

Member Briefing

Number: 1112

- Title:** Constellation Partnership Growth Strategy
- Summary:** The Constellation Partnership (formerly known as The Northern Gateway Development Zone) is due to submit a high level growth strategy to Government shortly in order to develop a dialogue around harnessing inclusive economic growth for the region.

Background

The Constellation Partnership (formerly known as The Northern Gateway Development Zone) is a partnership between two Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) and seven local authorities. The partnership has strong ministerial backing from Government, whose remit is to enable the region to capitalise on the UK Government's once-in-a-lifetime investment in High Speed 2 (HS2), the new high speed rail link. The partnership is working with investors, communities and landowners to maximise the benefits of HS2 investment through plan-led growth.

The partners include:

- Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire LEP
- Cheshire and Warrington LEP
- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire West and Chester Council
- Staffordshire County Council
- Stoke-on-Trent City Council
- Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council
- Stafford Borough Council
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

The Growth Strategy

With support from Government, the partnership commissioned a unified Growth Strategy to provide security and certainty for investors, focusing on plan-led development that offers them clarity, simplicity and energetic support to deliver sustainable returns on their investment. The Growth Strategy is built on the principles of inclusive growth – referred to as Good Growth. Good Growth will:

- be welcomed by existing and new residents. High quality sustainable development will attract new communities to the Constellation and offer amenities and uses that appeal to people who already live here, driving footfall to support existing town centres
- take place in neighbourhoods with a range of facilities and local employment opportunities. We will ensure that new places have many different activities and uses that meet local people's needs



- support and drive the implementation of all necessary infrastructure — whether skills development and employment programmes, social infrastructure — school, community facilities and local amenities – or transport
- generate a surplus land value that can be captured. This will be reinvested in Constellation places to ensure that we continue to enhance our quality of life and the culture of our places
- take a collaborative and strategic approach to drive innovation in planning, place-making and the provision of infrastructure fit for a Constellation ready to meet the challenges of 21st century change
- connect both urban and rural growth with the natural environment so that all communities benefit from the Constellation's exceptional parks, moors, and landscapes, natural features that provide the area with its rich heritage.

This Growth Strategy is due to be submitted to Government in autumn 2017. A summary of the proposed Growth Strategy can be viewed online at: constellationpartnership.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Constellation-Partnership-Brochure-17.10.17.pdf

Next steps

The partnership will continue to develop discussions with key stakeholders, on headline areas such as:

- financial modelling and investment
- housing
- skills and employment
- spatial planning and masterplanning
- transport and connectivity.

Throughout the development of the partnership, updates have been presented to the Economic Development and Infrastructure Policy and Performance Panel and more recently to the Devolution and sub-regional Working Policy Commission. A further update to this group is due to take place later this autumn.

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