

OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE ARC LEADERSHIP GROUP PLENARY

08 October 2021
8:30am – 10:30am
TEAMS Meeting

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1. Welcome (BW)

**The Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP and
Baroness Vere of Norbiton attended today's meeting.**

2. Arc Spatial Framework (NP)

Update on vision engagement (DLUHC)

- Analysis of comments will commence once consultation closes on Tuesday 12th October 2021.
- Please continue to promote the public engagement until the deadline.
- Over 2300 platform responses received – the Environment topic is the most engaged topic.
- They are expecting to publicly publish the vision and summary of comments in spring 2022, alongside the next consultation document.

Draft Response from Arc Leadership Group (BH)

- We agreed as a collaborative group we would pull together a consensus response to the SF.
- A lot of the responses are based around the vision work that we did a few years back and which were articulated back in our prospectus in 2020.
- A full SODC council meeting took place Thursday 7th October. There are great concerns that the general public including councillors think that the Arc project is an artificial construct, people do not know what it is and there is concern the current Consultation document does not mention the Environment Principles. There is also concern about the lack of democratic input to the structures who may be governing this. The 'million houses' keep cropping up.
- Cllr Sue Cooper may return to these meetings as a substitute but she stepped down yesterday as Leader of South Oxfordshire DC. Cllr David Rouane, a member for Didcot, is now the Leader for SODC.
- **The draft consultation response was agreed.**

3. Arc Growth Body Update (LK-H/CP)

- Huge amounts of work have taken place over the summer. Discussions about the 'Growth Body' have taken place positively for 6 months or so.
- Further detail needs to be worked through such as priorities, how decisions will be taken, how Growth Body and Growth Boards can work together. LKH thought the Government should take a step back and that these decisions should be made together by Local Executive Leaders and Partners.

- The role of the government-funded (subject to the CSR) non-statutory Growth Body will be about promoting, advocating, enhancing, not dictating.
- A multi-year spending review bid has been submitted.
- This next SR is expected to be especially tight - discussions very much lie across the departments' priorities.
- Although the Arc is an area of advanced technical and science delivery there are still levelling up challenges as this is still an area of inequalities in terms of things like infrastructure provision and rental/purchase housing prices.
- Stronger communications and an open and transparent process for the Green Arc campaign are discussions needed due to the conflict in messaging.
- ***Ministers Joined the discussion***
- **Minister Pincher suggested his team will arrange a call with DEFRA ministers for colleagues to understand more about the opportunities in the environment bills which is presently going through the House of Lords (ST)**
- (CP) Legislation will come forward in 2023/2024 for the future homes standard which is designed to reduce carbon emissions from homes built from 2025 by at least 75% both in terms of the fabrics and heating systems that are used. The reason for choosing that date is to ensure the industry both in terms of skills and supply chain is capable of readiness in preparing for that date.
- This year the uplifting of the target for carbon emissions will be 31%.
- **(CV) Invite to future sessions DCMS re digital infrastructure (BH/ST)**

4. Transition and Future Arrangements for the Arc Growth Body and Arc Leadership Group – paper with recommendations (BH)

- As we have a clear and shared view of the Growth Body's purpose and function the next steps are we can appoint/identify a Chair and stand up the transition team as soon as possible, potentially this year, as we have funding to do so.
- Support for transition but still concerns about how the Chair will be appointed which needs to be addressed going forward
- **Recommendations endorsed**

5. Doubling Nature Definition – paper with recommendations (BS/LW)

- This paper sets out what 'doubling nature' means and how will we know when we have done it.
- Overall picture is we want to move from 8% of total area in the Arc designated for nature to 16%, and this paper explains in some detail what that means.
- If we can stop using words like 'growth' and 'sustainable' and start talking about things like 'doubling nature' and the 'green arc' we might start getting over this huge hurdle of public acceptance of the Arc.
- **Recommendations agreed**

6. Green Arc Campaign – paper and presentation with recommendations (BH/KC)

- Please send your comments on the presentation to Bev and Karen.
- Suggestion to provide a geographical picture of the Arc with nature recovery, leisure facilities, potential for water supply bring from east to the west.
- **Recommendations agreed**

7. COP26 Programme Update – paper with recommendations (BH)

- We have targeted 3 or 4 areas that we would like to focus on over the next month to make sure we are hitting messaging ahead and beyond of COP26 and the paper outlines what areas we are working on that this paper seeks your support on those.
- **Paper and progress noted and recommendations agreed**

8. Programme Update – papers attached.

9. Arc Universities Group – update (AF)

- Building up meetings of the operating body and another with the governing body where they will be engaging with big business including pharma and also Santander who are moving their headquarters to within the Arc.

