



## CABINET REPORT

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Growth Deal for Northampton Borough, Daventry District and South Northants District Councils</b>
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**AGENDA STATUS: PUBLIC**

<b>Cabinet Meeting Date:</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
<b>Key Decision:</b>	NO
<b>Within Policy:</b>	YES
<b>Policy Document:</b>	Joint Core Strategy
<b>Directorate:</b>	Regeneration, Enterprise & Planning
<b>Accountable Cabinet Member:</b>	Cllr T Hadland
<b>Ward(s)</b>	All

### 1. Purpose

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- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval to negotiate with Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to develop a Growth Deal as part of the Oxford-Cambridge Growth Corridor.

### 2. Recommendations

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- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

Approve negotiations on the following Heads of Terms as part of developing a Growth Deal, and delegate the negotiation of details to the Head of Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Enterprise;

The Council committing to accelerated housing and employment delivery;

The Government committing to a comprehensive funding package to support upfront infrastructure investment, affordable housing delivery and additional resource capacity;

Agreement of various Planning freedoms, including (amongst others) those relating to five year land supply, the Planning Delivery Test, 5 year review of Strategic Plans and Duty to Co-operate; and

Agreement of a timescale for delivery and milestones, including agreeing a statutory Strategic Plan.

### **3. Issues and Choices**

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#### **3.1 Report Background**

3.1.1 The Borough is within what the Government has identified as the Oxford – Milton Keynes – Cambridge Growth Corridor (the ‘Corridor’). The Government sees this area as having potential to make a major contribution to the UK economy and housing supply in the period up to 2050. As part of discussions regarding the delivery of ambitious plans for housing and employment growth, there is an opportunity to negotiate a Growth Deal, in partnership with Daventry District Council and South Northamptonshire District Council, committing to accelerated delivery in return for a package of support and planning freedoms. The Council therefore needs to decide the approach it wishes to take in relation to this.

#### **3.2 Issues**

##### **3.2.1 Negotiating a Growth Deal**

3.2.2 The Government is keen to establish Growth Deals within the Corridor to establish how Councils intend to deliver their ambitious targets. Oxfordshire and Greater Cambridge/Peterborough have already agreed Deals, and negotiations are underway with Milton Keynes, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton and Aylesbury Vale. As part of wider Corridor discussions, the opportunity has arisen for other Councils within the Corridor to negotiate their own Deals, and two proposals, for West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire are being developed. Given the current Local Government reform proposals, it is considered that the West Northamptonshire grouping is the most appropriate for the Borough Council to commit to.

##### **3.2.3 Accelerated housing and employment delivery**

3.1.1 In order to be offered resources and freedoms, the Government expects Growth Deals to plan for accelerated and additional housing, employment and infrastructure growth. The targets and delivery trajectory for these will be negotiated as part of the Deal, but do offer the chance to ensure that growth is promoted in sustainable locations. Being an active partner in the project will give the Borough Council the opportunity to shape the location and design of future housing development.

##### **3.2.4 Funding**

3.2.5 In return, the Government is prepared to offer a comprehensive funding package. In Oxfordshire, this included funding to support upfront infrastructure investment and affordable housing delivery, and additional resource capacity.

### 3.2.6 Planning Freedoms

3.2.7 A deal would also be likely to secure a number of planning freedoms from existing constraints and requirements, including (amongst others) those relating to having to demonstrate a five year land supply, having to produce a delivery Plan to meet the Planning Delivery Test, and having to meet the requirement to 5 year review of Strategic Plans in order for the policies within that to be considered up to date. It is also possible that commitment to the Deal would also automatically meet the Duty to Co-operate. Freedom from meeting these requirements would allow more effort to be put into facilitating the delivery of new housing, employment and infrastructure without having to resist inappropriate proposals.

### 3.2.8 Delivery

3.2.9 A deal would need to include agreement of targets, timescales and milestones for delivery, and commitment to adopt a statutory Strategic Plan within agreed timescales.

### 3.2.10 Timescale

3.2.11 It is anticipated that the deal will be negotiated over the Summer and formally submitted in Autumn 2018.

3.2.12 The final deal will be brought to Cabinet for agreement before submission.

## 3.3 Choices (Options)

3.3.1 Option 1: Agree negotiations on these heads of terms.

3.3.2 This is the preferred option, as it will allow the Council to access resources and freedoms to deliver economic growth in and around the Borough, whilst retaining control over the location and nature of future development.

3.3.3 Option 2: Decide not to negotiate a Growth Deal

3.3.4 This is not recommended, as it would miss the opportunity to secure planning freedoms and resources, and to continue to take a leading role in determining the future of West Northamptonshire.

## 4. Implications (including financial implications)

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### 4.1.1 Policy

4.1.1 Successful negotiation of a Growth Deal would result in the production of a replacement Joint Statutory Plan, similar to the existing Core Strategy.

### 4.1.2 Resources and Risk

4.2.1 The costs of negotiating a Growth Deal will be met from existing Planning budgets.

4.2.2 How any reward package may be allocated will need to be agreed as part of the agreement of a Growth Deal by the Council.

### **4.3 Legal**

4.3.1 Legal issues will need to be addressed as negotiations progress.

### **4.4 Equality and Health**

A Communities Impact Assessment will need to be carried out to assess the implications of the proposed Growth Deal once this is negotiated. No specific implications have been identified at this point in time.

### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 **None**

### **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

The Council's Corporate Plan describes its aims of delivering;

#### **Northampton Alive**

- A vibrant successful town for now and the future

#### **Safer Communities**

- Making you feel safe and secure

#### **Housing for Everyone**

- Helping those that need it to have a safe and secure home
- Ensuring that a buoyant market provides a wide choice of homes for all ages

#### **Protecting Our Environment**

- A clean and attractive town for residents and visitors

A successful Growth Deal would contribute towards accelerating the delivery of these.

### **4.7 Other Implications**

None

## **5. Background Papers**

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**None**

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