

Longtown GPC

Ward Member Report - March 2017

2017/18 Council Tax Update

Cabinet made their recommendation to Council on Thursday 19th January, Council approved the budget on 3rd February and set the Council Tax (including precepts) on 3rd March 2017.

- (a) the council tax base of 67,937.91 band D equivalents;
- (b) an increase in council tax in 2017/18 of 1.9%;
- (c) an additional precept in respect of adult social care costs of 2.0% applied to council tax in 2017/18.

The impact of the above will result in a total council tax increase of 3.9%; increasing the band D charge from £1,324.83 to £1,376.50 for Herefordshire Council in 2017/18. Fire, Police & Parish precepts are added to this amount.

The figures for Longtown & District GPC (Band D) are:

Council Tax	£1,376.50	
Parish Precept	£33.58	(£14,030/417.87; 115% increase on 2016/17)
Police Precept	£189.60	(0% increase on 2016/17)
Fire Precept	£79.53	(1.96% on 2016/17)
Total	£1679.21	

Spring Budget 2017 - Adult Social Care

Philip Hammond said in his budget statement last week that an additional £2 billion in grant funding would be available for local authorities across the country for spending on adult social care over the next three years with £1 billion available in the next financial year.

Local Authorities will need to understand the detail of this funding commitment and locally we will need to determine how it will apply to a rural county, but at this initial stage it appears that the government has gone some way to recognising the very great pressures on adult social care.

The additional funding for adult social care in Herefordshire is –

£3,572,743 for 2017/18; £2,496,032 for 2018/19 and £1,241,926 for 2019/20

Marches Local Enterprise Partnership

On 9th March the Communities Secretary announced government funding of some £392m. across the midlands to help create jobs, support businesses and encourage growth. The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership are set to receive £21.9 million to spend on projects including:

£8m – The New Model in Technology and Engineering university, Herefordshire
£6.36 – Newport Innovation and Enterprise Package, Newport, Telford & Wrekin
£2.82 – Centre for Cyber Security, Rotherwas, Herefordshire
£2.75m – Investing in Our Future Workforce, Marches-wide skills project
£1.9m – Redevelopment of the Flaxmill, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

NMiTE – New Model in Technology and Engineering – a new university based in Hereford will provide a unique and highly innovative, real-world teaching approach where engineering businesses have a central role in curriculum development and teaching. It will support business innovation and commercialisation through opportunities for greater academic and commercial integration, supporting 230 companies in the first five years and 350 graduates per year;

Midlands Connect

Midlands Connect is a Pan-Midlands partnership of local transport authorities, local enterprise partnerships and local business representatives working with the Department for Transport and its key delivery bodies. The Partnership now forms the transport component of the Midlands Engine for Growth.

Midlands Connect was tasked by the Government to identify transport improvements to unlock the growth potential of the Midlands. On 9th March a comprehensive strategy was published following 18 months of detailed, evidenced-based work and stakeholder engagement.

The proposals have the potential to unlock £5 billion in untapped economic potential and contribute to the wider Midlands Engine target of creating 300,000 new jobs over the next two decades.

The Midlands Connect Strategy

Our strategy is built on a strong understanding of the changing economic geography of the Midlands, informed by the strategic economic plans developed by the Local Enterprise Partnerships, independent economic analysis, and engagement with the private sector through a comprehensive business survey. We have identified how transport connectivity supports economic growth in different sectors and locations across the Midlands - and importantly how and where it acts as a barrier to growth.

As a result we have been able to establish a spatial framework for investment based on four strategic economic hubs and six intensive growth corridors which are critical to both the Midlands and the UK as a whole.

Strategic Economic Hubs:

- Birmingham, Solihull and the Black Country;
- Nottingham and Derby;
- Leicester and Coventry; and
- North Staffordshire.

