



OXFORD -
CAMBRIDGE
ARC

Back to the future - planning for the long-run: The Arc as a test case

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The Arc is a unique and exciting proposition. It's emerging spatial framework is at the forefront of policy thinking and key to unlocking its full potential locally, nationally and globally...



Why the Oxford-Cambridge Arc?

Hypothesis that the Arc is not optimising its economic, social or environmental assets:

- **Spatial configuration** – i.e. polycentric settlements
- **Complex institutional landscape** – sub-optimal decision making
- **Co-ordination failures** – vertical and horizontal
- Sub-optimal [short-term focus] investment and delivery pipeline

Compounded by significant policy challenges:

- i. Housing
- ii. Connectivity
- iii. Environment

Why a government-led approach to planning?

Hypothesis that via local and national collaboration we can deliver better economic, environmental and social outcomes for existing and new communities in the Arc by addressing:

- the need for **coordination across boundaries**;
- the need for **integration across domains** – the economy, housing, the environment, transport and infrastructure.
- The need for **scale, efficiency and impact** to facilitate smarter, long-term investment in strategic infrastructure to support growth

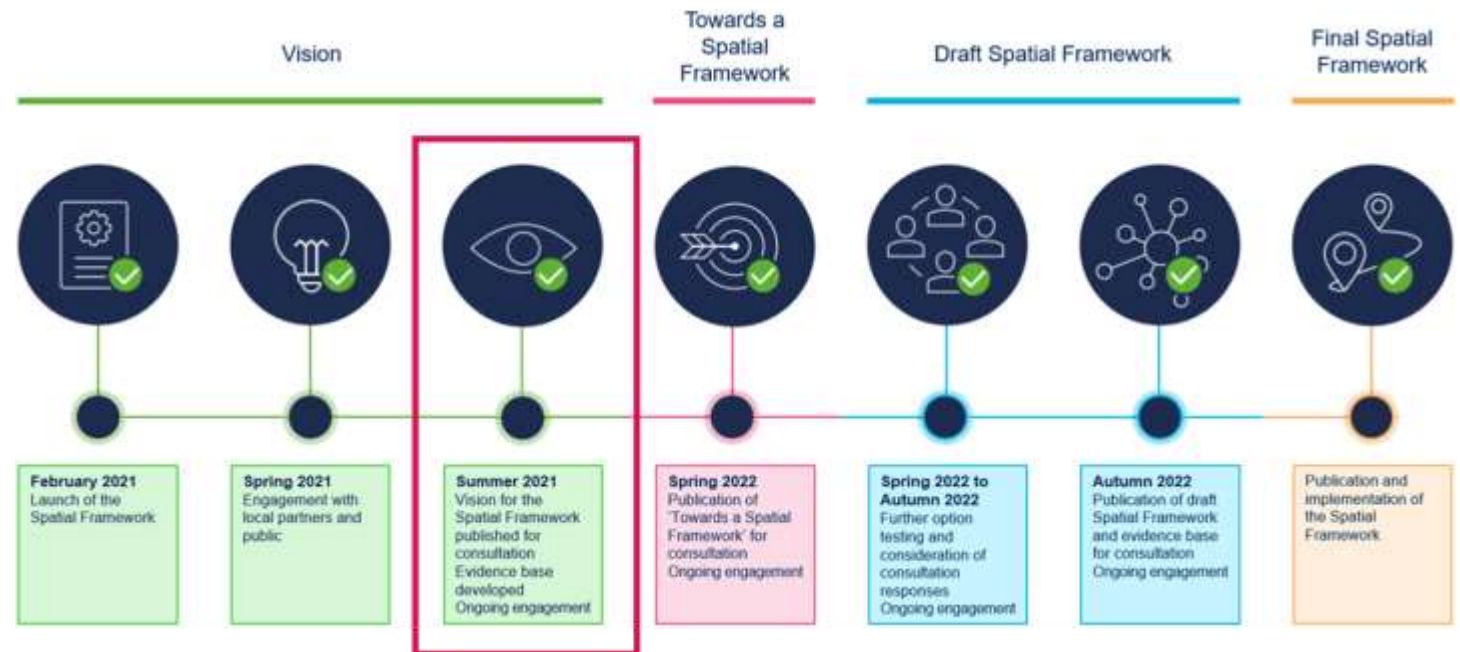
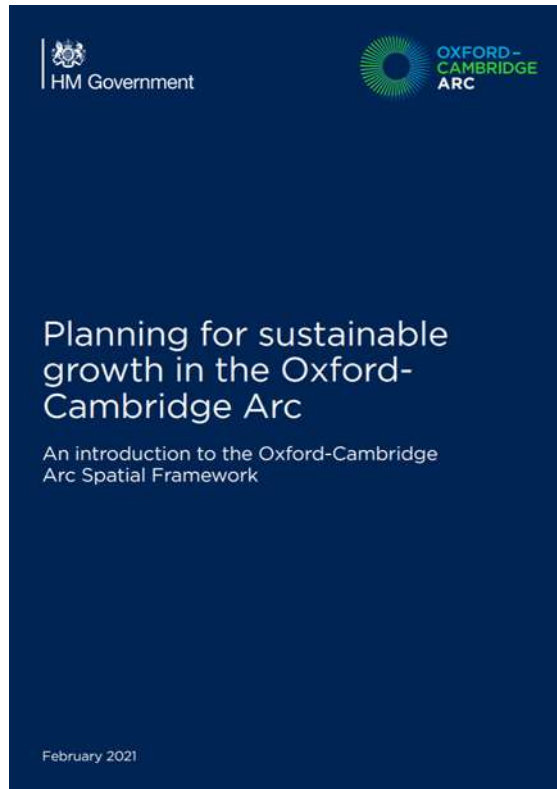
This is an opportunity for us to work with communities and local partners to develop a plan that will:

