

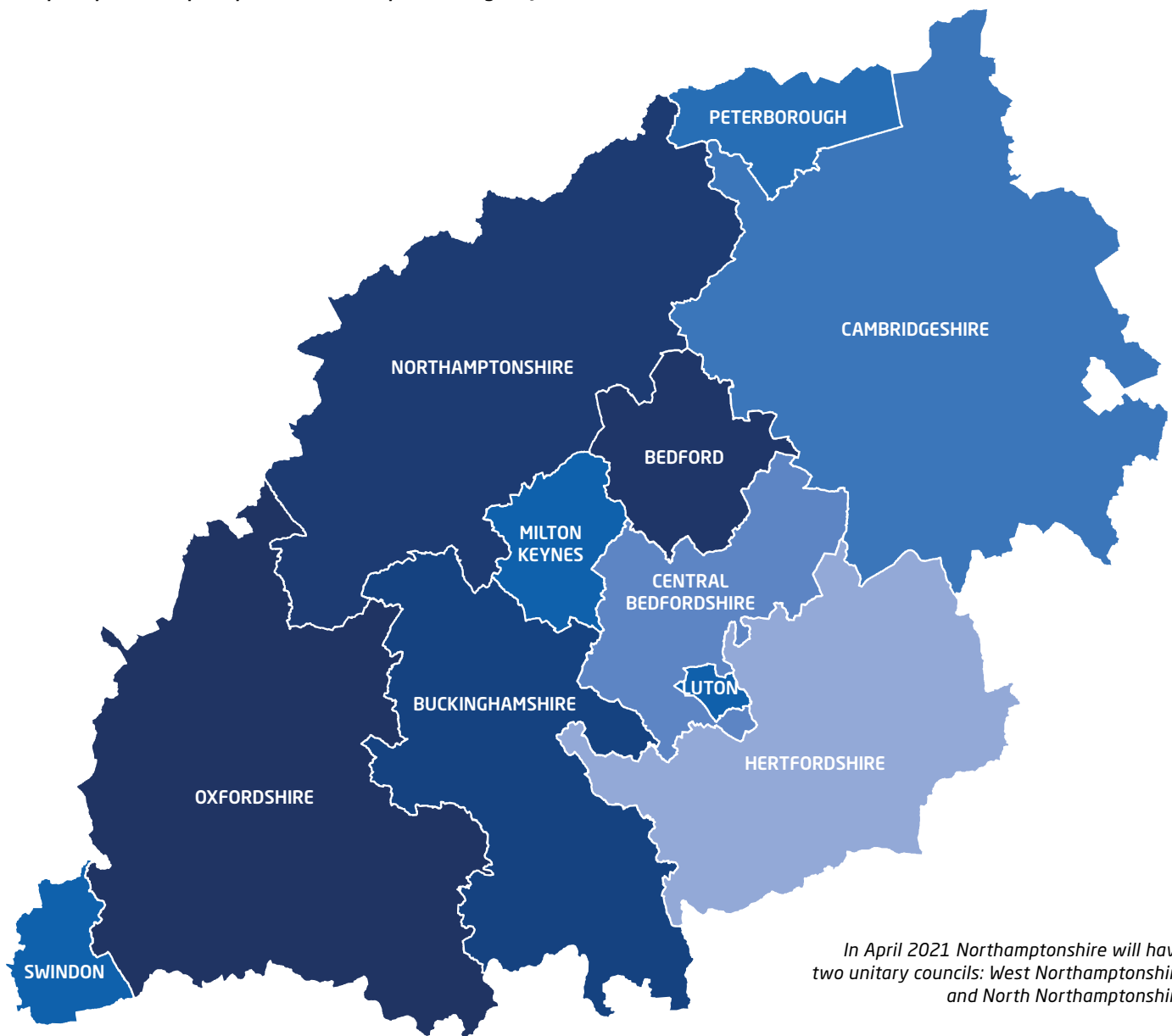
Connecting People, Transforming Journeys

Regional Transport Strategy: Summary



AN ECONOMIC SUCCESS STORY AT THE HEART OF THE UK'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND LONG-TERM FUTURE

England's Economic Heartland brings together the region's Local Transport Authorities in a strategic partnership that works with the region's local enterprise partnerships to provide leadership on strategic infrastructure.