Intensive Growth Corridors:

1. Birmingham - Coventry/Leicester - Northamptonshire - Milton Keynes and the South, and includes connections to Kettering, Corby and the East of England;
2. Birmingham - Black Country - Staffordshire and the North, and includes connections to Telford, Shrewsbury and North Wales;
3. Nottingham and Derby - the North;
4. Humber Ports - Lincoln - Nottingham - Derby - Birmingham and Nottingham - Derby - North Staffordshire;
5. Nottingham - Leicester - Coventry - Warwick and Thames Valley, and includes connections from: Leicester to Birmingham; and
6. Birmingham - Worcester - Hereford and the Marches with connections to Wales and the South West.

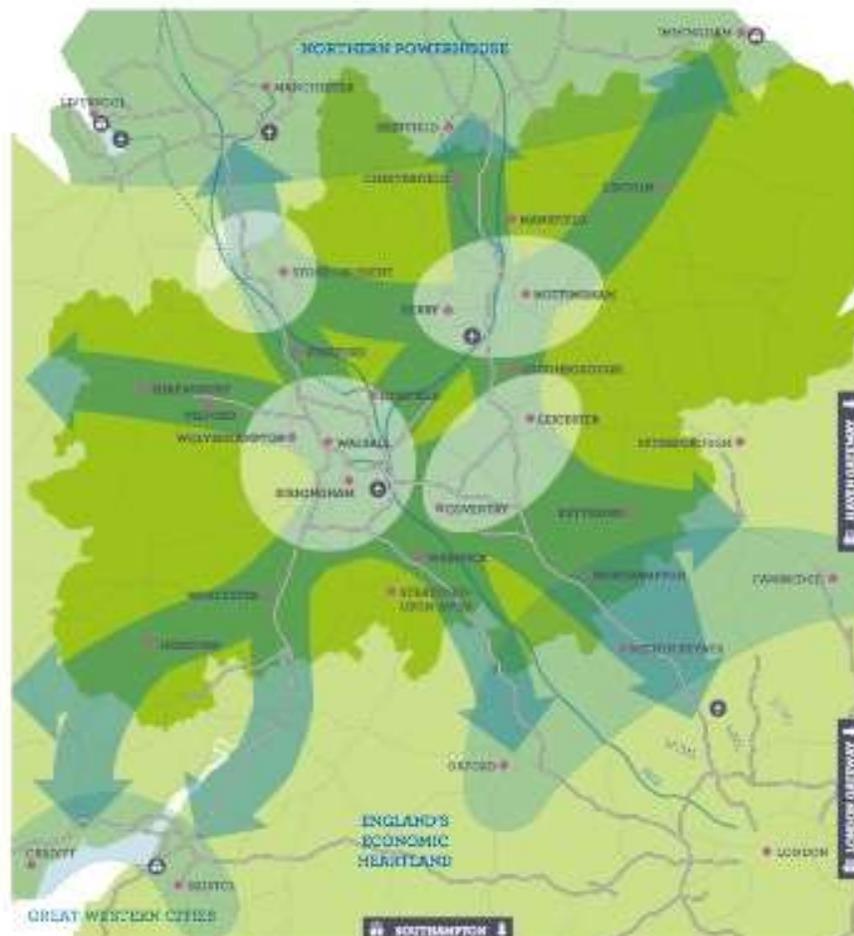
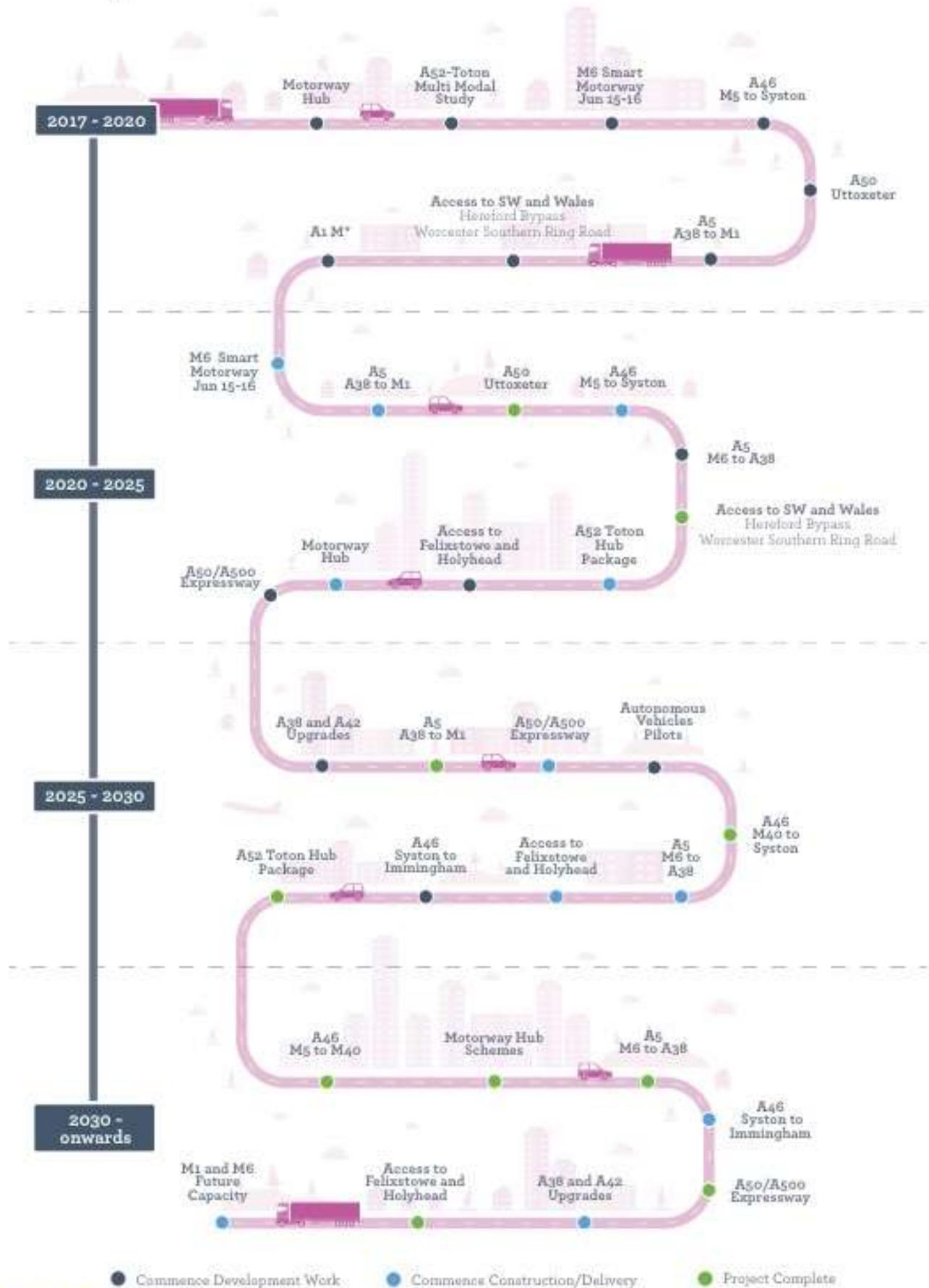


