



CABINET

19 JULY 2011

**DIRECTOR FOR ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORT:
TONY CIABURRO**

**CABINET MEMBER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC
PROTECTION: COUNCILLOR ANDRE GONZALEZ DE SAVAGE**

Subject:	The Northamptonshire Arc
Recommendations:	<p>Cabinet is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note feedback on the Northamptonshire Arc, including the consultation on the Northamptonshire Arc Background Report; 2. Adopt the Northamptonshire Arc as a Local Prosperity Plan (Appendix B) to guide future planning, economic growth and investment in Northamptonshire and act as a key policy document for the County Council; 3. Agree the supporting documents on Connectivity and Natural Resilience; 4. Endorse the action plan for the new Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership; 5. Authorise the Director for Environment, Development and Transport, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Public Protection, to explore innovative ways of funding infrastructure in conjunction with potential partners and to agree any necessary changes to the Appendices; and 6. Endorse the way forward set out in Section 7.

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is three-fold. Firstly, it is to report on feedback on the Northamptonshire Arc concept from consultation on the Background Report. Secondly, it is to adopt the Northamptonshire Arc, which will act as a local prosperity plan for the county, and agree supporting documents on Connectivity and Natural Resilience. Thirdly, it is to endorse the action plan for the new Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership and the way forward.

2. Relevant Priority Outcomes

As an organisation we have developed a set of principles which define what we are here for – our core purpose:

- We are here to help you to help yourself
- We are here to help you when you can't help yourself
- We want you to see us as a trusted advocate

Our perspectives and priority outcomes show how we will go about achieving our vision: "Proud to make Northamptonshire a great place to live and work"

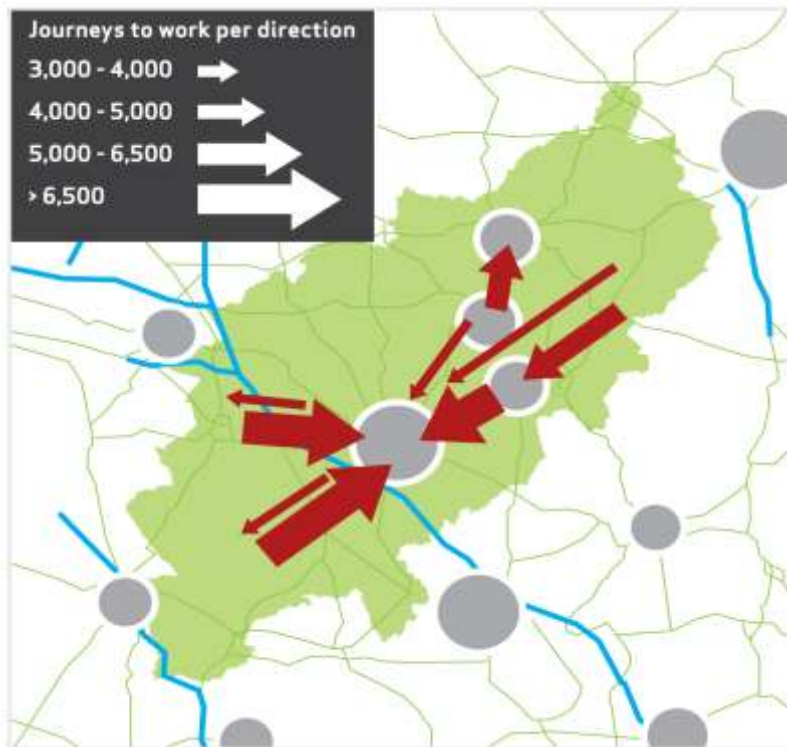
Perspective	Outcome
Customers - to achieve our vision, what will our customers see?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A cleaner, greener and more prosperous county
Process - to satisfy our customers, what processes must we excel at?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing local communities • Developing local markets • Commissioning outcomes
Learning and Growth - to achieve our vision what must we learn, develop and improve?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploit new technology • New Target Operating Model • Integrated and shared services
Finance – to finance our vision, what must we do efficiently, effectively and economically?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimised delivery costs • Maximised income and funding • Targeted spend and investments

