An aerial photograph of a road bypass project in a rural area. A large, semi-transparent puzzle piece is overlaid on the image, with the text 'Newark bypass: last piece of the puzzle' centered on it. The puzzle piece is shaped like a large 'K' or 'R' and is positioned over the road and surrounding fields. The text is in a white, sans-serif font.

Newark bypass: last piece of the puzzle



Midlands Connect
Transport | Investment | Growth

Foreword

Sir John Peace introduction

“Newark is the missing piece of the puzzle for the A46 and Midlands Connect’s firm and strong recommendation is for the government to grab the nettle and finish this vital upgrade of the Trans Midlands trade corridor. It will make a massive difference for Newark, Nottinghamshire but also the Midlands and the wider UK.

This report is a summary of our work in Newark and is part of Midlands Connect’s actions for continuing to make the case for investment along the A46 Newark Bypass are outlined in in the coming few pages. Given how this scheme was initially proposed as a RIS2 scheme and given the numerous studies that have clearly set out the urgent need for investment along this section of the corridor, it is imperative that this scheme is now implemented as a matter of urgency without further delay.”

Sir John Peace, Chairman



TfEM introduction

“Unlocking the full potential of the A46 as a vital national trade corridor is essential to driving economic growth and prosperity for Newark and across Lincolnshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire.

The A46 Newark Northern Bypass remains TfEM’s top strategic road priority, alleviating the persistent ‘bottleneck’ from Farndon to the A1 and A17 interchange, curbing congestion, pollution, and safety concerns, while encouraging smooth trade connections between the Humber and East Midlands Freeports with Bristol.”

Cllr Richard Davies, Vice-Chair of Transport for the East Midlands



Introduction

Part of the Strategic Road Network, the A46 Newark Bypass is a 6km section of the A46 corridor that provides a key link through the East Midlands.

The A46 particularly is a critical component of the Strategic Road Network, of which a number of employers in sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, and distribution are reliant on in and around the Newark area. Some of these major employment sites include the British Sugar Distribution Centre, the Newark Beacon Business Innovation Centre, Dixons Group Major Distribution centre, and Siemens. The major international shipping ports of Grimsby and the

Humber are also located just 90km away. The A46 Newark Bypass is a top priority for Midlands Connect in order to maintain momentum for the A46 ‘Trans-Midland Trade Corridor’ and support the delivery of one of Midlands Connects’ key priorities to create a ‘coast-to coast highway without the need for major new roadbuilding across open countryside’. The A46 Newark Bypass scheme was committed to be delivered during the RIS 2 period (2020 – 2025). However, delivery of the scheme has been delayed and will therefore be deferred for the RIS 3 period. We continue to support National Highways in making the case for this much-needed scheme.

