

OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE ARC LEADERSHIP GROUP PLENARY

Notes

28 January 2022

08:30 – 10:30

TEAMS Meeting

Bedford Borough Council	Laura Church		Attended
Bedford Borough Council	Dave Hodgson		Attended
BEIS	Rowena Limb		Attended
Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority Business Board (CPCA)	Andy Neely		Attended
Cambridge City Council	Robert Pollock		Attended
Cambridge City Council	Lewis Herbert		Attended
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)	Eileen Milner		Attended
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)	Nik Johnson (Dr)		Apologies
Cambridgeshire County Council	Steve Cox		Attended
Cambridgeshire County Council	Lucy Nethsingha		Attended
Central Bedfordshire Council	Marcel Coiffait	Rep: Lorna Carver	Attended
Central Bedfordshire Council	Richard Wenham		Attended
Cherwell District Council	Barry Wood		Attended
Cherwell District Council	Yvonne Rees		Attended
Englands Economic Heartland (EEH)	Naomi Green		Attended
Greater Cambridge Partnership	Rachel Stopard		Apologies
Homes England (HE)	Sarah Greenwood		Attended
Huntingdonshire District Council	Jo Lancaster		Attended
Huntingdonshire District Council	Ryan Fuller		Apologies
Leadership Group (Arc)	Bev Hindle		Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)	Karen Clarke		Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)	Placi Espejo		Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)	Alison Bailey		Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)	Arthur Le Geyt		Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)	Penelope Tollit		Apologies
Luton Borough Council	Robin Porter		Apologies
Luton Borough Council	Hazel Simmons		Apologies
Luton Borough Council	Nicola Monk		Attended
DLUHC	Emran Mian		Attended
DLUHC	Cathy Francis		Apologies
DLUHC	Saba Tahzib		Attended
DLUHC	Adele Maher		Attended
Milton Keynes Council	Michael Bracey		Apologies
Milton Keynes Council	Peter Marland		Apologies
NHS England	David Radbourne		Attended
NHS England	Simon Wood		Attended

North Northamptonshire Council - Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants.	Rob Bridge	Rep: Rob Harbour	Attended
Oxford City Council	Caroline Green		Attended
Oxford City Council	Susan Brown		Attended
Oxfordshire County Council	Bill Cotton		
Oxfordshire County Council	Liz Leffman		Attended
Oxfordshire County Council (and Cherwell District Council)	Yvonne Rees		Attended
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)	Nigel Tipple		Attended
Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP)	Jeremy Long		Attended
Peterborough City Council	Matthew Gladstone		Apologies
Peterborough City Council	Wayne Fitzgerald		Attended
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Liz Watts		Attended
South Cambridgeshire District Council	Bridget Smith		Attended
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)	Hilary Chipping		Attended
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)	Peter Horrocks		Attended
South Oxfordshire Council	Andrew Down		Attended
South Oxfordshire District Council	David Rouane		Attended
Universities Group	Alistair Lomax		Attended
Universities Group	Alistair Fitt		Attended
Universities Group	Karen Holford		Attended
Vale of White Horse District Council	Mark Stone	Rep: Andrew Down	Attended
Vale of White Horse District Council	Emily Smith		Attended
West Northamptonshire Council - Daventry; South Northants; Northampton Borough.	Anna Earnshaw	Rep: Rebecca Peck	Attended
West Northamptonshire Council (New Unitary Authority - West Northants and North Northants) - Daventry; South Northants; Northampton Borough.	Jonathan Nunn		Attended
West Oxfordshire District Council	Giles Hughes		Apologies
West Oxfordshire District Council	Michele Mead		Attended

