



Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee

25 October 2024

Title:	Infrastructure Delivery Framework – final report
Report of:	Judith Barker, Executive Director of Place and Connectivity
Lead Member:	Cllr. Bridget Smith
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	Yes KD2023/022
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of voting Members

Recommendations:

A	To recommend to the Board to approve the final report of the Infrastructure Delivery Framework (IDF).
B	To approve the next steps of the CPCA working with Place Directors, across the constituent authorities to develop project concepts and an action plan to address infrastructure issues.

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
X	Achieving good growth
X	Increased connectivity
X	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

1.1	To consider the report and propose any amendments.
1.2	To recommend to the Board that they consider and then approve the final report as part of the evidence base of the region and for publication on the Combined Authority's website.

2. Proposal

2.1	The initial proposal is for the adoption of the Infrastructure Delivery Framework report by the Combined Authority. This report will then act as part of the evidence base for the emerging Local Growth Plan and its implementation.
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2.2	The work has been developed by a steering group of officers reporting to the Combined Authority area's Place Directors since its inception in Autumn 2023. Place Directors have been working with colleagues and as a group, to ensure that the final report represents a position and narrative that works for all individually and collectively.
2.3	The intention is to build on that collaborative approach in terms of next steps. We are therefore holding a Place Directors workshop in mid-November to bring forward proposals for next steps on the report, which will align with the Shared Ambitions and Local Growth Plan work and will look to develop project concepts and business cases or update those that already exist to develop a group of investment opportunities for public and private sector. Other actions may also include using the convening powers of the mayor and CPCA to see how key partners and others can work together in this space to accelerate or deliver improved outcomes. Our proposal would be to update the Committee on 11 December for the outcome of that workshop and next steps.

3. Background

3.1	<p>The original scope for the IDF was as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use existing approved growth (or draft Plans proposed by authorities) as a baseline, extrapolated if needed to assess potential infrastructure barriers over appropriate investment planning cycles; b. Focus on selected priority infrastructure themes (to deliver early recommendations). c. Coordinate with reviews of strategic policy (e.g thematic strategies such as LTCP, Economic Strategy); d. Be resourced with additional capacity; e. Engage with a Task & Finish working group of relevant officers across constituent authorities to progress alongside external support. Place Directors would be the sponsor group. <p>Stantec were commissioned to complete the work, and work with the local authorities and steering group to the above brief. During the work, there was considerable change particularly in July when the new government was elected, and we needed to pivot the report to align to their missions and be ready for the development of the Local Growth Plan.</p>
3.2	<p>The IDF considered the following priority infrastructure themes in its initial phase:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Energy b. Water (public and commercial needs), water environmental quality, and managing flood risk c. Green/Blue Capital d. Connectivity including transport and digital <p>Other infrastructure needs are considered through existing thematic work, for example, the Integrated Care Board is looking at health and care infrastructure.</p>
3.3	The scope of evidence includes both immediate/short term infrastructure issues that we are already aware of that have the potential to adversely impact growth (such as the water supply for Greater Cambridge or the energy grid capacity/energy security in the Fens) and longer-term issues to require advance planning (flood resilience, low carbon transition). Local Plans have different end dates. The Local Plans run to 2041 and therefore the scope of the work reaches to that timeline.
3.4	Delivery mechanisms would take account of the Combined Authority's Single Assurance Framework and prioritisation of the Combined Authority's own projects.
3.5	For ease of reference, we have attached 2 appendices: 1. the full report and 2. a slide deck of the executive summary and findings. If it is helpful for the committee, we can run through the slide deck at the meeting to ensure a discussion on the 4 key areas.

4. Appendices

4.1	<p>Appendix A – Full report</p> <p>Appendix B – slide deck sharing the research findings</p>
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5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	The MTFP had £130k in the Non-Statutory Spatial Framework Subject approved in June 2023 and the underspend was carried forward into this year. The invoice from Stantec remained within this budget. We have provision in the 24/25 and 25/26 MTFP to do the development of projects arising from the report and workshop.
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Legal Implications

5.2	Any further consultancy will need to be procured through the usual processes.
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Public Health Implications

5.3	Delivery of sustainable growth has major public health benefits (including as a result of access to housing, enhanced employment opportunities and improved environment).
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Environmental & Climate Change Implications

5.4	Strategic Infrastructure solutions can have wider environmental and other benefits, including flood resilience, water management, carbon sequestration and storage. The transition to a low carbon future requires system-change in terms of major utilities, particularly the production and use of energy.
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Other Significant Implications

5.5	None
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Background Papers

5.6	Towards a Sustainable Growth Strategy (NSSF Phase 1), link to document
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