In April 2021 Northamptonshire will have two unitary councils: West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire

**WE HAVE A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
TO TRANSFORM OUR TRANSPORT SYSTEM.
BUT THE SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE
CANNOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.
THE NEED FOR CHANGE IS IRREFUTABLE.
OUR JOURNEY TO REALISE THAT
OPPORTUNITY BEGINS TODAY.**

England's Economic Heartland is an economic powerhouse, home to world-leading universities and innovators that are at the forefront of delivering a green economic revolution. Encompassing the entirety of the Oxford – Cambridge Arc, a national economic priority for the Government, it is a region that has the potential to deliver even more.

The Heartland is also blessed with a natural, historic and built environment that makes it an attractive place to live, work and play.

Its transport system has a key role to play in enabling the region's economic potential to be realised. And yet we know that the environmental impact of our current transport choices is not sustainable.

The evidence is clear: if we are to deliver planned growth and do so in a way that improves our environment, we need to do things differently – this cannot be 'business as usual'.

The need for change is pressing given the UK's commitment to achieve net zero carbon no later than 2050. However, by drawing on the region's strengths, we believe we can set ourselves the more challenging ambition of achieving net zero carbon for our transport system by as early as 2040.

A Once-in-a-Generation Opportunity

The Transport Strategy's foundations rest upon a detailed and comprehensive understanding of where we start from. Our evidence base of data and technical work, compiled in collaboration with our local authority and business partners, has allowed us to develop a strategy that is bold in its ambition and provides the framework by which we can deliver the step change required to achieve it.

At a time when the nature of travel is changing rapidly in response to wider societal, economic and environmental considerations, our Transport Strategy puts the user at the heart of our proposals for the way forward.

We have seen in recent months there is scope for significant parts of our economy to adopt greater use of flexible and remote working. As residents we've accessed services online and made greater use of services that bring goods and products to us.

The way society has embraced the need to do things differently has served to accelerate the pace of change. This enables the strategy to challenge received wisdom when it comes to shaping the future of our transport system.

In looking to realise the economic potential of the Heartland the evidence shows that we must:

- Improve the resilience of a transport system that is already under strain; one where congestion and unreliability acts as a brake on sustainable growth
- Address the carbon impact of our transport system, where emissions are currently higher and growing faster than the national average
- Address the extent to which poor transport connectivity serves to perpetuate inequality, particularly within our more deprived communities
- Support our rural communities and the businesses that operate in them, a demographic which is significantly larger than the national average
- Reduce reliance on the private car in a region where average journeys are longer, and car use higher than the national average.



A Five-Point Plan of Action

Our Transport Strategy is ambitious. It sets out a policy framework designed to harness the region's inherent strengths in order to deliver a vision for our transport system:

'To support sustainable growth and improve quality of life and wellbeing through a world-class decarbonised transport system which harnesses the region's global expertise in technology and innovation to unlock new opportunities for residents and businesses, in a way that benefits the UK as a whole'

At its heart, our Transport Strategy is the catalyst for the step-change in approach required to address the challenges our transport system already faces and enable economic growth that is sustainable.

It sets out how the region will:

- 1 Focus on decarbonising our transport system by harnessing innovation and supporting solutions which in themselves create green economic opportunities
- 2 Promote investment in digital infrastructure as a means of improving connectivity
- 3 Use the delivery of strategic public transport schemes – such as East West Rail, the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro and Milton Keynes Mass Rapid Transit – as the catalyst for a shift towards lower carbon modes of travel
- 4 Champion increased investment in active travel and shared transport to improve local connectivity to ensure that everyone can realise their potential
- 5 Continue to ensure the needs of the freight and logistics sector are met whilst lowering its environmental impact

Implementation through Collaboration

The publication of the Transport Strategy gives the Heartland and Government an evidence-based, vision-led framework that enables green economic growth in a way that delivers a net zero transport system.

