

Working Collaboratively To Develop a Joint  
**Strategic Economic Growth Plan (SEGP)**





## Introduction

Supporting and facilitating economic growth is one of the five strategic aims set out in Highways England's Strategic Business Plan. In recognition of the vital role played by the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in supporting local, regional and national economies, we have committed to work collaboratively with stakeholders and partners to develop a joint Strategic Economic Growth Plan (SEGP). The growth plan will convert the aspirations contained within the Strategic Business Plan into a detailed plan and a set of partnership activities, setting out how Highways England will collaborate with external players to support existing economic drivers and facilitate future economic growth.

This brief overview document sets out how we are developing the SEGP – what our aims are, what we think it will and will not cover, how we are working with stakeholders to develop it and over what timescale.

## What is the vision and ambition for the SEGP?

Our key aims and objectives of the SEGP are, through collaboration and engagement, to:

- Develop a shared understanding of the contribution to the economy made by the SRN.
- Present a clear articulation of how Highways England will jointly work with external players to facilitate economic growth.
- Provide an input to the development of future Road Investment Strategies.
- Further strengthen our economic capability, as well as the responsiveness of our ways of working to economic priorities.
- Provide a platform for further collaboration on transport integration (e.g. SRN, Rail, and other modes of transport), where this can enhance the movement of goods and people.
- Identify opportunities for connecting Highways England investment with other sources of funding to increase impact and leverage potential.

## What will the SEGP cover?

We envisage that the SEGP will:

- Describe the role of the SRN in supporting the economy and providing the conditions for economic growth.
- Demonstrate our approach to supporting and facilitating growth.
- Set out a shared understanding of key growth locations and growth opportunities around the strategic road network.
- Set out the contribution to the economy made by committed highways schemes, in particular the first programme of Road Investment Strategy schemes.
- Clarify the role that Highways England will play in supporting local partners to facilitate strategic housing developments and employment locations in each region.



## What will it NOT do?

There is **NO** new funding associated with the growth plan itself. Capital funding for the period to 2020 is set out in the Road Investment Strategy – including Highways England's new £100m Growth & Housing Fund. In the short term, the plan will focus on maximising the economic impact of these existing capital schemes, and on identifying other ways that Highways England can support growth through our resources – our time, our experience and expertise, our data, information and advice to help partners plan for growth and develop specific and detailed proposals for development. The plan will then provide a valuable input to programme development in future Road Investment Strategies.

## Evidence base

To support the SEGP, and also our work as a statutory consultee in the planning process, we are building a national mapping tool, which is well under development. This will geographically map, in one place:

- Significant planned highways schemes on the SRN.
- Planning applications on which our organisation has been consulted over the past ten years, with 100 or more jobs and housing units.
- Sites allocated through the planning system for growth in local plans (where these are available).
- Enterprise zones
- Areas prioritised for growth by local enterprise partnerships.

# Working with stakeholders

In September 2015, we held an event bringing together key stakeholders and partners from many backgrounds, including representatives from housing and commercial developers and construction companies, property companies, logistics and freight sectors, transport providers, road user groups, local authorities, local enterprise partnerships and central government departments plus agencies, economic development professionals and planners. This event highlighted our commitment to supporting economic growth, and explored our aims and intended approach.

During Spring 2016, we have met with every Local Enterprise Partnership in the country to discuss the plan and how Highways England can support local growth aspirations.

Our external engagement will continue into the Autumn of 2016 to test our thinking, and help us to develop the content for the plan. We will consult in the Autumn.

We are seeking to engage with many other stakeholders through established representative bodies where appropriate (e.g. LGA and CBI), but we would also welcome input directly from you via our dedicated email address:

[growthandplanning@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:growthandplanning@highwaysengland.co.uk).

We intend to publish the plan in December 2016.

**If you need help accessing this or any other Highways England information, please call 0300 123 5000 and we will help you.**



