartland's strategic leadership to support delivery at the local level. And we need to strip away duplication of effort, enable faster, more agile decisions, secure additional investment and deliver proposals faster.

In this way our residents and businesses will have confidence that their needs and those of their communities are being met and that additional growth brings added value.

Making things happen

As a strategic collaborative partnership, England's Economic Heartland is working at pace to realise the region's potential by:

- Promoting the idea of a National Policy Statement (NPS) for the Heartland - a statement of intent on the part of Government that the Heartland is a long-term national priority
- Ensuring investment in digital infrastructure and utilities is aligned to the overarching ambition of realising the Heartland's economic potential
- Working with infrastructure owners to accelerate delivery of investment in strategic infrastructure.
- Agreeing an overarching Transport Strategy which provides a 30-year framework for the development of the transport system
- Submitting the proposal to establish a statutory Sub-national Transport Body with powers and responsibilities devolved from Government in a way that enables delivery of the Transport Strategy
- Commissioning a 'connectivity study' so that communities not on the Oxford to Cambridge expressway itself benefit from it
- Working with businesses and infrastructure owners to develop proposals which meet the needs of the freight and logistics sector
- Working with SME innovators and entrepreneurs to enable the development of innovative customer-focused journey solutions
- Maintaining on behalf of partners the 'regional evidence base' that enables a consistent approach to the identification of investment needs
- Working with partners to secure additional investment in strategic transport infrastructure
- Working with Government to ensure our needs are reflected in national programmes, including those delivered by Highways England, Network Rail and through rail passenger franchises
- Working with infrastructure owners to prepare business cases in support of investment in digital infrastructure.

Strategic delivery partners

Our Strategic Delivery Partners' group brings together the private sector organisations which provide highway services to our local transport authorities.

This collaborative approach on strategic issues ensures England's Economic Heartland benefits from having access to specialist and technical advice throughout the process of identifying infrastructure priorities, developing proposals and, in due course, their delivery. As work on the development of overarching Transport Strategy is taken forward the delivery partners group will provide guidance and advice on the development of the programme of investment and its implementation - the ambition being to accelerate the delivery of planned investment thereby reducing its cost.



JACOBS



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Get in touch

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