

Intra-Urban Growth and Connectivity Strategy for Basildon

Basildon Borough Council (BBC), Essex County Council (ECC) and the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) are working in partnership to develop an Intra-Urban Growth and Connectivity Strategy for Basildon. The NIC is a prestigious organisation that provides the Government with impartial, expert advice on major long-term infrastructure challenges. Through the [National Infrastructure Assessment](#) the NIC recommended that Government should increase funding for urban infrastructure and provide local areas with the future certainty to effectively plan and deliver an ambitious programme over the long term.

In December 2018, Basildon was chosen by the NIC as one of the five case study cities¹ nationally to benefit from expert advice to develop an integrated strategy that sets out the intra-urban infrastructure required to enable long term transport, economic and housing growth aspirations. The bid for Basildon to be a case study city was signed and submitted by the Leaders of both Councils and supported by the South East Local Enterprise Partnership. A set of high-level aspirations for a proposed Basildon infrastructure strategy were set out in the Expression of Interest letter:

- *support growth beyond the local plan timeframe positioning Basildon as a key location for growth and investment in the South Essex growth corridor and wider Thames estuary;*
- *help shape Basildon's long-term development within the context of the emerging joint strategic plan for south Essex;*
- *demonstrate the impact that any approach to the devolution of transport funding could have in a town like Basildon; and as an alternative consider effective funding arrangements in the absence of devolved budgets;*
- *provide local partners with a credible and consistent vision upon which to engage with potential investors – including government, private developers and transport operators.*

The infrastructure strategy work with the NIC is fully aligned with the development and delivery of the emerging Basildon Local Plan, the South Essex 2050 Vision, and the Joint Strategic Plan and is resourced by both authorities with a focus on transport, economic growth, housing and planning. Production of the strategy enables us to think beyond the emerging Local Plan time period, and to focus on innovative ways that workplaces, homes, and economic opportunity can be designed and delivered to make Basildon an even better place to live.

A priority will be to ensure the strategy gains the right level of Government attention to address current challenges and make the most of the opportunities in the area: Basildon has great rail connectivity and high opportunity for housing and economic growth – all priorities for Government.

The collaboration with the NIC will be beneficial in this regard as its status as a well-respected public body will add weight to the strategy.

The Strategy will be published in March 2020, and there will be an NIC-hosted launch event for the five cities to set out their strategies and aspirations.

¹ The NIC's definition of a city covers the 45 largest built up areas in the UK. The other four case study cities are: West Yorkshire, Liverpool City Region, Derby and Exeter <https://www.nic.org.uk/news/new-partnership-programme-will-help-cities-to-plan-for-the-future/>