



Rt Hon Michael Gove
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Dear Secretary of State

Congratulations on your reappointment as Secretary of State. I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Leadership Group and on behalf of its members to submit our proposal to formally establish a locally led pan-regional partnership for the Oxford to Cambridge region. You will recall our membership includes the vast majority of local authorities and local enterprise partnerships from across the region whilst our Board also includes the Chairs of the Arc Universities Group and our sub-national transport body England's Economic Heartland.

Following our steer from Government, which began in your previous term in office, we have agreed to work collaboratively across the region as a pan-regional partnership in pursuit of our shared economic and environmental ambitions. We have developed this partnership with support from your officials, wider stakeholders and other Government departments, and are now confirming our intention to close down the Arc Leadership Group and establish a pan-regional partnership with your support. The proposal, as set out in the papers attached, builds on our existing cross-boundary collaboration and provides a new formal partnership model with the capacity and capability to pursue environmentally sustainable, innovative and inclusive growth across the Oxford to Cambridge region.

The Oxford to Cambridge Pan-regional Partnership will bring together around twenty local partners including councils, Local Enterprise Partnerships and the Arc Universities Group. We will with your agreement progress a programme that actively supports and promotes innovation and entrepreneurial activity, including leveraging the great science and technology capabilities we have here to bring forward international investment into the UK. We will also continue the important work in delivering commitments made in our shared Environmental Principles. This includes continuing to work with Defra to further deliver against the Government's Environment Bill so that our planned growth is sustainable and brings benefits to our existing as well as future communities and environment.

Today, we seek your endorsement and support for our partnership. We have already secured a funding allocation through your department which has helped us to progress our proposal. With this submission, we seek to unlock further previously committed government funding for our region of £250,000 for this financial year and a funding commitment for the remainder of this Spending Review Period. This longer-term government investment will unlock local finance and resources from the partnership and the private sector.

There is also great opportunity for our Pan-regional Partnership to work cooperatively with England's Economic Heartland, as well as with neighbouring regions and other partnerships, including London, Western Gateway and Midlands Engine, to deliver benefits for the UK as a whole.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our proposal and I look forward to your continued support and agreement as soon as possible so that we can keep delivering against our shared objectives.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Barry Wood
Leader of the Council