Figure 2: Midlands Connect Strategic Economic Hubs and Corridors

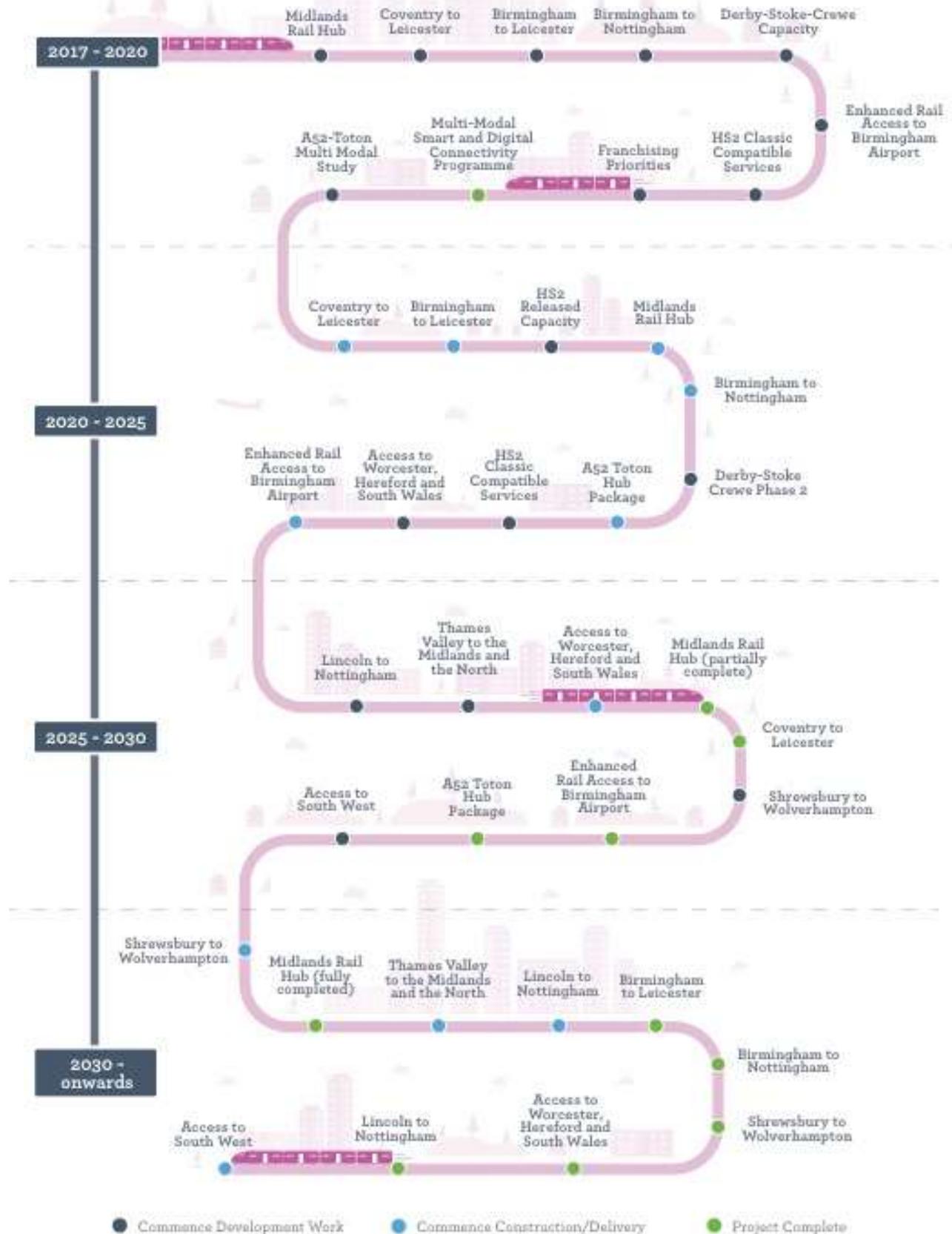
Road Programme



● Commence Development Work ● Commence Construction/Delivery ● Project Complete

*Delivery programme to be determined

Rail and Smart Digital Programme



And finally....

This will most probably be my final appearance at a Longtown GPC meeting in my role as ward member for Herefordshire Council. Carol and I have put our house in Longtown on the market and, subject to finding a willing buyer, we will be moving away from the local area.

I have enjoyed the past 6 years and leave the role of ward member knowing that I have done my best, and hoping that you feel we have collectively served our local communities. I thank each of you for your help, kindness and friendship and wish you all the very best wishes for the future.