3. Background

- 3.1 The Northamptonshire Arc is a locally developed spatial concept. It covers the whole county and represents an integrated approach to economic development, the environment and connectivity. It is one of the first concepts of its type in the country.
- 3.2 The Northamptonshire Arc has been developed because a top-level strategy is needed to help deliver strong and sustained economic growth, reduce carbon emissions, and improve the environment. This includes identifying where investment is needed to address infrastructure gaps and future proof transport and broadband networks. It fills a major void, because there was no single concept or strategy which offered a coherent spatial approach for Northamptonshire.
- 3.3 The Northamptonshire Arc provides the strategic context for making decisions on future plans and investment relating to the County Councils statutory responsibilities. These responsibilities include planning, economic development, transport, waste, the environment and education. However, its impact is wider than these responsibilities and the remit of the County Council and as such the County Council has been working closely with other public sector organisations, the private sector and local communities. The goal is that this strategy becomes a statutory document.
- 3.4 At the heart of the Northamptonshire Arc is a broad arc of economic and innovation activity following the A43 and A45 arteries and running south-west to north-east across the county. This encompasses a cluster of intrinsically linked settlements which includes Northampton, Corby, Daventry, Kettering and Wellingborough and the other larger centres of population, culture and commerce in the county. Figure 1 below illustrates the strong inter-relationships which exist within the county. The Arc also includes a significant stretch of the River Nene. However, its wider sphere of

influence extends beyond this and includes smaller towns, villages and the more rural areas of the county.

Figure 1 – Top Journey to Work Corridors (net flows)



3.5 A report was presented to Cabinet in April 2010 which outlined the background and detail behind the Northamptonshire Arc concept. At that meeting Cabinet adopted the Northamptonshire Arc concept to help guide future economic growth and investment in Northamptonshire. Cabinet also agreed that a formal consultation exercise would be undertaken on the Northamptonshire Arc concept.

3.6 Following this, a period of lengthy and extensive engagement took place. This involved the formal consultation process and discussions with various people and organisations including local business leaders, key investors and infrastructure providers. These discussions have covered both the Northamptonshire Arc concept and more specific initiatives which are integral to it such as the superfast Northamptonshire broadband initiative.

4. Engagement

4.1 The 'formal' public consultation exercise was launched in June 2010. The consultation document was made available on the Council's website and through other means. Those consulted included the borough and district councils, parish councils, county councillors, the business community, developers and other local organisations and interests. Presentations were given to a number of public meetings and face-to-face meetings were held with other interested parties.

4.2 A total of 69 written responses were received during the formal consultation making a total of 85 representations (including joint responses). Most of the responses from the consultation and meetings were positive, with many supporting the idea of a single

advocacy document for the county and a tool for leveraging investment. Feedback from the meetings and in particular face-to-face discussions with business and infrastructure provider interests was also overwhelmingly positive.

- 4.3 One question which arose during the consultation was the relationship with the Local Development Framework. The Northamptonshire Arc complements the Core Spatial Strategies (CSSs), which are the main policy drivers, and statutory documents, for housing growth and allocating development. The Northamptonshire Arc does this by focusing on related aspects, such as connectivity, economic development and the environment, which are crucial to future prosperity and delivering sustainable growth. A prime focus is identifying and addressing 'infrastructure gaps'. It also provides a joined-up approach for the county which is currently missing with the CSSs. There was also a request from the consultation that the Arc should provide more focus on the rural areas. This has been addressed by clarifying that the Arc's area of influence extends in the rural areas and therefore includes the whole county. The report of consultation is attached (see Appendix A).
- 4.4 Further work has also been done to ensure that the approach takes account of other documents including (but not exclusively) Wellingborough's 2020 Vision, Daventry's Town Centre Vision, Kettering's Suite 16 Programme of Regeneration, the Nene Valley Strategy, and the Silverstone Circuit Masterplan as well as the North Northamptonshire Core Spatial Strategy and the West Northamptonshire Pre-Submission Joint Core Strategy.

