

# Our 2018/19 Priorities



**Midlands Connect**  
Powering the Midlands Engine



**MIDLANDS  
ENGINE**





## About Midlands Connect

Midlands Connect was formed in 2015 with a clear objective: to produce a 25 year rolling programme of transport improvements the region needs to improve connectivity, grow the economy and raise productivity.

Our landmark strategy was published in March 2017 with our vision of the road, rail and technological improvements needed to drive the Midlands forward.

As the transport arm of the Midlands Engine, we're a partnership of local authorities, local enterprise partnerships, chambers of commerce and airports, stretching from the Welsh border to the Lincolnshire coast. We work alongside the Department for Transport and national agencies Network Rail, Highways England and HS2 Ltd to drive an unprecedented level of collaboration for the good of the region we all love.

By speaking with one voice to improve connectivity, we can support the Midlands Engine vision of creating 300,000 additional jobs by 2030 and adding £54 billion to the UK economy.



# 300,000

jobs set to be created  
within the Midlands Engine

**Because when the Midlands succeeds, Britain succeeds**

## Our 2018/19 Priorities

This year, we're continuing to develop the evidence needed to secure the infrastructure investment the Midlands needs to succeed.

The region's £207 billion economy is a growing, globally recognised centre of excellence in industries as diverse as advanced manufacturing, agri-tech, life sciences, professional services and automotive. We're working with partners on technological innovation, like accelerating 5G networks across the region. And because we're right at the heart of the national transport network, infrastructure improvements here can transform the wider UK economy, too.

**Here's what we're working on right now...**

## Midlands Rail Hub

**Our flagship rail project, the Midlands Rail Hub's aspiration is to transform east-west connectivity by adding an extra 10 trains per hour between Birmingham and major towns and cities like Derby, Nottingham, Leicester and Hereford, with 85,000 extra seats a day on the network and significantly shorter journey times.**

By integrating this improved network with HS2, we can transform connectivity, take more freight off the roads and create a railway fit to power the Midlands Engine.

Our railway is already close to capacity, and with the Midlands' major towns and cities expected to create hundreds of thousands of new jobs by 2030, we must invest in our rail infrastructure to keep pace with that growth.

## 2018/19 Priorities

- Develop a Strategic Outline Business Case looking at the infrastructure investment needed to facilitate 10 extra trains per hour.
- Further development of east-west rail corridor studies.
- Detailed investigation into the costs and benefits of increasing capacity between Coventry and Leamington, including a second service stopping at Birmingham Airport between the Thames Valley and East Midlands.
- Enable direct Coventry to Leicester services by investigating the infrastructure options for crossing the West Coast Mainline.







## Midlands Motorway Hub

**The Midlands motorway network is important to the national economy and the heart of the UK logistics industry, but daily congestion on the M5, M6 and M42 is holding back growth.**

The Government allocated Midlands Connect an extra £4m in the 2017 Autumn Budget to develop plans to create a more reliable, resilient Strategic Road Network around the West Midlands conurbation that can help to unlock new homes and jobs.

### 2018/19 Priorities

- **M6 Toll** – To make the best use of the M6 Toll, we're encouraging more motorists to use it during incidents as an alternative to congested routes.
- **West of Birmingham** – We're looking at how improved connectivity to the west of Birmingham could stimulate economic growth and stimulate house building.
- **Park and Ride** – We're looking at how improved connectivity to the west of Birmingham could stimulate economic growth and stimulate house building.
- **M6 North of Birmingham** – We're developing a road network strategy, including the role of public transport to improve traffic flow.



## Specific Studies

**On road and rail, we're making the case for investment in all corners of the Midlands:**

**A46 Corridor** – Stretching across the Midlands from the Severn to the Humber, a reliable A46 is vital to support economic and housing growth. This year we'll develop Strategic Outline Business Cases on up to three of the highest priority sections of the route.

**Accelerating Toton** – With our East Midlands and Government partners, we're looking at the feasibility and economic opportunity of opening the East Midlands Hub at Toton in the 2020s, before HS2 arrives, to maximise the potential job and housing growth around the site.

**East Midlands Gateway Connectivity** – We're working with partners to develop a strategy for linking local populations to the Hub Station at Toton through a combination of road, local public transport and mass transit solutions.

