



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Pete Northover, Deputy Director**  
Oxford to Cambridge Arc and East Anglia  
Team,  
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Via Email

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Our ref: Arc Leadership Group Interim  
Funding [No31/6337].

3 November 2022

Dear Cllr Wood

**Arc Leadership Group: Interim Capacity Funding**

I am pleased to confirm that the Arc Leadership Group (ALG) has been allocated £250k interim funding to progress projects already in train and support your work considering the establishment of a pan-regional partnership (PRP) for the Oxford to Cambridge region.

This payment will be made on date 8 November to Cherwell District Council as the Accountable Body for the ALG. Enclosed is a copy of the relevant grant determination.

I have attached the work programme being supported by this grant funding at Annex A and look forward to finalising milestones and monitoring arrangements with your officials by 25 November 2022.

As we have previously discussed, the department is prepared to support an Oxford to Cambridge PRP with a further £250k for the remainder of this financial year.

Please note that receipt of the further sum of £250K is subject to:

- (i) a mid-year review, to be held this calendar year. During this review, The Department will need to be satisfied that good and sufficient progress is being demonstrated on delivering the work programme supported by this interim funding; and
- (ii) Ministers agreeing plans to establish a PRP by the end of this financial year, with formal plans for transition to be agreed with the Department at official level.

I am copying this letter to Yvonne Rees, Lead CEO ALG and Michael Furness S151 officer Cherwell District Council

Regards

Peter Northover, Deputy Director

Oxford to Cambridge Arc and East Anglia Team  
Cities and Local Growth Unit

## **Annex A: Work Programme**

<b>Proposed Work Programme</b>	<b>Programme Description</b>
<b>International Investment Prospectus and Atlas</b>	<p>Build on the recommendations of the Arc Trade &amp; Investment Plan to develop more detailed and specific propositions focussed on increased inward international trade and investment to the region.</p> <p>To drill into more locational, cluster and thematic areas/ideas for direct investment working very closely with DIT, the LEPs and promoters of such propositions developing a unique Arc HPO investment portfolio - as well as further develop advocacy material to support international liaison and trade missions (e.g. MIPIM 2023)</p>
<b>Pan-Regional Data Observatory and Innovation Hub</b>	<p>Through wide engagement with partners, this project will scope out a framework and brief for setting up a regional data and innovation hub. This hub will have the capability to hold and access a wide array of regional data to support economic, environmental, innovation and social projects as well as the capability to collect, analyse and monitor data and develop bespoke data solutions for partners over time as well as develop proposals for further external funding. The aim is for this hub to be self-financing within 5 years. It will be mindful of and work with those who already hold data in the area and agree an approach across the area.</p>
<b>Green Arc Initiatives</b>	<p>Building on the Arc wide Natural Capital valuation work and the behaviour changes that this has sparked across the Arc to go greener faster we can promote demonstration of how we can invest in the benefits that our natural assets provide to people and society across boundaries. We will support the second phase of work led by DEFRA around nature recovery, to develop a natural capital investment plan for the Arc as well as next phase work on the Integrated Water Management Framework. We will explore the application of Green Finance investment in Arc projects.</p>

**Pan-Regional Partnership Communications**

Developing a brand identity for the pan-regional partnership. Building a clear communications and engagement plan to include: launch of the pan-regional partnership with a clear narrative as to its purpose and priorities; develop dedicated communications network and channels for PRP work programme and engagement activity, develop assets and promotional material supporting the internationalisation work as well as set up the first OxCam Conference in Spring/Summer 2023.