

## Appendix 1

### **CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY RESPONSE TO OXCAM ARC SPATIAL FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION**

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is composed of the Local Planning Authorities in its area, the County Council and Business Board, and is chaired by the elected Mayor. This collective response to the government's consultation on a proposed Spatial Strategy for the OxCam Arc is consistent with, and in addition to, the responses to the consultation made by the constituent authorities.

The Combined Authority is also the designated Growth Board for its part of the OxCam Arc geography. The Authority looks forward to continuing positive engagement with the government as the proposed Spatial Framework is developed. We see the potential of the Arc Spatial Framework to foster sustainable growth in all areas of the Arc, and to advance our local levelling-up agenda. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is home to some of the UK's globally significant economic assets, but also to communities that are among the country's most left behind. The Arc needs to benefit the whole of its geography and all its communities.

The Combined Authority endorses the general themes of the consultation. We share the government's aspiration to see sustainable economic growth that is consistent with improvements to the environment, excellent transport connectivity, much better provision of affordable housing, the right infrastructure, well-planned and provided in advance of and in support of growth, and based on collaborative working and engagement with communities. The consultation identifies a large number of objectives, all of which we recognise as important in principle. As it develops, the spatial framework will encounter the need to make choices and set priorities among these objectives. The Combined Authority looks forward to working with government in helping to understand and address those decisions.

Local Plans remain the fundamental democratic building block of spatial planning. The Spatial Framework creates a particular opportunity to add value to local plans by addressing wider factors in sustainability, especially the infrastructure planning for water, energy, and transport, and the regulatory and funding decisions needed to enable the transition to net zero carbon by 2050. The Combined Authority is currently developing a refreshed Local Transport Plan and an action plan to implement the recommendations of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate, and is stepping up work with partners on water issues, and we look forward to ensuring that the Spatial Framework reflects the local evidence we have built up.

The Combined Authority looks forward to a strong and effective partnership with government over the coming months as the development of the Spatial Framework moves into its substantive phase.