



Oxfordshire Growth Board

Support for a Sub-National Transport Body

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Content

- What is a Sub-National Transport Body (STB)?
- What is the geographical basis for an STB?
- What is in it for Oxfordshire?
- Do we have a choice?
- Progress to date
- Suggested actions at this time

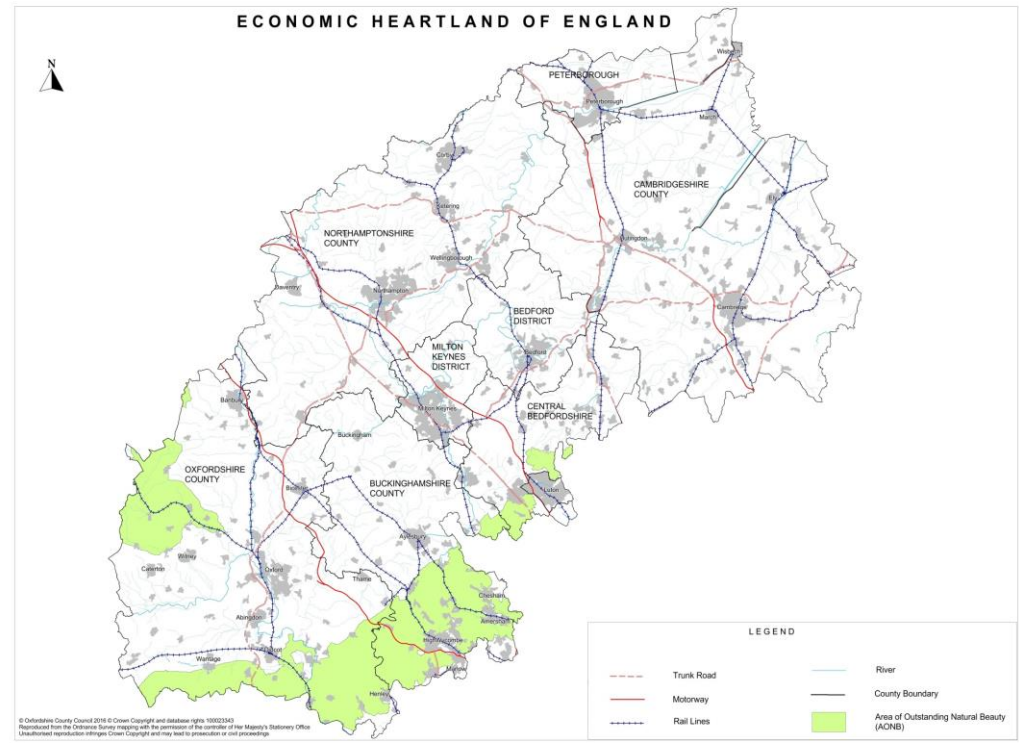
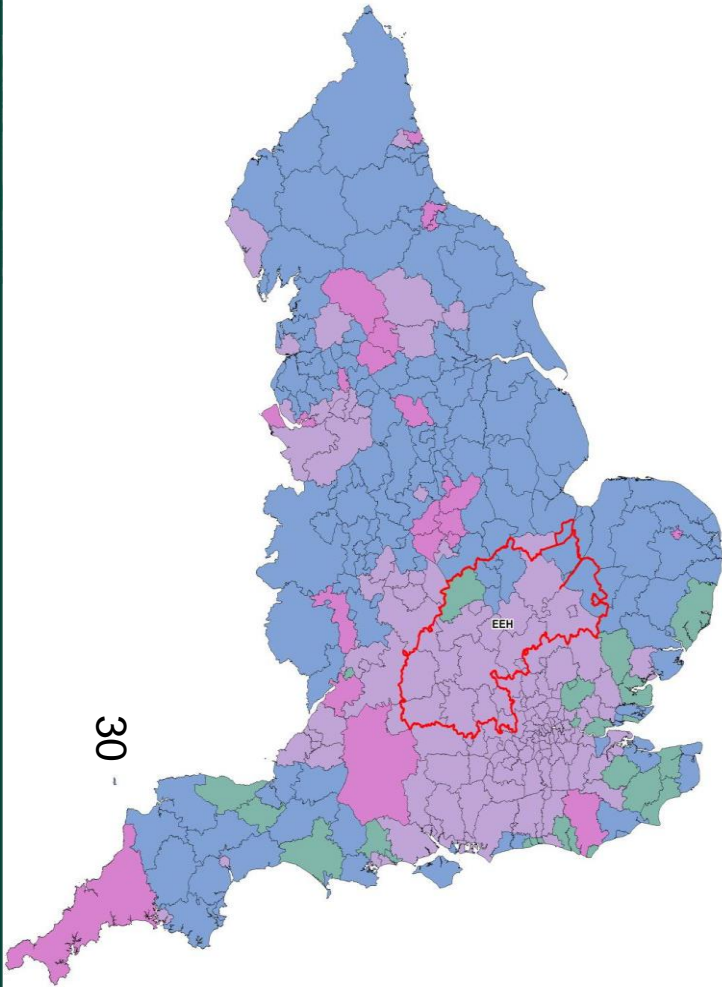


What is an STB?

- The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 allows the Secretary of State for Transport to establish Sub-National Transport Bodies for any area outside of Greater London.
- A sub-national transport body...
 - draws down powers from central government, develops and sets transport strategy and important related matters for its area. The powers of each Sub-National Transport Body must be requested in a proposal to the Secretary of State, with the consent of all its constituent transport authorities, and then agreed in law.
- The new body would be also be empowered to ensure local priorities shape national investment programmes.

29

Potential Geography: England's Economic Heartland +





What is in it for Oxfordshire?

- Unprecedented access to infrastructure investment programmes
- Recognition of an emerging national transport and infrastructure landscape with parallels in Transport for the North, Midlands Connect and Transport for London
- Collective influence over merging funding streams e.g. Major Road Networks
- Co-ordinated infrastructure and connectivity planning and strategy on a regional basis aligned with economic vision for the area
- Linked directly to, but not a substitute for, the Cross-corridor governance model recognised by the National Infrastructure Commission



Does Oxfordshire have a Choice?

- Not aware of any approach from Midlands Connect or of any other offer on our border
- Opportunity to expand or contract over time – can be linked to more than one, but formally only part of one
- Or we could choose not to be included

32



Progress to Date

- In March 2017, EEH was successful in securing c. £650k from DfT to support the development of an STB for the EEH area
- Work has been undertaken to consult with EEH members and wider local authorities and transport stakeholders inside and outside of current membership to solicit interest and support for the development of an STB
- There is wide sweeping support for the concept
- The geography could potentially change to reflect non-member interest and Government/NIC support to be as inclusive as possible
- It is anticipated if successful this could be formally adopted by 2019



Suggested Actions at this Time

It is recommended that the Oxfordshire Growth Board:

- Write to England's Economic Heartland to provide support for the current and future work being undertaken to form a Sub-National Transport Body for the area covered by the Heartland's member authorities;
- Recognising the transport nature of this emerging body, encourage as wide a definition of connectivity as possible to include digital connectivity for the region; and,
- Fully participates in the Strategic Transport Forum, alongside the County Council as Local Highway Authority, to ensure we have as much influence as possible on the development of a robust Sub-National Transport Body;
- Seeks regular updates from County Council and Growth Board officers on the progress being made.