

## CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

### **OXCAM ARC**

Council Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The Town Council has received the following correspondence in relation to the launch of the Ox-Cam Arc Spatial Framework Consultation.

- 11.0 Is the statement about the launch of the consultation
- 11.1 Statement from Dr Nik Johnson, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 11.2 Statement from Cambridge and Peterborough CPRE.

The Consultation period is for 12 weeks and is due to conclude on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

It is  
**Recommend**  
That the report be received and Councillors feed their comments to the Town Clerk by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 to enable a response to be drafted for consideration at the Town Council meeting scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

## Word from the Minister



The events of the last 18 months have put the United Kingdom's science and innovation sector firmly on a global stage. The world has been reminded of the value of our world-leading life sciences ecosystem which lead the charge on the development of the Oxford-Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine. It is no coincidence that the Oxford-Cambridge Arc (OxCam Arc) has been front and centre of the country's response to the pandemic. We have experienced, in real time, just how valuable this region is.

The Arc remains an economic priority for government and we are committed to working with communities and stakeholders to unlock the region's full potential. The government has launched a consultation on a vision for the long-term Spatial Framework to capture the priorities of people and businesses with an interest in the Arc. I encourage as many people as possible to get involved and have their say so that we can work together to better plan for sustainable growth in the Arc.

- Christopher Pincher, Ministerial lead for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc

## Latest news

### Spatial Framework Consultation

The government published 'Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc', officially kicking off a 12-week long public consultation on the OxCam Arc Spatial Framework Vision.

Planning for growth in a more sustainable and strategic way to 2050 and beyond, the Spatial Framework will focus on making the Arc a better place to live in four key ways –environment; economy; connectivity and infrastructure; and place-making.

The government wants to ensure the vision for the Spatial Framework is genuinely built on the interests and priorities of the communities it will serve, so if you live, work, invest or have an interest in the Arc, now is your time to shape its future.

You have until **12 October** to have your say. Get involved in the public consultation and have your voice heard through our new digital platform!

[Click here to access the consultation](#)

Sustainability will be at the heart of the process, so alongside seeking views on the vision for the Spatial Framework, the government are also seeking views on the initial work done to set the scope of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The SA will address environmental issues alongside social and economic issues as the Spatial Framework and its policies develop.

[For more on the Sustainability Appraisal](#)

## Meet your expert advisory panel chair

We have established an Expert Advisory Panel to provide independent advice and recommendations to Government on the delivery of potential new and expanded settlements in the Bedford to Cambridge area of the Arc. The Panel will be exploring how the delivery of well-designed, sustainable and vibrant places to live and work can be successfully achieved.

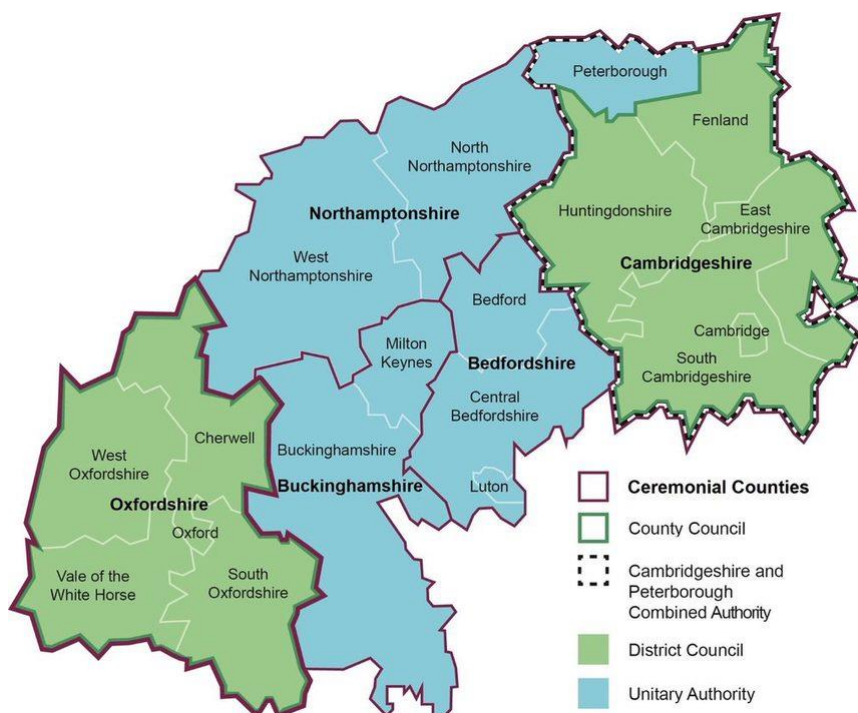
The Panel will be chaired by **Emma Cariaga**, Joint Head of the Canada Water Development & Head of Residential at British Land. Emma has a wealth of experience working on development and regeneration projects and will provide fresh insight into the growth opportunities in the Arc.

The Panel will be comprised of several industry leaders and subject area experts, providing specialist insight on the environment, design, infrastructure and business.



[Learn More](#)

## OxCam Arc at a Glance



The OxCam Arc is a cross-government economic priority with a number of separate initiatives and interests across a number of departments and bodies, including HM Treasury (HMT), Department for Transport (DfT), Department for Environment (DfE), Food and Rural Agriculture (DEFRA), Department for International Trade (DIT), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) and Homes England. MHCLG is leading on the development of the Spatial Framework and other related proposals.

It is a globally significant area between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge. It is formed of five ceremonial counties: Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Cambridgeshire .

It supports over two million jobs, adds over £110 billion to the economy every year and houses one of the fastest growing economies in England.

[Click here to learn more about the OxCam Arc](#)

## The OxCam Local Natural Capital Plan (LNCP)



The Oxford-Cambridge Arc is already home to precious habitats and biodiversity, much-valued green spaces and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) including ancient woodlands, wildflower-rich meadows and chalk streams (9% of the global total). There are real challenges with the Arc's natural environment declining in quality and becoming fragmented, over the last 40 years, and we know that people's access to open areas of nature rich countryside is relatively limited.

The Government considers that the Oxford-Cambridge Arc is an opportunity to embody the ambitions of the [25 Year Environment Plan](#). To help achieve this, Defra group\* prepared the OxCam Local Natural Capital Plan (LNCP). Led by the Environment Agency and Natural England, it provides a baseline of the value of nature in the Arc and will be considered as part of the development of the Spatial Framework.

The LNCP helps to create tools for partners and businesses and is also crucial to support the developing OxCam Spatial Framework, which has the environment at the front and centre in its policy statement.

The government is currently working with the Defra group programme team and local partners to build on the LNCP baseline and understanding, to support the development of a robust evidence for the Spatial Framework. The government has

been engaging with both national groups and local partners to realise this opportunity for environmental enhancement in the Arc which, in turn, can deliver benefits to communities and businesses.

*\*Defra, Natural England, Environment Agency and Forestry commission*

[Learn more](#)