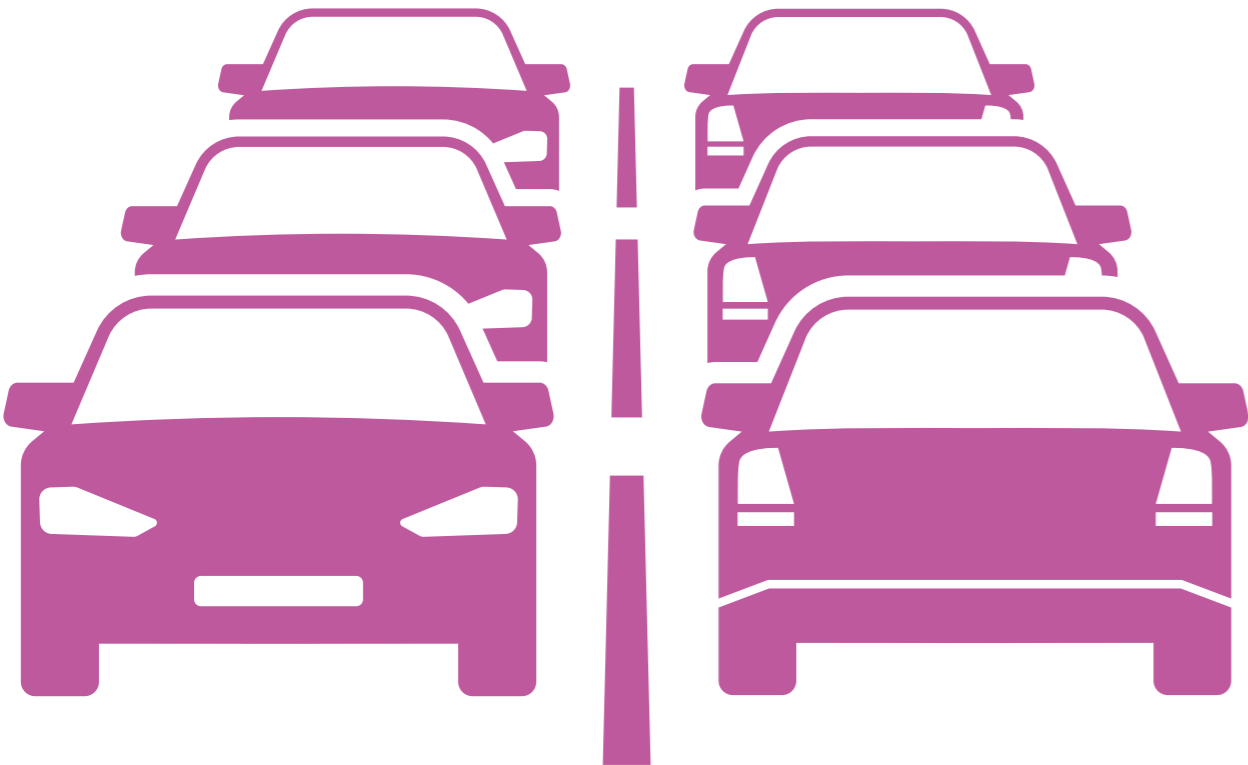


The Scheme

The A46 bypass is not currently performing at a standard that meets current and future needs. The main issue affecting the bypass is traffic congestion. The A46 Newark bypass is a heavily trafficked route, with an average of 15,440 and 16,290 vehicle passing through the corridor Northbound (NB) and Southbound (SB) respectively, per day.

The result is below average vehicle speeds, which are exacerbated by congestion at junctions, which, apart from the Farndon Roundabout Junction, all operate at excess of 75% of their maximum capacity.

The high traffic volumes also contribute to significant safety issues along the bypass. Between 2017 and 2021, 77 vehicle collisions were recorded along the Newark Bypass with the hotspots being at the at-grade junctions, particularly at the Cattle Market junction.



Why we should invest here?



The A46 corridor provides key connectivity for the East Midlands and serves both long-distance strategic and local journeys.

Strategic Road Network-dependent sectors of the economy such as manufacturing, logistics and distribution are projected to continue growing in and around Newark.



9,080 new dwellings are required across Newark and Sherwood by 2033, with up to **100,000 new dwellings** required in Lincolnshire by 2031.



