

**Open Report on behalf of Richard Wills,
Executive Director - Environment & Economy**

Report to:	Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee
Date:	22 January 2018
Subject:	Priorities for National Infrastructure – Response to National Infrastructure Assessment

Summary:

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) is a body independent of Government, responsible for carrying out an overall assessment of the UK's policy on economic infrastructure of national importance once per parliament. This takes the form of a National Infrastructure Assessment, which will underpin national policy towards economic infrastructure investment for the next thirty years.

LCC Members have contributed throughout the drafting of LCC's response to the draft National Infrastructure Assessment. The response was submitted to the NIC by the 12th January deadline, and is appended to this report.

Actions Required:

Members of the Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee are required to identify any key areas where they might wish to maintain a watching brief in advance of the publication of the final National Infrastructure Assessment.

1. Background

The draft National Infrastructure Assessment

The NIC completed its public consultation on its draft National Infrastructure Assessment, following a period of stakeholder engagement. The NIC's remit covers six key sectors of government's activity. These are:

- Transport
- Energy
- Water and sewerage
- Flood risk
- Digital
- Waste

In exploring these sectors, the NIC's priorities are formed from identification of emerging key issues, and LCC has been actively involved in expert advisory

panels on water and flood risk to help the NIC to understand the potential impacts and benefits of investment in this area.

In the draft National Infrastructure Assessment the NIC identified three overarching challenges, which it considers essential to address in planning for infrastructure investment.

These 'three Cs' are:

- Congestion
- Capacity (of infrastructure)
- Carbon (reduction)

The draft National Infrastructure Assessment is, therefore, structured around ways of tackling these challenges, and the questions put forward in the consultation document were framed to elicit responses to them. Further, the assessment considers the challenges in the context of seven priorities. These are listed below.

- Building a digital society
- Connected, liveable city-regions
- Infrastructure to support housing
- Eliminating carbon emissions from energy and waste
- A revolution in road transport
- Reducing the risks of drought and flooding
- Financing and funding infrastructure in efficient ways

Further detail on each of these priorities can be found in the executive summary of the draft assessment, attached with this briefing note, while the full document can be accessed via the NIC's website -

<https://www.nic.org.uk/publications/congestion-capacity-carbon-priorities-for-national-infrastructure/>

It will be apparent that while several of these themes are universally applicable – and of particular relevance to Lincolnshire's circumstances - some reflect a strong focus on the economic potential of major urban centres. Indeed, the consultation draft explicitly stated that 'Cities are the engine of the economy'.

2. Conclusion

Lincolnshire County Council's (LCC) response

LCC's response, therefore, sought to strengthen those areas which are of particular relevance to the county, while evidencing the present and future potential contribution of more rural areas to the national economy.

The response is attached as Appendix A, and Members are invited to identify particular areas where they might wish to be kept informed of progress towards the

final version of the Assessment, and of any opportunities that might arise through LCC's ongoing engagement with the NIC to further influence the final document.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	LCC Response to National Infrastructure Assessment (Congestion, Carbon, Capacity: Priorities for National Infrastructure)

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by David Hickman who can be contacted on 01522 554809 or david.hickman@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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