Appendix 1

Creating a Vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc

Joint Response by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council

September 2021

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

What is your positive vision for the Arc in the future?

1. What place could it be? What words come to mind?

- Sustainable
- Sense of community
- Equal/ inclusive
- Progressive
- Collaborates for better outcomes
- More life opportunities
- Better environment
- Eco-friendly
- Connected
- Better transport
- Better infrastructure
- Thriving economy
- Better place
- Better homes
- More available homes
- More affordable homes
- Other - please specify

Answer: N/A

2. If you can, we would love you to tell us more about your vision for the Arc to 2050.

Answer: In reference to the framework shown in section 1.8 which articulates Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plans being the delivery mechanisms for the Spatial Framework, the vision should look to align with existing and emerging Local Plan aspirations. For Greater Cambridge the emerging vision can be found here About the plan | Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (greatercambridgeplanning.org).

3. How do you feel overall about the future of the Arc? What are your hopes and fears?

Answer: N/A

We are preparing the OxCam Arc Spatial Framework to make the most of the area's unique potential for economic growth to 2050 and beyond.

4. What do you think are the most important things that it needs to do, as a strategic plan, to achieve this?

Work at an Arc-wide level to tackle shared issues/ opportunities on:
- Environment
- Economy
- Connectivity and growth
- Place-making
- Supporting monitoring and delivery

Answer: The Arc Spatial Framework will need to integrate all of the above strands in order to achieve this outcome as all are intrinsically linked our own emerging themes in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan which are Climate Change, Biodiversity and Green Spaces, Wellbeing and Social Inclusion, Great Places, Jobs, Homes and Infrastructure. This will be vital in ensuring a balanced and sustainable recovery,

which is balanced against the challenges around climate change and levelling up. The spatial framework also needs to address issues which cross district boundaries, such as coordinating infrastructure, addressing pressing environmental issues such as water resources, and improving green infrastructure.

5. If there is anything you would like to add, we would love you to tell us.

Answer: Although there are many broad principles which are welcomed within the emerging spatial framework vision, the amount and detail of information within the consultation is not sufficient or adequate in order to respond with any detail or certainty and significant further work will be needed in order for the councils to fully endorse or provide meaningful comment to the spatial framework.

SECTION 2 ENVIRONMENT

Thinking about your vision for the future of the area, how important is it that the Spatial Framework focuses on:

Green spaces, nature, and biodiversity

1. Making sure the natural environment is protected, restored, and improved. For example, improving new and existing green spaces.

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

2. Making sure the most is made of the natural environment and that all people can have access to it. For example, making improvements to woodlands, wetland, green space and water and making sure people can visit them if they want to.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

3. Making sure new growth leaves the environment in a better state than before. For example, keeping land in its natural state, and making it more wild, where appropriate.

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

4. Anything else to add about your vision for green spaces, nature, and biodiversity? Climate change and net zero

Answer:

One of the core themes of our emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan is Biodiversity and Green Spaces. A number of key issues in relation to the environment have been identified through our own consultation processes including:

- Improving the green space network - consider how attractive, accessible and well-designed open space is created and protected.
- Achieving biodiversity net gains on future developments - how we guide developers to achieve this.
- Tree cover - consider how we can increase tree cover as part of new developments

This has formed the policy approach for this theme which covers the following areas:

- Biodiversity and Geodiversity
- Green Infrastructure
- Improving tree canopy cover and the tree population
- River Corridors
- Protecting open spaces
- Providing and Enhancing Open Spaces

We would urge the spatial framework to align with this approach which is further explored in the Biodiversity and Green Spaces Topic Paper published here in order to work towards a consistent standard and embed the environment at the heart of the ARC Spatial Framework. We also endorse the ARC Environmental Principles produced in March 2021 by the Arc Environment Group and suggest these are embedded into the Spatial Framework as an underpinning theme.

5. Making sure new development helps to achieve net zero carbon at an Arc level towards national net zero targets. For example, through good design, sustainable travel choices, renewable energy and trapping carbon.