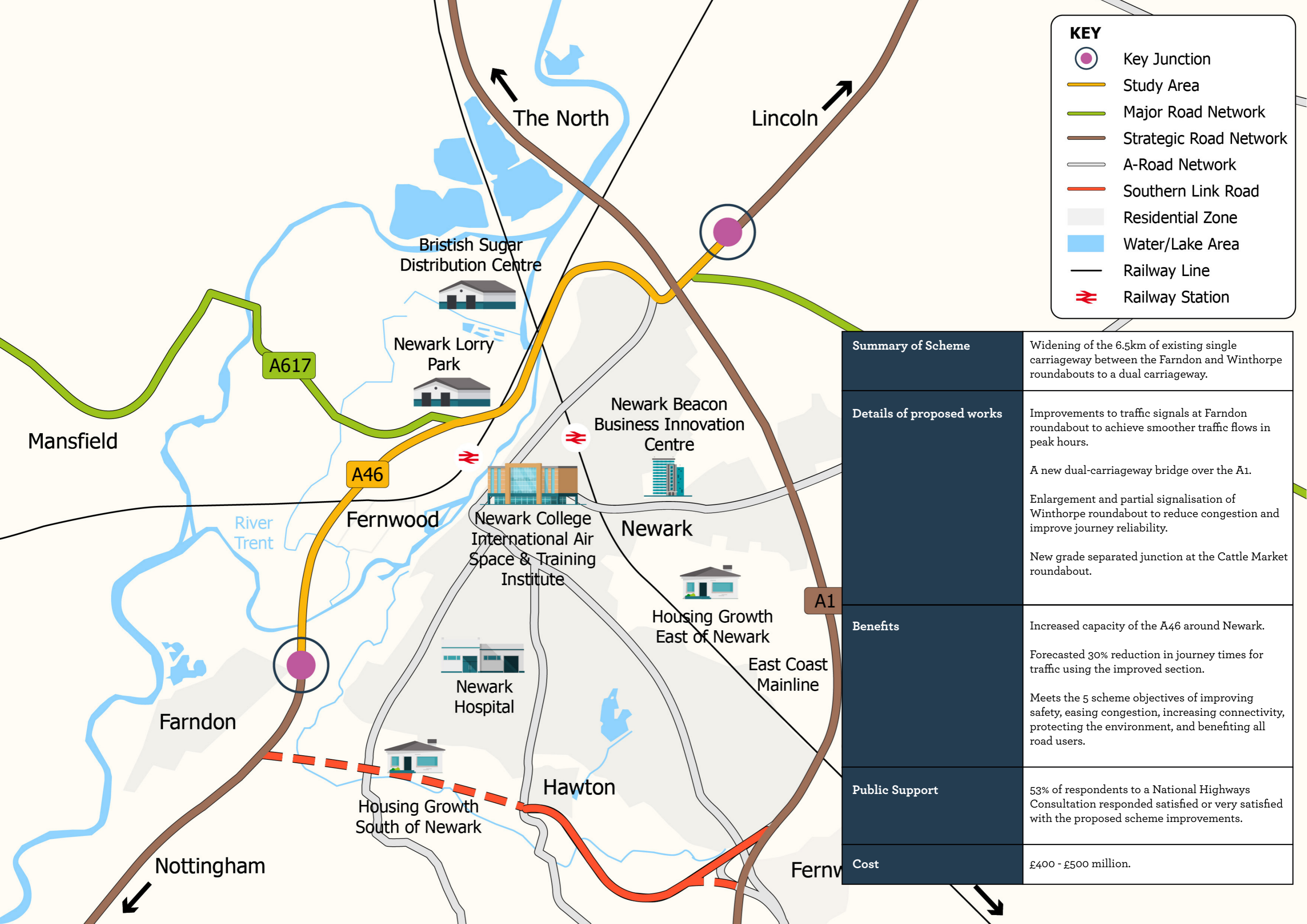
The A46 Newark Bypass frequently suffers from congestion and poor journey time reliability.

