



National Infrastructure Commission Studies – Call for ideas response form

Name/Organisation: This response builds on established International Centre for Infrastructure Futures (ICIF) research, ICIF policy briefings and ICIF responses to earlier NIC consultations and was prepared by Dr Tom Dolan (with input from Dr Neil Carhart, Dr Ralitsa Hiteva, Dr Vedran Zerjav, Dr Nazmiye Balta-Ozkan, Dr Simon Jude, Dr Andrew Edkins) on behalf of the ICIF team.

*You have **up to 500 words** to outline the problem for a NIC study to focus on, and if you wish, to explain why this should be a priority. You must demonstrate how your suggestions fulfil the criteria outlined in this 'Call for Ideas'.*

Suggestion:

A special study to identify international experience in infrastructure decision making and critically review this from a UK perspective to identify examples of best practise in infrastructure systems applicable to the UK. The proposed study would need to be multi-disciplinary and examine best practise from across a range of infrastructure system contexts including systemic infrastructure management, resilience, governance, regulation, public engagement, project delivery, performance measurement, needs assessment, flood and climate change preparedness, carbon mitigation, local decision making, green infrastructure, funding, procurement, commissioning, ownership and operation.

Rationale:

1. Does the suggestion deal with a nationally significant issue?

Yes – The National Infrastructure Commission objective to identify the UK's strategic infrastructure needs over the next 10 to 30 years and propose solutions to the most pressing infrastructure issues, in order to:

- foster long-term and sustainable economic growth across all regions of the UK
- improve the UK's international competitiveness
- serve the well-being of UK citizens

has parallels in many countries. Understanding the objectives other countries, large organisations and international bodies have set themselves, the approaches adopted to address these and why, and the

efficacy of these can help improve the quality of NIC and NIA analysis. Therefore, identifying best practise, examples of what approaches have worked, and as importantly what hasn't worked, and building international relationship to identify approaches that can be adapted for use in the UK context should be a NIC priority.

Furthermore, managing systemic issues such as system resilience, carbon mitigation and climate change preparedness is a significant challenge and insight into how other countries are approaching this for infrastructure systems could be invaluable.

2. Does the suggestion need to be considered now?

Yes – infrastructure decisions made today, will shape the ability of infrastructure to contribute to the aim of The creation of a sustainable UK economy resilient to and capable of adapting to future global challenges.

3. Does the study deal with a challenging issue?

Yes – Learning from international experience translated into a UK context has the potential to improve the way infrastructure decisions are made

4. Would any potential recommendations be realistic in terms of cost?

It is envisaged YES, based on the assumption that actions cost effective in other countries will be cost effective in the UK.

However, in some cases we need to move beyond thinking solely of cost to consider the opportunity cost of not making investment now, and the scale of the economic multiplier both direct and indirect that taking, and getting right bold infrastructure decisions can enable

5. Would the NIC add value by considering this issue?

Yes – Authoritative insight into international best practise, established relationship with infrastructure experts across the world and how this potentially applies in the UK context is useful for the NIC and all involved with decision making in the UK.

Please e-mail this form to: NationalInfrastructureCommissionSpecificStudy@HMTreasury.gsi.gov.uk

The [International Centre for Infrastructure Futures \(ICIF\)](#) is an interdisciplinary, practice-orientated research centre conducting fundamental research on infrastructure interdependency, policy, innovation, regulation, management and financing. ICIF was created to identify what combinations of actors, regulations and technologies can provide for the effective planning, design, investment, construction, delivery and use of infrastructure services that underpin economic activity and improve citizens' quality of life within modern societies.

ICIF brings together leading academics from six UK universities: University College London, Cranfield University and the universities of Bristol, Brighton, Sussex and Southampton. ICIF is funded by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and the Economic and Social Research Council (Grant reference: EP/K012347/1)