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

6. Making sure that new development can respond to the current and future effects of climate change. For example, through new carbon emissions, water use, waste disposal and renewable energy targets.

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

7. Anything else to add about your vision for climate change and/ or the contribution to net zero?

Answer: This will be a significant area of focus for the Spatial Framework although there is very little detail in the consultation to comment directly on. The UK has a legally binding requirement to achieve net zero carbon by 2050, with the recently adopted sixth carbon budget, which was translated into law in June 2021, requires 63% reduction in emissions from 2019 to 2035 (78% relative to 1990). Alongside the national carbon budget, the Tyndall Carbon Budget Reports can be used to identify area based carbon budgets.

Achievement of these budgets requires action across all sectors, including the built environment. The Spatial Framework Vision identifies Local Plans as a key mechanism for delivering on its ambitions and therefore must ensure it aligns with approaches, standards and legal requirements of planning authorities preparing plans and especially in relation to climate change policies.

Evidence prepared to inform our own plan indicates higher building standards are needed now. The Spatial Framework should support authorities that are seeking string measures to respond to climate change. In addition the approach to further developing the Spatial Framework should also focus heavily on place making, which has the potential to be a powerful tool in the response to the climate emergency. Achieving net zero carbon status cuts across all elements of place making; not just

how homes and buildings are designed and constructed, but also by ensuring new development is located where it is or can be served by low carbon transport links, like public transport, cycling and walking.

Our own spatial strategy has been informed by carbon assessment that highlights the impact that transport emissions can have, and promotes patterns of development that enable low carbon transport modes, shifting away from a reliance on private cars. Policies related to transport are covered in the infrastructure theme and include measures to support sustainable transport as well as the transition to low emissions vehicles. These type of approaches with are based in the most up to date and current evidence e should be aligned and built upon as the spatial framework develops.

Air quality and waste

8. Making sure new development helps to improve air quality within the Arc. For example, through high quality design, low emission zones and sustainable transport. [Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

9. Taking a combined approach to air quality across the Arc. For example, through being careful about where each land uses should go, supporting journeys via public transport and active travel and enhancing green spaces and routes across the area. [Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

10. Making better use of resources and managing waste. For example, promoting the re-use of materials, and protecting and improving soil quality and minerals. [Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

11. Anything else to add about your vision for air quality and waste?

Answer:

We have articulated our proposed approach to Air Quality and Waste in our emerging draft plan which is expanded on in the topic paper on Wellbeing and Social

Inclusion which can be found here and informs our policy direction. We would urge that the Spatial Framework builds on the evidence that we have already commenced in order to form a strategic approach to these matters.

Water

12. Promoting a combined approach to managing water across the Arc, through protecting water resources, improving water quality and reducing the risk of flooding. For example, treating wastewater, improving water storage, and reusing surface runoff.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

13. Making sure new development reduces existing flood risk and is resilient to future flooding. For example, through tree planting and multifunctional sustainable drainage.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

14. Improving water availability and cutting the risk of drought. For example, through new sustainable water resources and infrastructure, and measures which reduce water use.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

15. Anything else to add about your vision for water?

Answer: Water is a critical issue in Greater Cambridge. The Greater Cambridge Integrated Water Management Study (2021) has shown that the current level of water abstraction from the chalk aquifer is widely believed to be unsustainable, with potential to cause environmental damage, unless abstraction rates are reduced significantly to safeguard natural river flow. Whilst water company plans have taken account of planned growth in the existing adopted 2018 Local Plans, there is no environmental capacity for additional development in the emerging new joint Local Plan to be supplied by water by increased abstraction from the chalk aquifer. Future water demand and supply will need to be balanced in other ways, such as through

reduced usage, reduced leakage, import of water/licence trading between water companies and the development of new reservoirs at the regional scale.