1. Welcome (Cllr Barry Wood)

2. Forward Plan and Action Tracker (Bev Hindle): Noted as accurate.

3. Arc Update & Future of Arc Leadership Group Discussion – Paper (Emran Mian/Bev Hindle):

- Emran's team are still in the process of resolving a position on the Arc across government due to various things happening in govt including the Levelling Up White Paper.
- There does remain commitment from central govt departments that have been supporting the development ambitions of the Arc.
- A new funding vehicle in the future will be the successor to the European structural funds: the UK Shared Prosperity Funds. There is a strong case that this Fund should be allocated to local leadership and for local authorities to make plans for how they wish to spend it (Ministers are in discussions about how funds would be allocated).
- No update available regarding EWR.
- Ultimately it will be for the partnerships across the Arc to decide what it thinks it should be focussed on, rather than central govt deciding.
- **The recommendations were endorsed including to continue collaborating and go for Option 1 of the recommendations - to extend our programme until the end of September 2022.**
- BH will build an updated programme and proposal over the next 2 months and present to this group on 11 March.
- Concern was raised about Para 17 suggesting clarification and transparency would be new – Leaders felt this should be already the case. BH confirmed that if we are to go forward, we need to be more transparent in sharing our actions, progress and position to the public for their clarity. Use of dedicated channels is essential to do this

4. Arc Programme Updates – Paper (BH)

Infrastructure (Hilary Chipping)

- Shared Arc Infrastructure Principles (draft included with the papers). These were presented for endorsement but there was some view that they needed more work and refinement with more direct engagement of Leaders and Chairs.
- HC and BH will work to build on the good work of the Group so far to also capture consensus views from the Plenary.

Economy (Nigel Tipple)

- Energy and Mobility – engaging with the sectors, particularly businesses and universities to drive these 2 areas - making significant progress particularly on Energy with Future Mobility just holding its first meeting but with a very diverse sector group.
- Significant progress with the Arc Internationalisation Plan. Interviews this afternoon for consultancy support. Launch of that plan, subject to agreement will be at UKREiF being held in Leeds in May.
- Strong work going with HE/FE and schools looking at career pathways and common skills barriers the Arc could help deal with.

Environment (Cllr Bridget Smith/LW)

- Meetings were on hold due to the information void but after hearing the views of Leaders today the postponed meeting will be rearranged.

Strategic Place (Jo Lancaster)

- Awaiting feedback from DHLUC re ASF.
- Commitment around principles and shortly they will be getting some feedback into this forum once the LUWP comes into circulation.

Communications (Karen Clarke)

- The Comms Group have not had the opportunity to meet given where we were but there is a full network meeting on Tuesday 1st February.
- A lot of work has gone on in the backgrounds around branding, ownership.
- Launching some of the tools that can help in the collaboration work to make information more publicly available and solve the transparency issues that have been raised.
- UKREiIF - May 17-19th 2022 (UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum) : We are looking for a presence at UKREiIF and we're also influencing the programme and putting forth some speakers.
- Looking at an Innovate UK event - cross Arc, working through growth hubs and other partners to shape the programme.
- *PS – timeline of current events provided as an addendum to these notes for information*

5. EEH Arc Update (Richard Wenham):

- EEH has been spending much of its time with EWR which has undergone recent consultation on the details of the mid-section from Bletchley through to Bedford and then another consultation from particular routes from Bedford to Cambridge.
- There is some significant concern about where Treasury and DfT sit with the particular parts of EWR funding.
- Oxford-Cambridge Connectivity Study commissioned by National Highways could be completed by Summer 2022.
- EEH have secured an additional £550K from DfT to support a number of projects.
- Commenced work on 2 Arc connectivity studies.
- At the next meeting in February the Board will consider and agree the outputs for the regional bus study and the first phase of the active travel strategy.

6. Arc Universities Group Update (Prof. Alistair Fitt and Alistair Lomax)

- A student panel is currently being formed.
- The expert papers for the SF, Green Economy, Resilience, Affordable Homes, Strategic Planning, Levelling Up which have been written by different academics are now all delivered – with workshops to follow at the end of March.
- There are webinars coming up at the end of February.
- Everybody is increasingly excited about the work with DiT and Internationalisation.
- The effect of central government's silence has eroded confidence and interest, but the AUG is committed to moving forward.

- The AUG has a meeting shortly to discuss where to get more financial help to support their Arc team.

7. Upcoming Meetings in 2022 (for information)

Plenary

- 11 March – 08:30-10:30 TEAMS

Chief Executives

- 25 February 08:30-10:00 TEAMS