



**Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities**

Rt Hon Michael Gove MP

*Secretary of State for Levelling up Housing &
Communities*

Minister for Intergovernmental Relations

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Cllr Barry Wood
Leader
Cherwell District Council
Bodicote House, White Post Road
Bodicote, Banbury
Oxfordshire
OX15 4AA

18 January 2023

Dear Cllr Wood,

Thank you for your letter dated 31 October setting out the Oxford-Cambridge Arc Leadership Group's proposal for formally establishing a pan-regional partnership as your preferred model for regional collaboration from the Levelling Up White Paper.

I understand that the Group has worked to agree these arrangements over many months, and I would like to thank you and your members for the dedication you have shown in pursuing the right tools to deliver for the communities you serve.

I welcome these proposals and the initial priorities for the partnership, recognising that realising the region's economic potential will be supported by a strong regional brand that can compete for investment on the global stage. By bringing together public and private sector partners under independent leadership in the pursuit of sustainable growth, I believe the partnership will be well placed to shape and deliver on the economic vision for the region.

I also recognise your continued focus on the environment and sustainability. The 25-year Environment Plan remains central to this Government's ambitions to leave our environment in a better state than we found it and I welcome your continued collaboration with Defra and the Environment Agency to test and embed its principles across the region.

I am therefore pleased to confirm my support for the establishment of an Oxford to Cambridge Pan-Regional Partnership by 31 March 2023. Subject to annual business cases, I am prepared to support your partnership with up to £2.5 million in total over the remainder of this Spending Review period.

Thank you again for your continued collaboration across the region and I look forward to hearing about your work and how it is delivering for your communities.

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