A key role for the Arc Spatial Framework will be to acknowledge the environmental impacts of water abstraction from the chalk aquifer and the need for a regional approach to both address water resource availability and reduce impact on habitats such as the chalk streams. This will need to include detail relating to funding and sequencing and coordination of infrastructure and acknowledgement of the multiple stakeholders key in its delivery.

The Framework also needs to enable authorities to impose stronger policy requirements on water efficiency, as they are currently unable to do more than the optional building regulation standards, which does not sufficiently reflect local pressures.

SECTION 3 ECONOMY

Education and training

1. Making sure the Arc keeps growing as a place of educational excellence, partnership and research. For example, through growth which helps existing universities and colleges.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

2. Making sure the economic benefits of growth are felt by all communities within the Arc. For example, through putting new education and training facilities in places where more people can easily get to go to them.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

3. Anything else to add about your vision for education and training?
Jobs and businesses

Answer: No specific points but we would encourage the Spatial Framework to align and build upon the approaches Greater Cambridge are taking to inclusive growth when expanding the vision for skills and education. Our emerging proposals can be found here.

4. Making sure that the Arc keeps growing as a place for business, science and technology, and innovation. For example, through putting these types of new workspaces in places where they can make the most of cross-sector collaboration.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ **Important**/ Very Important]

5. Making sure that existing industries keep growing within the Arc. For example, through putting industries in the best places to suit their needs.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ **Important**/ Very Important]

6. Making sure the Arc builds upon and grows its skills, expertise and capabilities. For example, through making sure people can get around easily to bring the right people to the right job locations.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

7. Making sure that the right types of buildings are provided in the Arc so that businesses can keep growing as well as supporting the green economy. For example, through building new flexible and adaptable workspaces meeting the needs of a range of different businesses of different sizes.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

8. Anything else to add about your vision for jobs and businesses?

Answer: We broadly agree with the initial vision for the Spatial Framework in respect of jobs and businesses and we would encourage the Spatial Framework to align and build upon the approaches Greater Cambridge are taking in this area as the framework is further developed. Our emerging proposals can be found here.

SECTION 4 CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure

1. Making sure planning takes a combined approach to new development by providing the infrastructure and services required at the right time to support growth. For example, by planning for the need for utilities (e.g. water, energy, waste) and community infrastructure (e.g. schools, hospitals, GP surgeries).
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

2. Making sure new development makes the most of existing resources. For example, through making sure that materials are reused, renewable energy supplies are used, and waste is properly planned for.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

3. Making sure that digital infrastructure is put in at the same time as other development takes place. For example, speeding up the fitting of high-speed broadband to support home-based work and help new ways of learning.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

4. Anything else to add about your vision for infrastructure?

Answer: We broadly agree with the initial vision for the Spatial Framework in respect of Infrastructure. However there is very little detail and given the importance of having a combined approach including the inclusion and coordination of digital and social infrastructure. There should be a holistic and coordinated approach to understanding how future needs are sequenced and can be delivered at the right time and in the right place to support the future growth. We would encourage the Spatial Framework to align and build upon the approaches Greater Cambridge are taking in this area found here as the framework is further developed.

New development

5. Making sure growth within the Arc is placed around areas with better transport links. For example, through having more development around stations and bus

routes, supported by cycling and walking tracks.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

6. Making sure new development cuts down the need to travel around the local area. For example, through providing safe and easy walking and cycling routes to town centres, shops and schools.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

7. Making sure new developments reduce existing and future infrastructure demand and resources used. For example, making sure that designs leave enough space for existing and future measures which reduce energy and water use, and cut down on waste.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

8. Making sure sustainable transport principles are included in the design of new developments. For example, by designing new developments in a way that enables people to walk or cycle all or part of their journeys.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

9. Anything else to add about new developments in the context of connectivity and infrastructure?

Answer: Nothing further to add at this stage as the vision currently lacks sufficient detail to comment adequately. However we would encourage the Spatial Framework to build on approaches to connectivity as described in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Infrastructure Topic Paper published here.

