

OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE ARC LEADERSHIP GROUP PLENARY

11 March 2022

08:30 – 10:30

TEAMS Meeting

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	Lead			Representatives
Bedford Borough Council	Laura Church	Chief Executive	Attended	
Bedford Borough Council	Dave Hodgson	Mayor	Attended	
BEIS	Rowena Limb	Area Director, East Midland, Oxford-Cambridge Arc	Attended	
Cambridge and Peterborough Business Board	Eileen Milner	Chief Executive	Apologies	
Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority Business Board (CPCA)	Andy Neely	Vice Chair	Attended	
Cambridge City Council	Robert Pollock	Chief Executive	Apologies	Lewis Herbert
Cambridge City Council	Lewis Herbert	Leader	Apologies	
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)	Eileen Milner	Chief Executive	Apologies	
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)	Nik Johnson (Dr)	Mayor	Apologies	
Cambridgeshire County Council	Stephen Moir	Chief Executive	Apologies	Steve Cox
Cambridgeshire County Council	Lucy Nethsingha	Leader	Attended	
Central Bedfordshire Council	Marcel Coiffait	Chief Executive	Apologies	Andrew Davie
Central Bedfordshire Council	Richard Wenham	Leader	Attended	
Cherwell District Council	Barry Wood	Leader of Cherwell District Council and Chair of Arc Leadership Groups	Attended	
Cherwell District Council	Yvonne Rees	Chief Executive	Attended	
Englands Economic Heartland (EEH)	Naomi Green	Director	Attended	
Greater Cambridge Partnership	Rachel Stopard	Chief Executive	Attended	
Homes England (HE)	Sarah Greenwood	Head of Strategic Growth	Attended	
Huntingdonshire District Council	Jo Lancaster	Sub Regional Lead; Managing Director Huntingdonshire District Council; Strategic Planning Group workstream lead	Attended	

Huntingdonshire District Council	Ryan Fuller	Leader	Apologies	
Leadership Group (Arc)	Bev Hindle	Executive Director Arc Leadership Groups	Attended	
Leadership Group (Arc)	Karen Clarke	Head of Arc Communications	Attended	
Leadership Group (Arc)	Placi Espejo	Senior Lead Programme Officer - Economy	Attended	
Leadership Group (Arc)	Alison Bailey	Senior Lead Programme Officer - Strategic Planning	Apologies	
Leadership Group (Arc)	Arthur Le Geyt	Senior Lead Programme Officer - Infrastructure	Attended	
Leadership Group (Arc)	Penelope Tollit	Senior Lead Programme Officer - Environment	Apologies	
Leadership Group (Arc)	Anna Rinaldi (Notes)	Arc Administrator/PA to Bev Hindle	Attended	
Luton Borough Council	Robin Porter	Chief Executive	Apologies	
Luton Borough Council	Hazel Simmons	Leader	Apologies	Rob Roche
Luton Borough Council	Nicola Monk	Environmental Lead	Apologies	
DLUHC	Cathy Francis	Director General, Local Government and Public Services	Apologies	
DLUHC	Adele Maher	Head of Spatial Framework	Apologies	
DLUHC	Ed Hickey	Comms and Engagement Lead - DHLUC OXCAM UNIT	Apologies	
Milton Keynes Council	Michael Bracey	Chief Executive	Apologies	
Milton Keynes Council	Peter Marland	Leader	Apologies	
NHS England	David Radbourne	Regional Director of Strategy and Transformation, NHS South East	Attended	
NHS England	Simon Wood	Director of Strategy and Transformation	Attended	
North Northamptonshire Council - Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants.	Rob Bridge	Chief Executive	Apologies	
North Northamptonshire Council - Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants.	Jason Smithers	Leader	Apologies	
Oxford City Council	Caroline Green	Chief Executive	Attended	
Oxford City Council	Susan Brown	Leader	Apologies	Louise Upton
Oxfordshire County Council	Liz Leffman	Leader	Apologies	
Oxfordshire County Council	Stephen Chandler	Chief Executive of Oxfordshire County Council	Attended	
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)	Nigel Tipple	Chief Executive; Economic working group lead	Attended	

Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)	Jeremy Long	Leader	Attended	
Peterborough City Council	Matthew Gladstone	Chief Executive	Attended	
Peterborough City Council	Wayne Fitzgerald	Leader	Apologies	
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Liz Watts	Chief Executive and Environment Workstream Lead	Attended	
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Bridget Smith	Leader	Attended	
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)	Hilary Chipping	Chief Executive SEMLEP; Sub Regional Lead and Infrastructure Working Group Lead	Attended	
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)	Peter Horrocks	Chair	Attended	
South Oxfordshire Council	Andrew Down	Chief Executive	Attended	
South Oxfordshire District Council	David Rouane	Leader	Attended	
Universities Group	Alistair Lomax	Director Arc Universities Group	Attended	
Universities Group	Alistair Fitt	Chair, AUG	Attended	
Universities Group	Karen Holford	CEO and Vice Chancellor Cranfield University	Attended	
Vale of White Horse District Council	Mark Stone	Chief Executive	Apologies	
Vale of White Horse District Council	Emily Smith	Leader	Attended	
West Northamptonshire Council - Daventry; South Northants; Northampton Borough.	Anna Earnshaw	Chief Executive	Apologies	
West Northamptonshire Council (New Unitary Authority - West Northants and North Northants) - Daventry; South Northants; Northampton Borough.	Jonathan Nunn	Leader	Attended	
West Oxfordshire District Council	Giles Hughes	Chief Executive	Apologies	
West Oxfordshire District Council	Michele Mead	Leader	Attended	
Guests:	Ceri Lewis; Sarah Trouw; Daniel Curtis;	Environment Agency	Attended	

1. Welcome (Cllr Barry Wood)

2. Notes, Action Tracker & Forward Plan – To Note (BH)

No comments raised.

