

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 the Government's support for the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) recommendations across the corridor stating 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 to the NIC Report - November 2017

The Government, alongside the Autumn Budget 2017, published an interim response which sets out an initial package of infrastructure, planning and development measures that, together, were intended to kick-start the process of meeting the corridor's long-term potential.

In doing so, it asked 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 the context of “Place” and wider spatial activity.

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 five 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 Ox-Cam corridor and the Golden Triangle between Oxford, Cambridge and London, are seen as important economic drivers in this process but anchored within the context of “place”.

National Infrastructure Commission

The 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 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, three Local Enterprise Partnership areas and a Mayoral Combined Authority.

The NIC study and its recommendations to Government, and the Government’s own 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 an economic 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 five Foundations of Productivity and four Grand Challenges proposed by the Government, will be an important part of developing the vision and the final Cross Corridor LIS.

Critical building blocks are in place through the recently refreshed Strategic Economic Plans (SEPs) and Growth Strategies from OxLEP, Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP and SEMLEP 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 Industrial Strategy at a “place” level; it is anticipated that this will provide the foundations for the development of a cross corridor approach. 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, science and innovation audits, which underpin and have been produced in support of the original SEPs, will also need to be reviewed and considered.

Key Stages

Set out below are the headline milestones which suppliers will need to consider as part of their proposals. In addition, key stages and outputs of the commission to meet these milestones are listed; these are indicative at this stage and we will work with the successful supplier to develop a more detailed workplan as part of the Inception Meeting.

Critical Milestones

- Friday 18th May - publication of consultancy brief
- **Friday 8th June, 4pm - deadline for submission of tenders to OxLEP Ltd**
- 14th June - interviews & appointment of consultants
- w/c 18th June - Inception Meeting
- w/c 9th July 2018 - Stage 1 Complete
- w/c 10th Sept 2018 – Stage 2 Complete

- Final Report:
 - w/c 10th December 2018 – Stage 3 Draft Final Report
 - w/c 21st Jan 2019 - Final Report for Partner sign off

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.

Core Outputs

- Interim Report setting out key findings from stage one
- 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 slide pack 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 and also in software files which can be used across social media and digital platforms by corridor partners

Submission Deadline and Selection Process

All submitted proposals will be scored against a set of pre-determined criteria, set out below:

Criteria	Percentage of Overall Score (%)
Methodology and Approach	40% (0/40)
Creativity and Innovation	25% (0/25)
Consultancy Team, Skills and Competencies	25% (0/25)
Overall Price	10% (0/10)
	Total Score (Out of 100)

Please send all tender submissions to: info@oxfordshirelep.com by **4pm on Friday 8th June** – please note, late submissions will not be considered.

Please state '**Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor Economic Vision Consultancy Proposal**' in your email correspondence.

Shortlisted suppliers will be notified by Tuesday 12th June, and be invited to a panel interview on Thursday 14th June – shortlisted suppliers will be notified of the venue and precise timings.

All tenders should clearly state the key point of contact for the supplier and their contact details.

Additional Information

Freedom of Information

All information provided by you in your response to this ITT will remain confidential and will not be disclosed to any other party except where required for official audit purposes or to the extent that OxLEP Ltd (on behalf of corridor partners) considers that disclosure is required pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 or any other applicable legislation, legal requirement or code of practice.

Confidentiality

By receiving this ITT, you agree to keep confidential the information contained in the ITT or made available in connection with further enquiries and questions. Such information may be made available to your employees and professional advisers for the purpose only of responding to this ITT.

Material Changes

At any time before the award of the contract, OxLEP Ltd (on behalf of corridor partners) reserves the right to disqualify any organisation whose circumstances change to the extent that it ceases to meet the selection criteria or makes a material change in respect of its proposal unless substantial justification can be provided to the satisfaction of OxLEP Ltd (on behalf of corridor partners). Where a Bidder becomes aware after having submitted a Bid of a change in circumstances or information supplied, it should notify OxLEP of this as soon as possible.

Budget

A total maximum budget of £80,000 (exclusive of VAT) is available for this assignment.

The commissioning party will be OxLEP Ltd, on behalf of corridor partners, and contractual arrangements will be based on the standard terms adopted by the Company via its accountable body.

Client Management and Contacts

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

- Richard Harrington Chief Executive BTVLEP richard.harrington@btvlep.co.uk
- Hilary Chipping, Acting Chief Executive, SEMLEP - Hilary.chipping@semlep.com
- Nigel Tipple Chief Executive OxLEP – chiefexec@oxfordshirelep.com
- Martin Whitely Chief Executive Cambridgeshire and Peterborough MCA - martin.whiteley@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk
- Growth Board/LA Representatives – Potentially 4 x 3 reps max TBC
- Joe Manning – BEIS joe.manning@beis.gov.uk or Naomi Green - Cities and Local Growth (Naomi.Green@beis.gov.uk)

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.