Getting around

10. Creating better transport connections across the Arc and making sure they are provided in a way which supports sustainable new growth. For example, by planning for public transport and physical transport infrastructure requirements.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

11. Making sure there are more opportunities for active travel such as walking and cycling across the Arc. For example, wider pavements, segregated cycle lanes, improved network of cycle lanes, and better pedestrian crossings.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

12. Making sure that there is the right form of public transport in the right areas across the Arc and can be used by all travellers, including people with any particular needs.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

13. Cutting down on the impact of cars and other private vehicles within the Arc. For example, by supporting more sustainable forms of private travel like cycling.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

14. Anything else to add about your vision of getting around?

Answer: Nothing further to add at this stage as the vision currently lacks sufficient detail to comment adequately. However we would encourage the Spatial Framework to build on approaches to connectivity as described in the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Infrastructure Topic Paper published here and Great Places Topic Paper published here.

SECTION 5 PLACEMAKING

Location of growth

1. Making sure new developments are built in the most sustainable locations, for the environment, the economy and communities. For example, by developing brownfield redevelopment and making sure they have good access to town centres, shops and schools.
[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

2. Anything else to add about your vision for location of growth?

Answer: There is very little detail on this within the consultation. Significant work will need to be done in order to set out an appropriate framework. We would urge that the Spatial Framework aligns coherently with strategies set out in local plans in order to align and build informed decisions on the appropriate locations for sustainable growth. Our own Greater Cambridge [Strategy](#) can be found here and any emerging work in developing the spatial framework should align with this for the Greater Cambridge area.

Homes in your area

3. Ensuring the right types of housing are delivered in the right locations to meet the needs of both renters and buyers. For example, family houses, first-time buyers, specialist housing, student accommodation and opportunities for people to build their own homes**.**

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

4. Increasing the amount and availability of affordable homes within the Arc.

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

5. Anything else to add about your vision for homes in your area?

There is very little detail on this within the consultation. We would urge that the Spatial Framework aligns coherently with strategies set out in local plans in order to align and build informed decisions on housing need and mix. Our own Greater Cambridge approach to homes within the emerging local plan can be found [here](#) and any emerging work in developing the Spatial Framework should align with this for the Greater Cambridge area.

Design of new developments and streets

6. Making sure a coordinated approach is taken to the design and delivery of new developments to ensure they are supported by new and existing infrastructure.

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

7. Making sure the environment and sustainability is at the heart of new

developments. For example, by improving the built and natural environment, making sure development complements surrounding areas, and is supported by the right level of infrastructure.

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

8. Making sure there is the right mix of uses in new developments to help make high quality and thriving new places.

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

9. Making sure new developments help support healthy lifestyles for existing and future communities. For example, through walking and cycling, high quality green spaces, and accessible streets.

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

10. Making sure new developments promote resilience to climate change. For example, through green roofs, managing surface water, tree planting, storing rainwater and new green spaces.

[Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ **Very Important**]

11. Anything else to add about your vision for the design of new developments and streets?

Answer: Greater Cambridge have set out our approach to developing a policy framework that focusses on developing great places. The spatial framework vision although referencing key placemaking themes does not go into sufficient detail at this stage and we would encourage a comprehensive approach to developing this element which builds upon existing best practice and current evidence. Our own approach to this has been published here as part of our emerging preferred options stage of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan and the expansion of this area the spatial framework develops should align as far as possible and build on strengthening the evidence base.

SECTION 6 ENGAGEMENT

1. How can government engage the public better?

[Communication materials/ Social listening/ Focus groups/ 1-1 interviews and experiments/ Ethnography/ Citizen assemblies and citizen juries/ Other types of engagement]

Answer: A mix of methods should be employed in order to achieve better participation and engagement. A comprehensive approach to engagement using both digital and traditional measures should be worked up. In addition the importance of aligning consultations with existing activity will be critical.

2. Before this consultation, I was familiar with the area known as the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

[**Yes/** No]

3. Do you have anything else to add on engaging communities?

Greater Cambridge have identified the following areas for our own communications strategy and we would encourage the spatial framework to build these in to further developing its own approach.

