

## **Oxford to Cambridge Arc**

**Chief Executives Meeting: 9am.4<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Cranfield Innovation Centre MK43 0BT**  
**Leaders' Meeting: 2pm, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019, South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne CB23 6EA**

### **Report from Productivity Workstream**

#### **1.0 Background**

1.1 The three Local Enterprise Partnerships (OxLEP, SEMLEP, BTVLEP) and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) jointly commissioned a piece of work to for an Economic Vision for the Arc. This would be drawn from analysis of the 4 Local Industrial Strategies. Following a competitive tender process Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) were selected to take forward this work.

1.2 A steering group was formed to oversee this work. Membership of the Steering group was drawn from across the Arc with representatives from districts, counties and unitaries drawn from the 4 LEP/CPCA geographies. The initial composition of the group was based on having two local authority representatives from each Growth Board area in addition to the LEPs and the CPCA representatives. The current list of members is set out in **Annex A**. The steering group has so far met 5 times since July.

1.3 The group is chaired by each of the 4 LEP/CPCA Chief Executives on a rotating basis. Ahmed Goga from OxLEP has provided administrative support for arranging the meetings.

1.4 It was agreed at the last meeting of Arc Leaders on 26<sup>th</sup> September that this group, led by LEPs, should form the Productivity work stream (the other two being Connectivity and Placemaking).

#### **2.0 Progress so far**

2.1 Each of the LEPs and CPCA are making good progress with producing their individual Local Industrial Strategies. The detailed evidence bases are complete, emerging themes have been identified and the drafting of the documents is underway.

2.2 The individual LIS documents are being co-produced with support from BEIS officials. The Oxford to Cambridge Arc is one of three trailblazer areas, the other two being Greater Manchester and the West Midlands Combined Authorities. As such we were told that the timetable for completion would be by March 2019. However, we have recently been informed that the Government would not be able to carry out the required cross Departmental sign off by then so it is more likely to be May or June before the documents are published. They will all be branded with the Government's Industrial Strategy branding.

2.3 Alongside these LISs there will be an accompanying Investment Prospectus that will set out the key assets and reasons for investing in each of the four areas. These documents will be produced and designed by each of the LEPs/CPCA.

2.4 PwC have carried a structured programme of work throughout the year including a workshop involving key stakeholders from across the Arc at the end of September and a SWOT Analysis. The Economic Vision document, which will draw out the key themes from the individual LIS documents will be ready in draft form in January.

### **3.0 Next Steps**

3.1 This Steering Group has worked well as a representative group of LEPs and local authorities from across the Arc with a focus on the potential growth of the economy. This Group will therefore transform into the Productivity Task Group.

3.2 At the meeting of the Steering Group on 20<sup>th</sup> December the Group will check that the representation on the Group is appropriate for this future role. Going forwards PwC will cease to attend once their work is completed in March. However, it will be important to continue to have representation from Central Government. Kris Krasnowski is attending on 20<sup>th</sup>. Ben Whitlock has attended in the past.

3.3 Draft Terms of Reference for the Group will be drawn up following the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> and including feedback from the Leaders and Chief Executives. One key strand of work will be around delivering a joint approach to communications across the Arc.

3.4 This group will provide a key opportunity to interface with officials as Government develops its Vision for the Arc in the first part of 2019. This was referenced in the Government's response to the National Infrastructure Commission's 'Partnering for Prosperity' document, published at the time of the Autumn Budget.

3.4 This Productivity Task Group will report to the cross Corridor/Arc Chief Executives Group and to the Leaders. It is also intended that there will be strong links including some shared membership across the Connectivity and Placemaking groups to ensure a fully integrated approach providing joined-up advice to the Chief Executives and Leaders.

## Membership of the Steering Group/ Productivity Group

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Status</b>
Nigel Tipple	Chief Executive OxLEP	Board Member*
Richard Harrington	Chief Executive BTVLEP	Board Member*
Hilary Chipping	Chief Executive SEMLEP	Board Member*
John T.Hill	Director Business & Skills CPCA	Board Member*
Ahmed Goga	OxLEP	Alternate
Ian Barham	BTVLEP	Alternate
Claire Ackroyd/Arthur Le Geyt	SEMLEP	Alternate
Andrew Grant/ Tracey Aldworth	Aylesbury Vale DC	Board Member
Geoff Snelson/ Sarah Gonsalves	Milton Keynes Council	Board Member
Kate McFarlane/ Jodie Yandall	Central Bedfordshire	Board Member
Rachel Stopard	Cambridgeshire CC	Board Member
Laura Church (TBC)	Luton BC	Board Member
Neil Gibson	Bucks CC	Board Member
TBC	Oxford City Council	Board Member
TBC	Northamptonshire Districts	Board Member
Martin Tugwell	EEH	Board Member
Ben Whitlock	MHCLG	Advisory
Kris Krasnowski	MHCLG	Advisory
Sarah Greenwood	Homes England	Advisory
<a href="#">Zoe Green</a>	<a href="#">PwC</a>	<a href="#">Steering Group</a>
<a href="#">Dan Dowling</a>	<a href="#">PwC</a>	<a href="#">Steering Group</a>
<a href="#">Jonathan Gilham</a>	<a href="#">PwC</a>	<a href="#">Steering Group</a>

\*Rotating Chairs