

Could the ARC Spatial Framework be a new strategic planning model nationally?

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The Ox-Cam Spatial Framework: a new approach to Strategic Planning



“..the Duty to Cooperate test would be removed (although further consideration will be given to the way in which strategic cross-boundary issues, such as major infrastructure or strategic sites, can be adequately planned for, including the scale at which plans are best prepared in areas with significant strategic challenges)”



*“We recognise that **leadership and effective coordination** is important in order to deliver our ambition for the Arc. The Government has supported the development of **strong and accountable coordination** mechanisms, both at central government level and at the local level. In addition, we will ensure that independent advice and leadership is available to challenge decision-makers and provide fresh ideas. These improved ways of working will ensure that the opportunities and potential of the area can be successfully harnessed to benefit and support local communities while retaining **appropriate democratic accountability.**”*

Can the Ox-Cam Arc provide a new model for other places?

What are the national objectives?

Support green recovery and growth with more integrated approach to long term spatial, infrastructure and economic priorities and a focus on 'levelling-up' the country and maximising the economic potential of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc.

Significant uplift in housing delivery with a target of 300,000 new homes per annum and a focus on the largest towns and cities in England to reflect the Government's commitment to levelling up and to enable regeneration and renewal of the urban areas as part of the post COVID-19 recovery.

Better alignment between national and local infrastructure investment priorities and funding and delivery through local planning system.

A simpler, faster and more predictable planning system with a more effective approach for addressing strategic and cross boundary matters.

What does the Arc Framework aim to deliver?

A systemic and integrated place-based approach to supporting long term sustainable growth, with a clear understanding of how national priorities should be implemented within the local context.

Stronger place leadership built around a shared vision for 'good' growth and clear mutual benefits, developed around agreed guiding principles and ground rules.

A better relationship between national and local government with agreed long term priorities and delivery responsibilities, including stronger contract between different tiers of government and national delivery agencies and strategic partners.

Stable conditions for supporting long term growth through resilient governance structures that are capable of responding and adapting to change over time.

A faster, simpler and more predictable planning system with Spatial Framework elevated to national policy status, reducing risk of challenge.

A responsive strategic planning geography using four 'building blocks' that can be used to scale up or down depending on the matters being addressed.

Dedicated strategic planning capability and capacity (through Government Team) playing critical 'ringmaster' role.

Can this be replicated elsewhere?

YES, through a new approach to strategic planning & growth frameworks (building on existing practice where possible).

YES, but would need to be done through strategic partnerships with clear strategic planning powers and responsibility for delivery (including fiscal accountability).

YES, provided new strategic planning framework is signed off by government and can therefore act as a contract between central/local government, government agencies & other strategic partners (e.g. LEPs, STBs).

YES, provided the decision-making structures are robust enough to manage risks and be resilient to change (of individual partners or organisations).

YES, there is no reason why strategic frameworks can't be signed off by government and therefore be elevated within the national policy framework (as opposed to being developed as part of the statutory development plan).

YES, but it is important to have spatial geography that allows the scaling up and down i.e. it is capable of giving effect to national policies but also reflects local context.

YES, but the resources would sit within local government rather than central government and would require significant investment in building (multi-disciplined) strategic planning capacity.

Strategic Planning/ Growth Frameworks and Growth Boards (June 2021)

1. Ox –Cam Arc Spatial Framework*



Spatial Development Strategies (statutory)**

2. Liverpool City Region Spatial Development Strategy



3. The London Plan

4. West of England Spatial Development Strategy

Strategic Planning/ Growth Frameworks (non-statutory) and/or Growth Boards



5. Buckinghamshire Growth Board

6. Cambridge & Peterborough CA Spatial Framework

7. Hertfordshire Growth Board/ SW Herts JSP

8. Kent & Medway Growth & Infrastructure Framework

9. Leicester & Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan

10. Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework/ Strategic Planning Member Forum

