



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 2.3

## OxCam Arc Spatial Framework Position Statement

To:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
Meeting Date:	27 October 2021
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
From:	Paul Raynes, Director of Delivery and Strategy
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	n/a
Recommendations:	<p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) Note the response to the government's consultation attached at Appendix 1;</li><li>(b) Note the issues raised by constituent authorities, parish councils and other respondents to the consultation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; and</li><li>(c) Mandate the Mayor, lead members and officers to engage proactively in discussions with government as it enters the next phase of developing its proposed spatial framework.</li></ul>
Voting arrangements:	<p>A simple majority of all Members present and voting</p> <p>To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.</p>

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides an update on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's response to the government consultation on a vision for the Oxford to Cambridgeshire Arc Spatial Framework, and invites the Board to set out views on the next phase of engagement with central government.

## 2. Background

- 2.1 The government has conducted a public consultation entitled *Creating a Vision for the OxCam Arc*. The consultation began on 20 July 2021 and is concluded on 12 October 2021. The consultation was addressed "to everyone. [The government is] keen to hear from the public and interested parties from across the public and private sector."
- 2.2 The focus of the consultation was on the initial vision to inform the development of a Spatial Framework for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc. That framework is intended to have the status of national planning policy – which would make it a consideration with weight in developing future local plans – and of national transport policy – which would make it a consideration in future decisions on government funding for transport projects.
- 2.3 The consultation was mainly run on a digital platform and was structured to encourage a wide public response. The digital form asked respondents to rate issues and statements for their importance, and allowed limited free text comments on each main issue. The issues were:
  - Environment
  - Economy
  - Connectivity and Infrastructure
  - Place-making
  - Engaging Communities
  - Data and evidence
  - Monitoring and Delivery.
- 2.3 The Combined Authority is the Growth Board for this part of the Arc geography.
- 2.4 Leaders asked officers to encourage maximum engagement with the consultation by residents and organisations in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and to use that as the evidence base for the Combined Authority's position in future discussions. Although the Combined Authority (CA) was not the principal target audience for a consultation aimed at the wider public, DLUHC officials asked that the CA should also make a short formal response itself. Following discussion with the Mayor and Leaders, officers submitted the text at Appendix 1.
- 2.5 Officers have reviewed consultation responses from constituent authorities, parish councils, and other partners. A number of consistent common themes emerge from them:
  - We need homes, jobs and infrastructure for this and next generations. With the innovation and potential of the Arc it is possible to plan for greener future prosperity;

- Housing development requires a bottom-up approach mindful of the region's geography, especially flood risks;
- Homes need to be built with energy efficiency and sustainability in mind
- Local plans remain the democratic basis for allocating development; existing transport plans also rest on much work and evidence and should be respected;
- Nature charities are mindful of the impact of overdevelopment but recognised the meaningful contribution a green OxCam arc can deliver for the environment;
- There is a significant infrastructure challenge, especially in relation to water, if the current planned level of growth is to be sustainable.

2.5 The next public stages of the government Spatial Framework process are currently planned to be

Spring 2022 Consultation on emerging policies and options (this will include a formal government response to the consultation evidence)

Autumn 2022 Consultation on a draft Spatial Framework.

2.6 During the autumn, DLUHC officials will be assessing responses to the consultation and beginning to develop options and policies for the next round of public engagement in the spring. Members and officers from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough participate in a number of formal and informal groups, such as the Arc Leaders Group, the Environment Group, the Infrastructure Group, and will therefore have the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with government as the Spatial Framework develops further. The Board is invited to give guidance to those representatives for the next phase of engagement, and may wish to ask for further updates on progress during the autumn and winter.

## Significant Implications

### 3. Financial Implications

3.1 None at this stage.

### 4. Legal Implications

4.1 None at this stage.

### 5. Other Significant Implications

5.1 None.

### 6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 – Officer Response to the OxCam Vision Consultation

## 7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Government Ox-Cam Arc vision consultation document:  
[Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc](#)