Spreading the word

- Encouraging participation and engagement – explaining why the Local Plan is important and affects citizens' lives on the ground.
- Demystifying the process of creating a Local Plan, and managing expectations of what a Plan can and can't do.
- Communicating the 'big ideas' and a positive vision of the future – contributing to creating a sense of identity and inclusion.
- Ensure there is accurate and timely information accessible to all.
- Explain why difficult decisions have been made.
- 'No surprises' – no excuse for stakeholders to be surprised by the content of the draft Local Plan when published.

Creating a better Plan

- Thinking outside the box – gathering ideas we might not think of otherwise – from internal and external sources.
- Testing ideas – 'kicking the tyres' – is it fit for purpose, what kind of challenges are we likely to face in the later plan-making stages?
- Testing the detail – benefitting from wider knowledge in the community and specialist stakeholders on specific theme/policy and sites, ensuring policy detail is well drafted and effective.
- Ensuring key stakeholders buy into the policy wording and therefore support it effectively in implementation

Building the evidence base

- Providing evidence for why the draft Local Plan emerges in the form it eventually takes.
- Justifying options and the selection of options.
- Evidencing wide community and stakeholder participation – not just doing it, but being seen to be doing it.
- Providing the material for the Statement of Community Involvement.
- Feeds into Statements of Common Ground.

SECTION 7 COMMITMENT TO DATA AND EVIDENCE

1. To what extent do you agree with our proposed approach on data and evidence?

[Strongly disagree/ Disagree/ Neutral/ Agree/ **Strongly agree**]

2. Do you have anything else to add on data, evidence and digital tools?
Answer: We endorse the approach to building data, digital and evidence into the foundations of the spatial framework. However the approaches to this should be co-created with Local Authorities to ensure a standardised approach and build on existing work in this area which complements and adds to a data led approach to place a planning.

SECTION 8 DELIVERY AND FUNDING

1. To what extent do you agree with our proposed approach on delivery and funding?

[Strongly disagree/ Disagree/ **Neutral**/ Agree/ Strongly agree]

2. Do you have anything else to add on delivery and funding?

Answer: There is not enough detail to comment on this at this stage. Significant work will be required in this area to understand the challenges and opportunities and we would welcome further detail in this area.

SECTION 9 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. To what extent do you agree with our proposed approach on monitoring and evaluation?

[Strongly disagree/ Disagree/ **Neutral**/ Agree/ Strongly agree]

2. Do you have anything else to add on monitoring and evaluation?

There is not enough detail to comment on this at this stage and we would welcome further detail in this area in order for us to be able to comment further.

Question 8 in the Sustainability Appraisal

Question 1: To what extent do you agree with the key strategic issues and opportunities in the proposed scope for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Spatial Framework?
Answer: Strongly agree

Question 2: Are there any other strategic issues and/or opportunities that need to be considered in the appraisal?

Answer: Not enough detail at this stage to provide comment we would urge the Vision to align and consider all issues identified in our own SA which is detailed here. [Greater Cambridge Local Plan: First Proposals (greatercambridgeplanning.org)](greatercambridgeplanning.org)

3. Are you aware of any additional strategic data that we should take into account as part of the sustainability appraisal?

Answer: Not enough detail at this stage to provide comment we would urge the Vision to align and consider all issues identified in out own SA which is detailed here. [Greater Cambridge Local Plan: First Proposals (greatercambridgeplanning.org)](greatercambridgeplanning.org)

Question 4: Are you aware of any additional plans or programmes you think will be important to consider within the sustainability appraisal?

Answer: Not enough detail at this stage to provide comment we would urge the Vision to align and consider all issues identified in out own SA which is detailed here. [Greater Cambridge Local Plan: First Proposals (greatercambridgeplanning.org)](greatercambridgeplanning.org)

Question 5: To what extent do you agree with our approach to the Sustainability Appraisal?

Answer: Neutral