11. Greater Nottingham Planning Partnership

12. Oxfordshire Growth Board / Strategic Vision & JSP

13. Somerset Growth Board / Growth Plan

14. Association of South Essex LAs / Joint Strategic Plan***

15. Partnership for South Hampshire / Spatial Position Statement

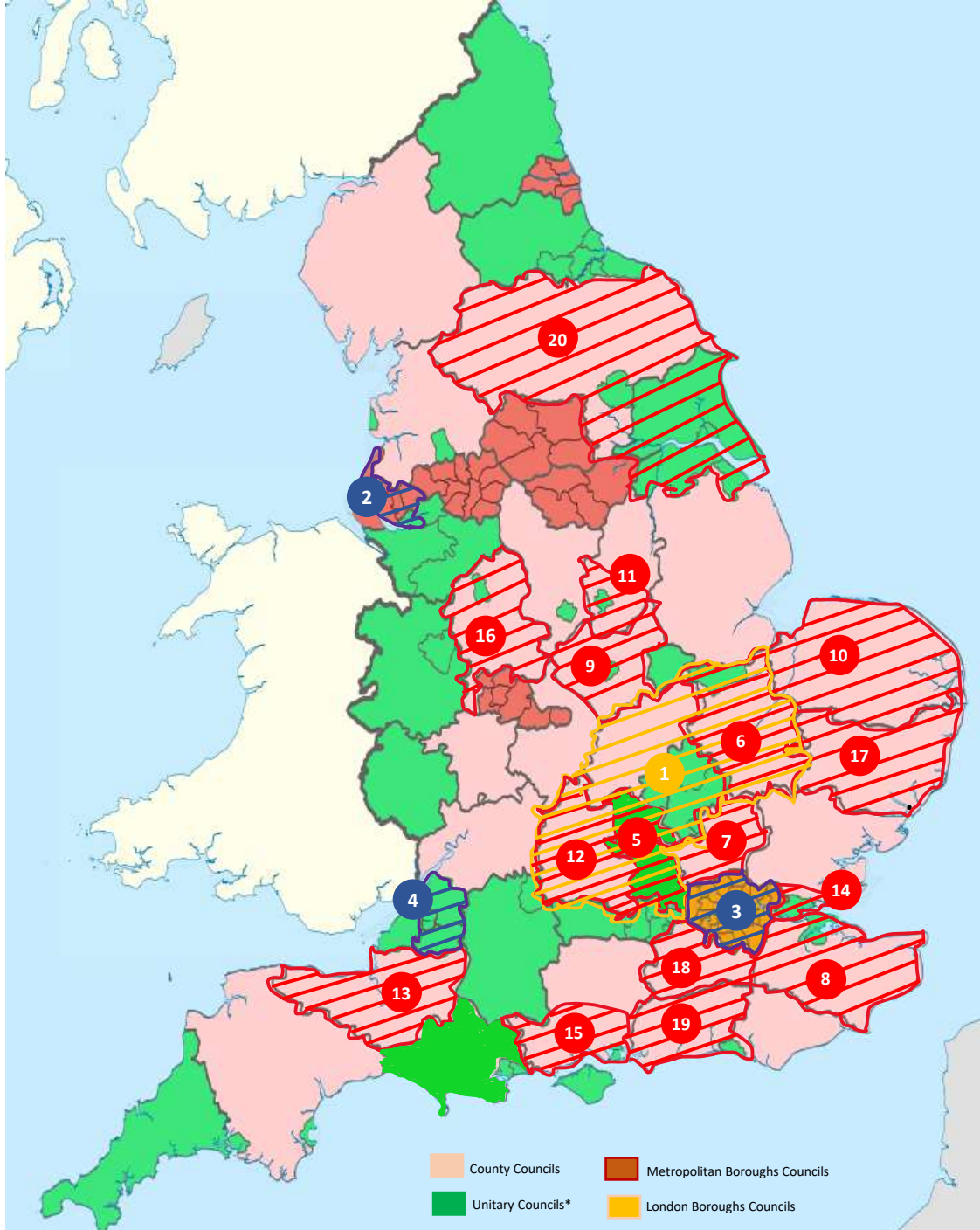
16. Staffordshire Strategic Infrastructure Plan

17. Suffolk Growth Partnership / Growth Framework

18. One Surrey Growth Board (& Surrey Future Steering Board) / Surrey 2050 Place Ambition

19. West Sussex & Greater Brighton Strategic Planning Partnership / Local Strategic Statement

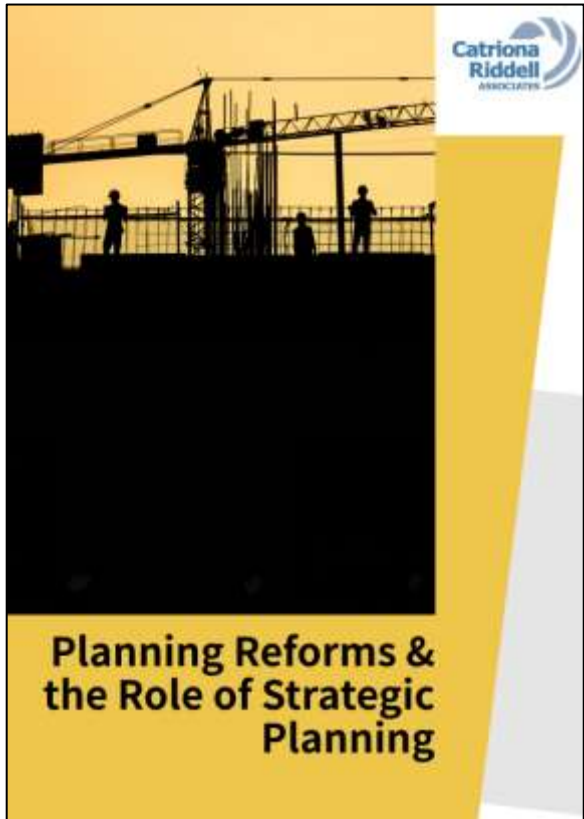
20. York, North Yorkshire, East Riding and Hull Spatial Framework



* Nationally designated

** Not all Combined Authorities are required to prepare SDS

*** South Essex also sits within the newly established Thames Estuary Growth Board which includes parts of North Kent and East London



Thank you!

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[Zooming Out: The Benefits of Strategic Planning - County Councils Network](#)