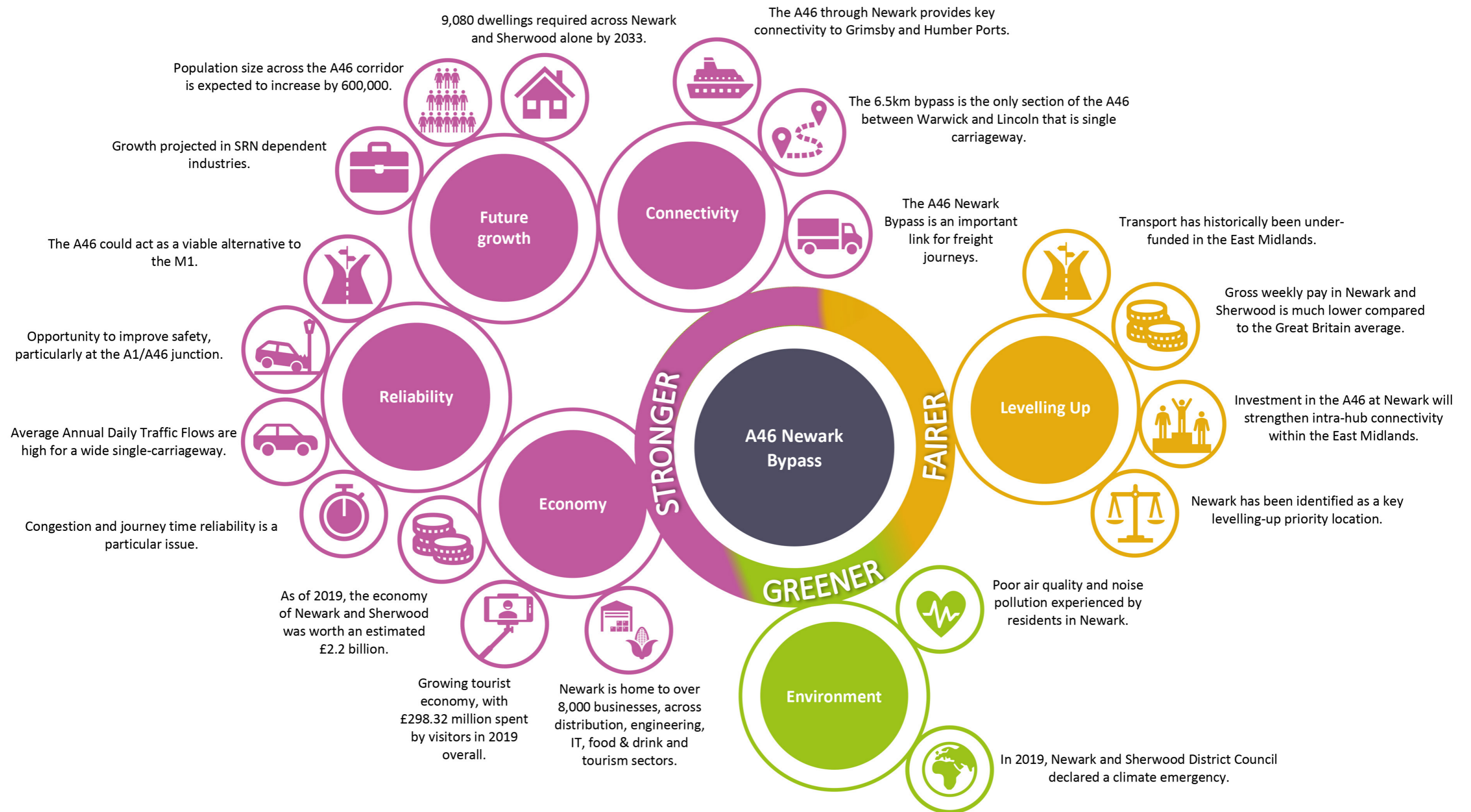


Newark and Sherwood have been placed in the highest category by the UK Government in terms of levelling up requirements.



Newark and Sherwood District Council has declared a climate emergency with an aim to become carbon neutral by 2035.







Aspirations for the area

Oxford Econometrics data shows that between 2019 and 2040, the output of the Midlands Engine Strategic Corridor is forecast to increase by 26% to £196 billion, with the number of jobs surrounding the corridor predicted to increase by 3% under a baseline scenario, and up to 33% under a high growth scenario.

In addition, there are also ambitious housing growth plans in and around Newark. Newark and Sherwood District Council have projected that a minimum of 9,080 dwellings will be required across the district over the plan period of 2013-2033 to meet local housing demand, with the majority being provided across three main development sites.

This is accompanied by a raft of Towns Fund and Levelling Up projects, including the Newark Southern Link Road, town centre residential repurposing, a construction college centre of excellence, new leisure facilities and enhancement of the Newark Castle. This economic and housing growth, both in Newark and Sherwood, but also that which is located within the wider region, can be expected to place additional pressure on the A46, meaning that improvements to the Newark Northern Bypass are needed to ensure that the future growth potential of Newark is fully unlocked.



Councillor Keith Girling, Nottinghamshire County Council's cabinet member for economic development and asset management said,

"This is a major investment in a key Nottinghamshire route which will bring many benefits. These include easing congestion for residents and businesses as well as boosting the county's infrastructure and economy."



Robert Jenrick, MP for Newark

"I am pleased to support Midlands Connect in updating the Strategic Case for the A46 Newark Bypass. This initiative is a critical step towards ensuring that our region gets the infrastructure investment it desperately needs. By widening 6.5km of the existing single carriageway to a dual carriageway between Farndon and Winthorpe roundabouts, congestion will be significantly reduced in our area. The upgraded A46 Newark Bypass will serve as a vital trade corridor linking the M5 to the Humber Ports and will result in smoother journeys for the approximately 17,000 daily drivers who rely on it. I look forward to the timely completion of this project and am eager to collaborate on conveying the results to relevant authorities and government departments, particularly in seeking to ensure the £500million investment from the government for this infrastructure project. The A46 Newark Bypass is a key component of our region's infrastructure, and its enhancement supports a vision for sustainable growth and prosperity in and around Newark."

East Midlands Chamber Chief Executive Scott Knowles said: "Major road infrastructure is an essential part of economic growth as providing easy, fast and reliable connections across various parts of the country encourages trade between those cities, towns and villages.

"Businesses are often encouraged to locate themselves where they can benefit from high-quality connectivity, which enhances operational efficiency and productivity.

"This is already evidenced by some of the household names that are based in and around Newark, a town that has a key national strategic location.

"Key road networks are also a magnet for housing developments that feed customers and workers into these firms.

"The A46 is an important east-west connection, and these improvements would spark economic opportunities for our businesses and communities, which ultimately drives investment, jobs and wealth creation in our region."





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