

Report to: Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 16 March 2016

By: Director of Communities, Economy and Transport

Title: Strategic Infrastructure in East Sussex

Purpose: To update the Scrutiny Committee on strategic road, rail and ICT infrastructure improvements, including the rollout of Superfast Broadband, in the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS: The Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the progress that is being made by East Sussex County Council and other partners on strategic road, rail and ICT infrastructure improvements that will support economic growth in East Sussex.

1 Background Information

1.1 One of the key priorities for East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is driving economic growth. The delivery of strategic road and rail infrastructure, as well as packages of local transport schemes and broadband infrastructure improvements play a key role in supporting this achievement. They unlock housing and employment space and encourage inward investment to create new jobs.

1.2 This well established policy approach to deliver infrastructure to support economic growth in the county is reflected in a variety of plans and strategies. These include:

- *Local Enterprise Partnerships' Strategic Economic Plans (SEP)* – the Strategic Economic Plans for the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SE LEP) and Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (C2C LEP) (which both comprise businesses, local authorities and education leaders in their respective geographies) submitted to Government in March 2014 set out the infrastructure and investment required to drive economic expansion within their areas up to 2021. The initial growth deal for each LEP was agreed in July 2014 with a further growth deal agreed in February 2015 with around £71m secured to date towards infrastructure projects, in particular transport infrastructure, which will bring forward new jobs and homes in the county.
- *East Sussex Growth Strategy* - the Growth Strategy was commissioned by Team East Sussex (TES) and published in 2014 and looks ahead to 2020. It aspires for East Sussex to be easy to move around in and well served by road and rail infrastructure and sustainable travel which provide good access to all markets. The poor quality of the strategic transport network in East Sussex has been identified by businesses as a constraint to growth. The strategy also identifies a need to invest in a network where impact on jobs and growth is greatest and to lobby government, Highways England and Network Rail, as appropriate, to enhance connectivity. The need for high quality ICT Infrastructure, which is vital in the modern economy, is noted and described as effectively becoming a fourth utility.
- *Local Plans and Infrastructure Delivery Plans (IDP's)* - the Local Plan sets out the planned housing and employment growth for a local planning authority over (normally) a 15-20 year time horizon. The IDP identifies the infrastructure that is required to support the level of planned growth, its criticality, the timescales for delivery and potential funding sources.
- *The East Sussex Local Transport Plan (LTP)* - the current LTP Strategy was adopted in May 2011 and looks forward 15 years to 2026. The LTP seeks to invest in transport infrastructure

which delivers sustainable economic growth by helping to address congestion, improving safety for all road users and promoting sustainable travel on foot, by bike and by public transport. The Strategy is supported by a series of five year implementation plans, the first of which covers the period 2011/12 to 2015/16, that set out the intentions for transport investment for this period of time. The second Implementation Plan which was considered at the Lead Member for Transport & Environment's decision making meeting on 14 March 2016 will cover the period 2016/17 to 2020/21.

2 Supporting Information

2.1 The detailed summary contained in Appendix 1 of the report outlines the current situation with the development and delivery of strategic infrastructure identified in the plans/strategies above, which are supporting our ambitious growth plans for the County. A summary of the total committed and potential investment in road, rail and ICT infrastructure serving the County is set out in Appendix 2.

2.2 The summary of the development and delivery of strategic infrastructure in East Sussex (Appendix 1) provides details of the work undertaken and issues in the seven key infrastructure categories termed as:

Rail	Strategic Road
Aviation	Ports
Local Growth Fund Projects	Superfast Broadband
Mobile Telephony Infrastructure	

3 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

3.1 As highlighted in Appendix 1 of the report, there has been significant progress on the development and delivery of strategic infrastructure (transport and superfast broadband) required to support the County Council's priority of 'driving economic growth', thereby creating jobs, new commercial space and enabling new homes to be built in the county.

3.2 The County Council is often not the main delivery partner and therefore needs to work with other delivery partners (local and national) to enable its delivery or lobby Government and other strategic providers for investment to bring the necessary infrastructure forward. As a consequence, because of how different external partners' funding is structured, there are often long lead in times for the delivery of infrastructure.

3.3 It is therefore recommended that Scrutiny Committee note the progress that has and is being made on bringing forward or making the case for strategic infrastructure investment to support economic growth in the county.

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LOCAL MEMBERS

All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None