5. The Northamptonshire Arc

- 5.1 The Northamptonshire Arc Prosperity Plan (see Appendix B) is an update of the document published for consultation in 2010 and a living document. This document outlines details of the Northamptonshire Arc strategy. It is focused on the three themes of Connectivity, the Environment, and the Economy and ten priorities (see below).

Northamptonshire Arc Priorities

1. Enhancing strategic connections and addressing congestion on the road network
2. Making public transport and cycling more attractive and encouraging and incentivising low-carbon travel
3. Enabling 100% countywide access to superfast broadband
4. Creating a naturally resilient Northamptonshire (network of accessible and connected green spaces)
5. Managing waste and supporting green technologies
6. Supporting innovation, enterprise and business growth
7. Encouraging social enterprise

8. Developing the skills to succeed
9. Regenerating Northampton town centre and waterside
10. Supporting countywide town centre regeneration

5.2 These priorities identify where action and investment (either resource or capital) needs to be focused. In doing so, they help to create a local policy context for future planning and investment decisions on transport, broadband, economic development, skills, education etc. This approach complements the two Core Spatial Strategies by focusing on infrastructure and the environment and creating the jobs needed to secure prosperity and sustain economic growth. The wider goal is to establish Northamptonshire as a leading area for innovation, business growth, green technologies, sustainable construction and private sector investment, and alongside this to strengthen the special environmental qualities and heritage which make it a great place to live and work.

5.3 Fundamentally, the Northamptonshire Arc is about transformational action. To reflect this, a series of initiatives (see below) have been identified which help to crystallise how these priorities will be delivered. These initiatives are wide ranging and include measures to address infrastructure gaps, improve the environment, and provide a catalyst for economic growth.

Northamptonshire Arc Initiatives

Infrastructure Networks and Gaps

- An 'all moves' upgrade to M1 Junction 19 (connecting the M1, M6 and A14)
- A14 improvements
- A43 and A45 arteries package
- Northampton town centre, growth and connectivity package
- A Northamptonshire Arc Transit network
- Plugged in Places charging infrastructure
- Northamptonshire fastrail agenda
- Increased rail freight capacity
- Freight Consolidation Centres with industry
- Cycling network

Making travel easier

- Connect Northamptonshire – improved traffic and travel information
- Rural accessibility and mobility solutions and incentives
- Smartcards

Broadband

- superfast Northamptonshire broadband

Environmental assets

- Northamptonshire 'green arc' ('biodiversity corridor') package, including managing natural floodplains and tree-planting
- Destination Nene Valley

Supporting business and economic growth

- 'Engine of Growth' concept for engineering and clean technologies
- A Northamptonshire Innovation and Enterprise Centres network
- Northamptonshire Business Angels
- Business Mentors
- Enterprise Clubs
- Northamptonshire Enterprise Area
- Silverstone Circuit Master Plan
- Rockingham Master Plan
- inSpire Northamptonshire
- Northampton Innovation Centre
- A University Technical Colleges network

Regeneration

- Corby regeneration
- Town centre vision, Daventry
- Town centre regeneration, Kettering
- Rushden regeneration
- Moat Lane regeneration, Towcester
- High Street development, Wellingborough
- Expansion of the Northampton town centre offer
- Regeneration of Castle Station
- Northampton Waterside redevelopment
- The Angel regeneration project

5.4 Good progress has already been made. Some examples are illustrated below:

- This approach has helped to inform and underpin the superfast Northamptonshire broadband initiative and a bid in April to central government for funds to enable access to superfast broadband across the county. Our vision is to establish Northamptonshire at the leading edge of the global digital economy.
- Work is underway on an outline business case for a Northamptonshire Arc Transit network.
- Discussions are taking place on potential University Technical Colleges at Daventry and Silverstone.
- Work is continuing on town centre regeneration across the county.
- The new Silverstone Wing was opened in May. This is a key component of the Silverstone Master Plan and incorporates a new Pit & Paddock and major conference centre and will help to bring major benefits to the local economy.

