



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

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Government**

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Philip Simpkins  
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[www.gov.uk/mhclg](http://www.gov.uk/mhclg)

Date: **2 July 2019**

Dear Philip,

I am writing to update you on our plan to begin discussions with local partners across the Oxford-Cambridge Arc on how we can together realise shared ambitions for growth, prosperity and environmental sustainability over the long-term.

As I discussed with the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Leaders at their recent meeting, our immediate priority is to prepare for the forthcoming Spending Review, taking a collaborative and strategic approach with local partners to agree on our shared spending priorities for the next few years.

This will mean central and local government working jointly to support the delivery of the infrastructure needed to boost connectivity and the homes of the right type in the right places to raise affordability, and to improve the environment and sustainability in the Arc over the coming decades.

In some cases, that will mean working at the Arc level including through the existing Chief Executives' and Leaders' groups. In others, it will mean collaborating at a sub-regional levels to ensure we maximise the impact and return on investment of our interventions.

We have talked about working with sub-regional 'growth boards' across the Arc to begin this work. This would build on the structure of conversations with LEPs and on the growth board structures that already exist. We understand from discussions with local partners that the most appropriate agreed or emerging geographies for these conversations would be:

- Oxfordshire Growth Board:
  - Oxfordshire County Council
  - Oxford City Council
  - Cherwell District Council
  - South Oxfordshire District Council
  - Vale of White Horse District Council
  - West Oxfordshire District Council
  - OxLEP

- In Buckinghamshire, we understand that arrangements are still being agreed locally, but, subject to the preferred arrangement locally, we would envisage the conversation with:
  - The shadow authority ahead of the new unitary authority
  - Buckinghamshire County Council
  - Aylesbury Vale District Council
  - Chiltern District Council
  - South Bucks District Council
  - Wycombe District Council
  - Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP
  
- Central Area Growth Board:
  - Bedford Borough Council
  - Central Bedfordshire Council
  - Milton Keynes Council
  - Luton Borough Council
  - Northamptonshire County Council
  - Northampton Borough Council
  - Corby Borough Council
  - Daventry District Council
  - East Northamptonshire District Council
  - Kettering Borough Council
  - South Northamptonshire District Council
  - Borough of Wellingborough Council
  - SEMLEP
  
- Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority and its constituent members:
  - Cambridgeshire County Council
  - Cambridge City Council
  - East Cambridgeshire District Council
  - Fenland District Council
  - Huntingdonshire District Council
  - Peterborough City Council
  - South Cambridgeshire District Council
  - CPCA Business Board

My team and I will be in touch with these groupings over the coming weeks to start initial conversations, at first to decide the scope and priorities for this work, and then to move into more detailed discussions on priorities for packages of support to unlock growth.

I am available on 07458 004 011 or at [Kris.krasnowski@communities.gov.uk](mailto:Kris.krasnowski@communities.gov.uk) if you have any questions on this approach or would like to discuss this further, and I look forward to working with you and partners across the Arc to realise our shared ambitions.

I have also sent this letter to Barry Wood as chair of the Arc Leaders Group.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kris Krasnowski', written in a cursive style.

Kris Krasnowski  
Deputy Director, Oxford-Cambridge Arc Unit