



## Extraordinary Council 26 June 2019

### Oxford – Cambridge Arc Central Area Governance Arrangements

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#### **Purpose of report**

To seek approval of the Council to join the Oxford – Cambridge Arc Central Area Growth Board.

#### **Attachment**

Appendix 1 – Report to Planning Policy Committee of 10 June

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#### **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Members will be aware that the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has been engaged on a study into the economic potential of the southern midlands (described as an arc from Oxford to Cambridge), which encompasses Northamptonshire. It has now been confirmed that the all of the area known as North Northamptonshire is included in what is now known as the Oxford – Cambridge Arc (the Arc).

#### **2.0 Planning Policy Committee – 10 June 2019**

- 2.1 At the Planning Policy Committee meeting held on 10 June, due to the length of time taken to resolve other items of the agenda and the late hour, it was resolved to recommend that the report be considered at the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 26 June 2019.
- 2.2 This was to enable adequate detailed consideration to be given to the matter and to make an appointment to the Growth Board as soon as possible.

#### **3.0 Oxford - Cambridge Arc Central Area Governance Arrangements**

- 3.1 The detailed contents of the report to Planning Policy Committee, for Council's consideration, can be found at Appendix 1 to this report.

#### **4.0 Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 4.1 An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and all equality and diversity implications are neutral. The Equality Impact Assessment can be accessed as a background document.

#### **5.0 Privacy Implications**

- 5.1 There are no discernible privacy implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 Legal Implications**

- 6.1 The Growth Board will be set up as a joint committee under Section 101 (5), 102 Local

Government Act 1972 and section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant (where applicable) to the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.

6.2 Whilst no powers have been vested in the Growth Board, as a Joint Committee it will exercise any powers which members agree to vest in it on a unanimous basis under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 insofar as they relate to the promotion of development or economic growth or matters ancillary to this. These powers will be exercised concurrently with the constituent members, and members will unanimously decide the voting mechanism for exercising powers. This excludes ceding the decision making powers on planning matters, which will remain vested with the Local Planning Authorities, as set out in the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

6.3 With the Growth Board acting as a Joint Committee under the relevant legislation, meetings will be held in public and, subject to legislation, meeting documents will be published in a timely manner. The work of the Growth Board at the point of formal establishment will be subject to FOI legislation.

## **7.0 Risk Management**

7.1 Membership of the Central Area Growth Board is seen as important to mitigate the risk that the economic and housing growth anticipated for North Northamptonshire is accompanied by planning for, and funding of, the necessary infrastructure.

## **8.0 Resource and Financial Implications**

8.1 As noted in paragraph 3.3 of the report in Appendix 1, agreement to membership of the Central Area Growth Board would bring an ongoing annual £5,000 commitment to support its work and to fund officer roles to support its operation. This will be funded in 2019/20 from existing budgets and will be built into the base budget for 2020/21.

## **9.0 Constitutional Implications**

9.1 There are no constitutional implications arising from this report.

## **10.0 Customer Service Implications**

10.1 There are no direct customer service implications arising from this report.

## **11.0 Corporate Outcomes**

11.1 This proposal would support the Corporate Outcomes of:

- Good Quality of Life - Sustainable, by delivering the infrastructure necessary to create sustainable communities; and
- Effective Partnership Working, by providing a mechanism for co-ordinated negotiation for economic and housing growth and necessary infrastructure in the area.

## 12.0 Recommendations

12.1 Council is recommended to:

- a) agree that the council becomes a full member of the Central Area Growth Board, adopting the Terms of Reference (Annex A); and
- b) endorse the proposal to participate in discussions with Government about a housing and growth deal for North Northamptonshire and / or the Central Area of the Oxford – Cambridge Arc.

*[Reason: the recommended action is most likely to secure appropriate resources for infrastructure to meet the housing and economic growth needs of the North Northamptonshire Area]*

Council is further recommended to:

- c) commit to a contribution of £5,000 of ongoing revenue support to help fund the work of the Growth Board, as noted in paragraph 3.3 of Appendix 1 to this report; and.
- d) appoint the Leader of the Council to represent the council on the Growth Board (with the Deputy Leader as substitute).

*[Reason: to support the active membership and administrative functions of the Board].*

<b>Legal</b>	Power: <b>Section 101 (5), 102 Local Government Act 1972 and section 9EB of the Local Government Act 2000 and pursuant (where applicable) to the Local Authorities (Arrangement for the Discharge of Functions) (England) Regulations 2012.</b>				
	Other considerations:				
<b>Background Papers:</b>					
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<b>Date: 13/06/19</b>					
<b>CFO</b> 17/06/19		<b>MO</b> (Deputy) 17/06/19		<b>CX</b> 17/06/19	