6. Action Plans

Connecting Northamptonshire

- 6.1 Alongside the Northamptonshire Arc Prosperity Plan document, more detailed actions plans have been developed. These set out specific activities and initiatives, based on those above. They set out agendas for action, capture the flavour of what needs to be done, by who and when, and provide further detail of the initiatives.
- 6.2 The first of these documents is Connecting Northamptonshire (see Appendix C). This is focused on supporting better mobility and accessibility through transport and broadband. It will shape the next Local Transport Plan. It will also help to inform wider planning and investment decisions by both the public and private sector and provide the context for discussions with central government on innovative funding solutions and potential pump-priming funds and other support to act as a catalyst for economic growth and lowering carbon emissions.
- 6.3 The action plan includes steps to secure faster and better digital access across the county, tackling road congestion, improving rail connections, an innovative mass transit system, and a smarter approach to freight and logistics will help reduce carbon emissions. This will help to support sustainable economic growth by attracting investment and help create and safeguard private sector jobs. Furthermore, the introduction of moves towards a greater role for community-led solutions for rural transport and smarter travel programmes through local Travel Centres also supports the localism agenda.
- 6.4 Connecting Northamptonshire has been informed by discussions with various key agencies and organisations and reflects the emerging thinking in other documents such as the recent White Paper on Local Transport *Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon – Making Sustainable Local Transport Happen* which was published in January.

Towards a Naturally Resilient Northamptonshire

- 6.5 The second document is Towards a Naturally Resilient Northamptonshire (see Appendix D). The thrust of this document is the relationship between biodiversity and adapting to climate change and the economic benefits that the use of 'natural

interventions' such as reinstatement of floodplains, tree planting, green roofs, and sustainable drainage systems can bring to Northamptonshire. Linkages are made with the County Council's new responsibilities regarding flood and water management under the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) e.g. opportunities for natural flood attenuation schemes, the government's new work on the 'value of nature', as well as existing projects such as the national carbon sink forest pilot funded by the Forestry Commission (Rockingham Forest - For Life), and the partnership 'Improved Biodiversity' project. The document also complements and fits with the new Natural Environment White Paper '*The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature*'. Details are provided of the key themes we need to focus on over the next few years to help direct resources on the projects that will make a real difference to the county.

6.6 Stakeholders such as the Wildlife Trust, River Nene Regional Park, the two Joint Planning Units, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, Environment Agency, and Natural England have been closely involved in the development of the Natural Resilience document. Extensive consultation has also been undertaken with other stakeholders via the Northamptonshire Environment Network, and Northamptonshire Climate Change Officers Group, many of whom made contributions to the document.

Enterprising Northamptonshire

6.7 A third document is Enterprising Northamptonshire (see Appendix E). This document has been prepared by the new Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership and provides an outline for a new business plan and the foundations for creating a stronger and greener economy. It covers a range of themes including the Engine of Growth initiative, Skills, Employment, Property, Infrastructure, Helping Business, Winning New Business and Investment, and Promoting Northamptonshire. This agenda has the potential to grow the value of Northamptonshire's economy (measured in gross value added (GVA)) from £14bn (2008) to £20bn by 2021 and deliver around 70,000 additional jobs over the next 15 years. This would make it one of the fastest growing economies outside of London.

6.8 Details of specific initiatives (including the Northamptonshire Enterprise Area initiative) will be launched at the Northamptonshire Business Summit on 19th October and be informed by discussions with business representatives including the Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce, Institute of Directors and Federation of Small Businesses.

7. Making it Happen and Next Steps

7.1 The adoption of the Northamptonshire Arc document and supporting documents will represent an important step in the process of ensuring that the county has an overarching approach in place for making decisions on future investment. Securing the funding and wider support necessary to deliver these initiatives (particularly new infrastructure) will require the County Council to take a proactive approach working with other public sector agencies and the private sector. This will involve exploring and testing new and innovative forms of funding (including Tax Incremental Finance, Local Business Rate Retention and Hypothecation). It will also include looking, in conjunction with the private sector and potential investors, at the use of land (including County Council assets) and releasing future development value and creating jobs.

