



Report to:	Council	20 May 2021
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith, Leader of the Council	
Lead Officer:	Liz Watts, Chief Executive	

Oxford-Cambridge Arc - Update

Executive Summary

1. This is the regular update on the work of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

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, and to the Council in particular.

Details

4. The Arc Leadership Executive met on 23rd April. This is the group of representative leaders from across the Arc, with Cllrs Bridget Smith, Steve County and Mayor Palmer representing Cambridgeshire.
5. There was an update from a Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Arc Unit on the spatial framework, confirming that the plan is for a 12-week consultation on the Arc Vision, starting late June. The unit are also preparing the details of what the proposed Arc Growth Body will look like and how it will work with local partners including councils, business and the universities. We have no detail on what this body will look like, what its purpose and function will be, but Government officials have confirmed they plan to have their thinking shared with local partners by July and the Body up and running by Autumn 2021. They will be sharing their thinking to date with Leaders and Chairs on 4th June.
6. The Strategy and Sponsorship Director from East West Rail attended and gave a briefing on the consultation (which is now in the public domain). He confirmed the

ambition to be a 'net zero' railway, and members of the executive stressed that this is an imperative from the outset.

7. At the meeting there were brief updates from the four working groups (Infrastructure, Economy, Environment and Place).

Options

8. To note the report.

Implications

9. There are no significant implications.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

10. 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

Report Author:

Liz Watts – Chief Executive
Telephone: (01954) 712926