3. Government Arc Update (RL)

- Although there remains central govt support for the Arc, no updates are available – a very similar position to that outlined to this group at the last Plenary.
- The govt are awaiting this group's plans going forward collectively and separately as they are nearing the end of their 3-year internal budget and business planning process.
- Still a lot of uncertainty locally around the Arc including EWR, Levelling Up, Spatial Framework and a feeling of general non-support from central govt. – need for clarity from Government asap
- The Treasurer Rishi Sunak mentioned verbally he remains supportive and understands the importance of the Arc from an innovation and economic perspective and George Freeman likewise from an R&D innovation type perspective.
- Govt officers will continue to work with ALG officers to develop a draft proposition

4. Leadership Group Transition Work Programme – Paper (BH)

- Transition Work Programme recommendations agreed - we will continue delivering current commitment, such as the International Trade & Investment Plan which is making really good progress.
- The Arc website and media channels proposal which is awaiting approval from this group will be used as a factual portal so people can access clarity about what we are doing, why we are doing it and what we are doing next.
- The team have put together some direction of travel ideas for next steps beyond transition for future discussion
- Re: Letter to SoS - should be reference cross referencing to EWR as part of the letter
- **Action: BH will edit the draft letter to the Rt Hon Michael Gove (letter to be copied to the Chancellor and to George Freeman). Please send any comments to BH by midday 17th March 2022. Up to date no comments have been received on the draft letter (attached to today's papers).**
- Caution re any strong statements on Arc during elections due to purdah
- Focus will be on things we have agreed such as investment and trade plan

5. Arc Health – Potential Collaboration Discussion - Presentation (Simon Wood)

- Presentation as attached.
- View expressed that it is incredibly important we liaise with the NHS at regional level for joined up thinking as system changes.
- ICS's are up and running and they will strengthen future joint working.
- (BS) The Arc Environment Principles articulate what we should be doing in order to live happy, healthy lives and that we need to fill skills gaps to work in our organisations. We need to work collectively on this.

- Simon Wood recommended the group read [The Marmot Review 10 Years On: Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On - The Health Foundation](#). There are two reviews. The link here is for the second review, a follow up 10 years after Marmot's first report.
- (BH) We will bring a working group together to deal with challenges where we can add value and work closely with colleagues. Arc Health is integral to all of our workstreams.

6. **Integrated Water Management Plan – Presentation (DEFRA)**

- Presentation by the Environment Agency on water quality and resources across the Arc.
- **Action (AR): Circulate presentation.**

7. **Arc Programme Updates – Paper Infrastructure (Hilary Chipping)**

- The group are picking up all the wider infrastructure issues such as water, energy, health and are working closely with EEH.
- They are currently still working on the Infrastructure Principles and hope to bring those to the group to be signed off and published alongside the environment principles.
- Looking at what further work could be done collectively to support infrastructure strategy development locally and sub-regionally if/when confirmed the ASF does not go forwards

Economy (Nigel Tipple)

- We now have a strong FE working group – we are aligning that with colleagues from HE so that we can start having meaningful conversations across the skills agenda. Health does feature in that conversation.
- Internationalisation work going well. Looking to launch whatever that product is at UKREiiF in May (*PS – now June*). We need to be clear about branding and how we position ourselves.

Environment (Cllr Bridget Smith)

- A meeting will be taking place this afternoon so will update following that.

Strategic Place (Jo Lancaster)

- Awaiting announcements on Arc Spatial Framework.

Communications – paper (Karen Clarke)

- Seeking endorsement to publish an Arc Leadership website preferably by the end of the month.
- The paper outlines the purpose of what this website is meant to achieve, ie, it is for people to see the truth – agreed priorities – its current work programme - how we are collaborating – it also could highlight the work we are doing with DIT/DEFRA linked to investment but also health and well-being.
- The website will provide a central tool to support more effective and efficient partnership working across the different groups.

- As a group we are very aware of potential carbon footprint created from developing online assets so we will be looking at good examples and protocols to limit as much as we can.
- We are picking up a lot more interaction in media about the Arc – we are collating media and responses and sharing those with your comms networks.
- BBC East are looking to develop a programme as part of the next Politics Show in advance of the budget.

8. EEH Arc Update (Richard Wenham)

- After a lengthy competitive process Naomi Green has been appointed as the Managing Director of EEH. Congratulations to Naomi.
- Business programme: Still awaiting final settlement from DfT.
- EWR: We have commenced work with EWR to reaffirm the strategic narrative around the business case. Work on this project will complete next month and the output of that study will be shared with Leaders.
- By the middle of the year we expect to see the conclusions of the Oxford Cambridge Road Study between EEH and Nation Highways.
- Secured an additional £550K funding received for priority projects.
- EEH will shortly be recruiting a project manager.

9. Arc Universities Group Update (Prof. Alistair Fitt)

- Lots of work and presentations continuing at various conferences.
- They are about to activate the student panel and will report back at next meeting.

10. Upcoming Meetings in 2022 (for information)

Plenary

- 27 May – 08:30-10:30 TEAMS
- 24 June – 08:30-10:30 TEAMS

Chief Executives

- 13 May 08:30-10:00 TEAMS
- 17 June 08:30-10:00 TEAMS