The need for change in the way we plan and develop our transport system extends through to how we deliver infrastructure on the ground. Moving forward our focus is on drawing on the strength of collaborative working to:

- Support our partners in accelerating the delivery of known investment priorities
- Work with our partners to develop proposals identified in the Investment Pipeline to make them 'shovel ready'
- Increase our capacity and capability as a region to deliver investment priorities more efficiently and effectively

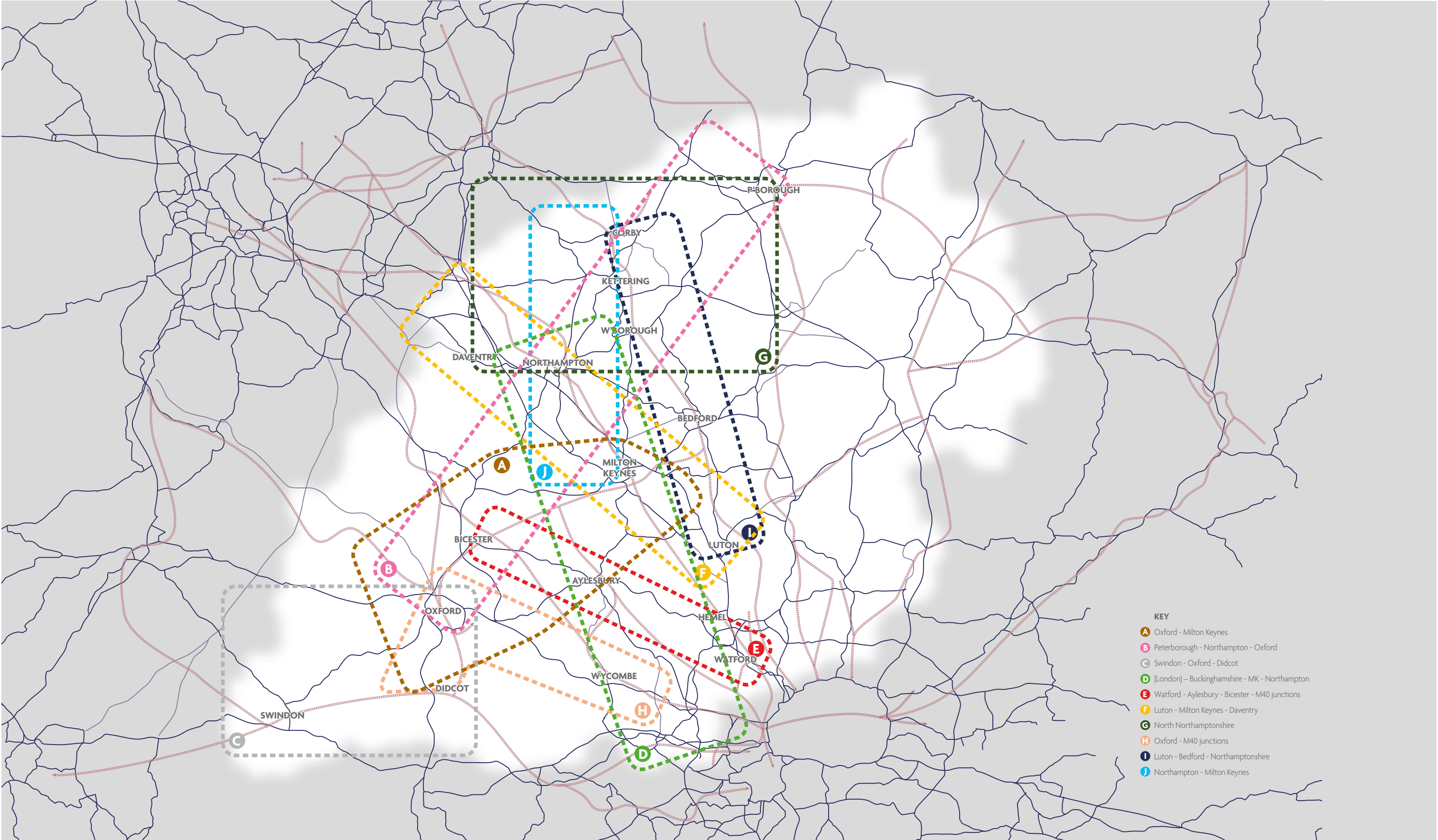
Our programme of connectivity studies will see us work with our partners to identify the interventions that need to be added to our Investment Pipeline in order to deliver on our ambition for the transport system.

There is an opportunity to use the need for change in our transport system to support wider ambitions to harness economic growth as a means of delivering a place-based approach to the benefit of our residents, communities and environment.


We will use the foundation provided by this Transport Strategy to work with our partners, local Growth Boards, and national initiatives, including the Oxford – Cambridge Arc, to make this a reality.








Get in touch

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