**A50/A500 Corridor** – A vital east-west link for global firms like JCB, Bombardier and Toyota, as well as dozens of international ceramics firms, we are developing a strategic study to look at the case for investment and possible scheme options to improve this vital North Staffordshire/Derbyshire corridor.

**A5 Corridor** – Linking the M6 and M1 to the north of the West Midlands conurbation, we are undertaking a Strategic Corridor Study to look at the case for investment and identify possible scheme options.

**Hereford Bypass** – We're supporting Herefordshire Council and the Marches LEP on their outline business case for the bypass, which will improve connectivity between the Midlands and South West and unlock housing and jobs around Hereford.

**Midlands to Mid Wales Connectivity** – We're working with Marches LEP and the Welsh Government to look at better cross-border links.



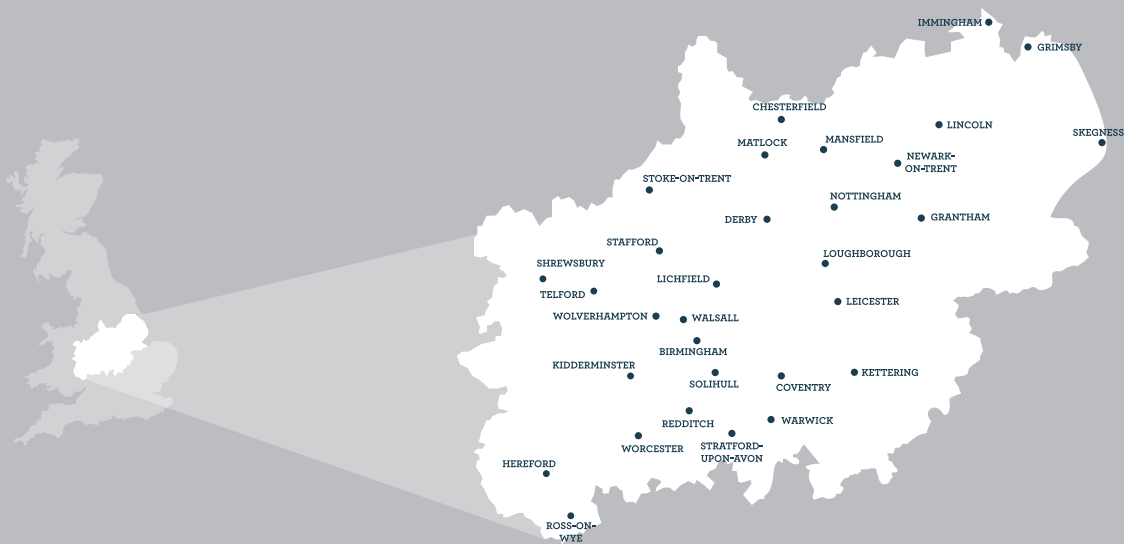


## Smart Ticketing

Midlands Connect has an ambitious vision of a future where Midlanders can use any mode of public transport anywhere in the region with the same travel card, contactless bank card or even their mobile phone.

### 2018/19 Priorities

- Make the case to the Government for further funding to progress an Account-Based Ticketing solution for buses and trams across the Midlands (such as a regional brokerage system).
- Work with Transport for the West Midlands on a smartphone pilot, allowing passengers to use their mobile phone instead of a smart card on buses and Midland Metro.



## The Way Forward

“ The Midlands – and indeed the nation – is facing an historic next 12 months. As a region, we must be ready to face the challenges and embrace the opportunities that leaving the EU will bring.

2018 is also the year Midlands Connect starts its journey towards becoming a Sub-national Transport Body, which will enshrine in law greater regional influence over transport investment and strategy. Our strong partnership is moving ever-closer to securing the investment we need to flourish.

It's an exciting time to be championing a region that's going places: Birmingham is gearing up to host the Commonwealth Games in 2022 and Coventry is preparing for a huge economic boost as the UK City of Culture 2021. And with the first HS2 trains arriving in less than a decade, the Midlands has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to capitalise on being the first region to benefit.

We're shaping our future during one of the most exciting periods in the Midlands' history. ”



Sir John Peace, Chairman of Midlands Connect and Midlands Engine

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