



South
Cambridgeshire
District Council

Report to:	Council	15 April 2021
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith, Leader of the Council	
Lead Officer:	Liz Watts, Chief Executive	

Oxford-Cambridge Arc - Update

Executive Summary

1. It was agreed with group leaders that Council would benefit from a regular update on the work of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and this is the first of these reports.

Recommendations

2. That Council note the report.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. Given the increasing profile and momentum of the Arc, it is important that all councillors are updated regularly on activities as they relate to the Arc geography as a whole, and to the Council in particular.

Details

4. The Arc Plenary last met on Tuesday 9th March. This is the group of all local authorities involved in the Arc, plus representatives from the LEPs (in our case the Combined Authority), the Universities (there are 9 in the Arc Universities group) and civil servants from MHCLG.
5. The main item of business was the approval of the Arc Environment Principles, which were developed under the leadership of Cllr Bridget Smith who chairs the Arc Environment Working Group. This was a key milestone for the group. The principles will now be considered at the Council's Cabinet meeting on 19 April.
6. A presentation was delivered by the lead officer at MHCLG responsible for the delivery of the Arc Spatial Framework. This is a significant piece of work initiated by the government in order to create a non-statutory spatial framework for the Arc. It is ambitious in its scope and timing, aiming to deliver a completed piece of work within 18 months. Since the plenary, officers have been engaged in one workshop with colleagues from across the Arc and MHCLG, and this work will

continue in earnest over the next few months. A key milestone for the project is to deliver an Arc Vision this Summer.

7. A presentation was delivered by Professor Iain Gray (from the Arc Universities group) on OCTAVIA, which is a virtual institute of research and development to overcome the challenges of delivering zero emissions aviation.
8. The Arc Programme and Budget were approved for the year. The programme is attached at Appendix 1. The contribution from each partner was agreed at £13,500 per year, all sums to be match funded by MHCLG. The Council has budgeted for this amount in its 2021/22 budget.

Options

9. To note the report.

Implications

10. There are no significant implications.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

11. The Arc will contribute to three of the Council's priority areas, through growing the local economy, providing increased affordable housing, and ensuring that the Arc is a Green Arc and meets the aspirational environmental standards set out in the Environment Principles.

Background Papers

n/a

Appendices

Appendix A: Arc Outline Work Programme 2021/22

Report Author:

Liz Watts – Chief Executive
Telephone: (01954) 712926