1. help to **make the area a brilliant place to live, work and travel in** – for existing residents and future communities alike;
2. support **lasting improvements to the environment, green infrastructure and biodiversity**; and
3. support **sustainable economic growth** across the area.

And change how we do things: Developing a series of **tools and working practices** that are open, transparent and transformational



In February we launched our first document, in July we will begin our vision consultation



The work of the Spatial Framework is underpinned by a series of principles to guide and inform what comes next



Collaborative

Adaptable

Long-term

Integrated

Inclusive

Digital-first

Evidence-based

Sustainable

Quality

Add value

The Framework has been designed to make a **Real Difference**: Positioning the Arc as an important economic asset backed by HMG and transforming how we plan for and deliver long-run growth



- **Pioneering and prioritising the “Green” Arc** by adopting natural capital approaches, leading England as the early adopter and implementer of the 25 year environment plan at a regional level and embedding a fully integrated Sustainability Appraisal, meeting SEA and HRA requirements, that drives all decision making for the framework.
- **Greater relevance on understanding patterns of economic growth spatially**, including scale and long-run expectations, barriers, better understanding sectoral trends and how we plan for employment land/commercial growth opportunities, alongside explicit spatial expressions.
- **Support infrastructure investment of Government** as a national policy. Whitehall Departments and their agencies/delivery vehicles will need to set out how they will support and deliver against this plan.
- **National planning policy status** will allow it to have weight in the planning system for guiding local plan production and in decision making. It will sit alongside the National Planning Policy Framework and better help local planning authorities to interpret and apply local planning policy.
- **National transport policy status** will allow it to guide the plans prepared by local transport authorities. Transport policies will sit alongside land use policies in the Spatial Framework in a fully integrated single land use and infrastructure plan.

It is more than just a plan...rather a transformative approach to place-making and investment...



- **Creating an institution** – the Growth Body – to lead and overcome inertia of co-ordination failure and deliver “more than the sum” of its parts.
- Utilising **deep collaboration** across our agenda both horizontally and vertically – whether on individual policies, within Whitehall or at a local level. Whether with councils, universities, businesses or residents.
- Better **integrating and aligning major policy agendas** to identify synergies, maximise and realise wider benefits – more
- Embed place and users in our national deliberations on a place:
 - In Whitehall this is taking the form of new structured and ways of working on a place-based agenda bringing together a consistent approach to collaboration under MHCLG leadership and departments with infrastructure interests, Inter-Ministerial Groups and regular discussion as part of the Prime Minister’s National Economic Recovery Taskforce.
 - Locally, supporting X-Arc collaboration on policy design with universities and businesses and local authorities via the Arc Leaders Group, Arc Universities Group

But importantly we are pro-development and action.