10. Notes, Action Tracker, Forward Plan and Budget Update (BH)

- Notes, Action Tracker and Forward Plan approved.
- **The Budget as revised was agreed by the Group.**

11. Upcoming Meetings in 2021/22

Plenary

- November - CSR Update – tbc
- 3 December – 8.30-10.30am TEAMS
- 28 January 2022 - 08:30-10:30 TEAMS
- 11 March 2022 - 08:30-10:30 TEAMS

Arc Chairs Group

- 15 October – 15:00-15:45 TEAMS
- 19 November – 15:00-15:45 TEAMS
- 17 December – 15:00-15:45 TEAMS
- 21 January 2022 – 15:00-15:45 TEAMS

Chief Executives

- 29 October 2021 – 8.30-10.30 TEAMS
- 19 November 2021 – 8.30-10.30 TEAMS
- 14 January 2022 - 08:30-10:30 TEAMS
- 25 February 2022 - 08:30-10:30 TEAMS

Minister of State for Housing	The Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP	Attended
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Transport.	Baroness Vere of Norbiton	Attended
Director General, Decentralisation and Growth, DLUHC	Emran Mian	Attended
Bedford Borough Council	Laura Church	Rep: Craig Austin
Bedford Borough Council	Dave Hodgson	Attended
BEIS	Rowena Limb	Attended
Cambridge and Peterborough Business Board	Kim Sawyer	Apologies
Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority Business Board (CPCA)	Andy Neely	Attended
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)	Eileen Milner	Attended
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)	Nik Johnson (Dr)	Rep: Paul Raynes
Cambridge City Council	Robert Pollock	Attended
Cambridge City Council	Lewis Herbert	Attended
Cambridgeshire County Council	Gillian Beasley	Rep: Steve Cox
Cambridgeshire County Council	Lucy Nethsingha	Attended
Central Bedfordshire Council	Marcel Coiffait	Attended
Central Bedfordshire Council	Richard Wenham	Attended
Cherwell District Council	Barry Wood	Attended
Cherwell District Council (and Oxfordshire County Council)	Yvonne Rees	Attended
DEFRA	Joanna Sweetman	Attended
Englands Economic Heartland (EEH)	Naomi Green	Attended
Greater Cambridge Partnership	Rachel Stopard	Attended
Homes England (HE)	Sarah Greenwood	Attended
Huntingdonshire District Council	Jo Lancaster	Rep: Ryan Fuller
Huntingdonshire District Council	Ryan Fuller	Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)	Bev Hindle	Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)	Karen Clarke	Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)	Placi Espejo	Attended
Leadership Group (Arc)	Alison Bailey	Apologies
Leadership Group (Arc)	Arthur Le Geyt	Apologies
Arc Leadership Group	Penelope Tollit	Apologies
Leadership Group (Arc)	Anna Rinaldi (notes)	Attended

Luton Borough Council	Robin Porter	Attended
Luton Borough Council	Hazel Simmons	Attended
Luton Borough Council	Nicola Monk	Apologies
DLUHC	Cathy Francis	Attended
DLUHC	Saba Tahzib	Attended
DLUHC	Lucy Wilkins	Attended
DLUHC	Liz Kohorn-Hill	Attended
DLUHC	Jodie-Ann Bernard	Apologies
DLUHC	Nick Parlantzas	Attended
DLUHC	Patrick Joyce	Attended
DLUHC	Ben Whitlock	Attended
DLUHC	Ed Hickey	Attended
DLUHC	Adele Maher	Attended
DLUHC	Ola Dykes	Apologies
DLUHC	Milly Murray	Attended
DLUHC	Chris Armstrong	Attended
DLUHC	Gillespie Ndlovu	Apologies
DLUHC	Freya Walker	Attended
DLUHC	Mike Todman	Attended
Milton Keynes Council	Michael Bracey	Rep: Tracy Aldworth
Milton Keynes Council	Peter Marland	Attended
NHS England	David Radbourne	Attended
NHS England	Simon Wood	Attended
North Northamptonshire Council - Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants.	Rob Bridge	Attended
North Northamptonshire Council - Wellingborough, Kettering, Corby and East Northants.	Jason Smithers	Attended
Oxford City Council	Caroline Green	Attended
Oxford City Council	Susan Brown	Attended
Oxfordshire County Council	Bill Cotton	Apologies
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	Gillian Beasley	Rep: Steve Cox
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	Accepted
South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)	Peter Horrocks	Attended
South Oxfordshire Council	Andrew Down	Attended
South Oxfordshire District Council	Sue Cooper	Attended
Universities Group	Alistair Lomax	Attended
Universities Group	Alistair Fitt	Attended
Universities Group	Karen Holford	Rep: Lynette Ryals
Vale of White Horse District Council	Mark Stone	Apologies
Vale of White Horse District Council	Emily Smith	Attended
West Northamptonshire Council - Daventry; South Northants; Northampton Borough.	Anna Earnshaw	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	Attended
West Oxfordshire District Council	Michele Mead	Attended
Unknown	Finsu Gurung	Attended
Unknown	Georgina Caine	Attended