7.2 The next steps include the following:

- Development of a strategic infrastructure programme and delivery plan for the county. This will identify the imminent priorities in detail.
- Engagement with the private sector and other public sector partners in order to establish new funding packages to deliver the strategic infrastructure programme.
- Development of a business case for the new infrastructure programme making best use of existing County Council property assets.
- Work with the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership to implement its action plans and programmes, including the roll out of Superfast Broadband across the county and its exploitation.
- Assemble the resources and governance arrangements, with existing budgets, necessary to oversee the implementation of the action plans.

8. Consultation and Scrutiny

As outlined above extensive stakeholder engagement and a formal public consultation exercise have already been carried out on the Northamptonshire Arc concept and specific initiatives such as the superfast Northamptonshire broadband initiative. Presentations have also been given to the County Council's Scrutiny Committee.

9. Financial Implications

9.1 It is intended and anticipated that the Northamptonshire Arc concept will strengthen the case for leveraging additional public and private funds, therefore, it is anticipated that any financial implications are likely to be positive.

9.2 Technical work on the Northamptonshire Arc will be resourced from existing resources and budgets and will not create any additional financial implications for the Council. A dedicated budget is available to support the implementation of the Northamptonshire Arc, including detailed business case work. .

	Forecast		
	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14 & beyond
	£k	£k	£k
Investment	£107k	£100k	£100

What benefits will the proposal deliver?	The Northamptonshire Arc provides a policy context for future County Council planning and investment decisions and also for securing additional public and private sector funds in an increasingly competitive environment
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10. Risk and Business Continuity Management

a) Risk(s) associated with the proposal

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Lack of local support for the approach	Continued discussions and close working with public and private sector interests	Green
Lack of resource to undertake the proposal and deliver ambitions and aspirations	Business cases commissioned to strengthen proposal and ensure that specific actions and activities are well-founded. Prosperity Fund established to support economic activities and actions.	Green

b) Risk(s) associated with not undertaking the proposal

Risk	Risk Rating
Lack of a single policy context for investment risks disjointed and potentially conflicting action and activity	Red
Reliance on core spatial strategies means that plans are often out of date or frustrated by process	Red
Northamptonshire loses out to other areas on public sector funding	Red
Lack of clarity for local businesses and the private sector on future action, investment and priorities	Red

11. List of Appendices (available on request)

Appendix A: Table of Consultation Responses

Appendix B: Northamptonshire Arc - Prosperity Plan

Appendix C: Northamptonshire Arc – Connecting Northamptonshire Action Plan

Appendix D: Northamptonshire Arc – a Naturally Resilient and Low Carbon Northamptonshire Action Plan

Appendix E: Enterprising Northamptonshire Action Plan

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Background Papers:	Northamptonshire Arc - Background Report (June 2010)
Does the report propose a key decision is taken?	YES
If yes, is the decision in the Forward Plan?	YES
Will further decisions be required? If so, please outline the timetable here	NO
Is this report proposing an amendment to the budget and/or policy framework?	NO
Have the financial implications been cleared by the Strategic Finance Manager (SFM)?	YES Name of SFM: Rosemary Pallot

Have any capital spend implications been cleared by the Operational Management Team (OMT)	N/A
Has the report been cleared by the relevant Corporate Director or ACE?	YES Name of Director: Tony Ciaburro
Has the relevant Cabinet Member been consulted?	YES Cabinet Member: Councillor Andre Gonzalez De Savage (Infrastructure & Growth)
Has the relevant scrutiny committee been consulted?	YES Scrutiny Committee: Customers and Communities
Has the report been cleared by Legal Services?	YES Name of solicitor: Julie Thomlinson
	Solicitor's comments:
Have any communications issues been cleared by Communications and Marketing?	YES Name of officer: Liam Beasley
Have any property issues been cleared by Property and Asset Management?	YES Name of officer: Colin Barratt
Has an Equalities Impact Assessment been carried out in relation to this report?	YES Screening undertaken
Are there any community safety implications?	NO
Are there any environmental implications:	YES The activities and actions will help to reduce carbon emissions, particularly from transport.
Are there any Health & Safety Implications:	NO
Are there any Human Resources Implications:	NO
Are there any human rights implications:	NO
Constituency Interest:	Countywide

