

Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc:

Creating a vision

Q1: What place could it be? What words come to mind?

Peterborough CC looks forward to engaging with Govt on a vision for the Arc, a vision which places the environment (natural/historic/built environments), communities and prosperity at its heart.

Q2: If you can, we would love you to tell us more about your vision for the Arc to 2050.

Peterborough CC sees a vision of the Arc as an international exemplar in environmental innovation and zero carbon living, where communities (new and old) live healthy lifestyles and economic opportunity is equal and commonplace, and with prosperity not just measured in financial terms but in wellbeing terms.

Q3: How do you feel overall about the future of the Arc? What are your hopes and fears?

Peterborough CC consider the Arc to be a huge opportunity; an opportunity which could be taken (our hope) or lost (our fear).

Q4: What do you think are the most important things that it needs to do, as a strategic plan, to achieve this? Work at an Arc-wide level to tackle shared issues/opportunities on the Environment; Economy; Connectivity and growth; Place-making; and Supporting monitoring and delivery?

Peterborough CC consider all of the above are important.

Q5: If there is anything you would like to add, we would love you to tell us.

Nil

The Environment

Green spaces, nature and biodiversity

Q1: Making sure the natural environment is protected, restored and improved. For example, improving new and existing green spaces. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/~~Very Important]

Q2: Making sure the most is made of the natural environment and that all people can have access to it. For example, making improvements to woodlands, wetland, green space and water and making sure people can visit them if they want to. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/~~Very Important]

Q3: Making sure new growth leaves the environment in a better state than before. For example, keeping land in its natural state, and making it more wild, where appropriate. [~~Not important~~/~~Less important~~/~~Neutral~~/~~Important~~/~~Very Important~~]

Q4: Anything else to add about your vision for green spaces, nature, and biodiversity?

Peterborough CC would like to see the Arc put in place specific commitments relating to nature recovery in the area, including how new development must facilitate such recovery. Devolving powers on ELMS and other funds should be explored. A clear commitment, and delivery mechanism, to ‘double nature/trees/re-wilding (or similar)’ should be included. Locally specific, the Arc could designate the John Clare Countryside as an Environmental Opportunity Area (proposed boundary of such area already established locally).

Climate change resilience and net zero

Q5: Making sure new development helps to achieve net zero carbon at an Arc level towards national net zero targets. For example, through good design, sustainable travel choices, renewable energy and trapping carbon. [~~Not important~~/~~Less important~~/~~Neutral~~/~~Important~~/~~Very Important~~]

Q6: Making sure that new development can respond to the current and future effects of climate change. For example, through new carbon emissions, water use, water disposal and renewable energy targets [~~Not important~~/~~Less important~~/~~Neutral~~/~~Important~~/~~Very Important~~]

Q7: Anything else to add about your vision for climate change and/ or the contribution to net zero?

Peterborough CC considers that the Arc should go well beyond national building regulations, a framework for truly net zero development going forward (not just ‘net zero ready’). National on-shore wind energy policy should be withdrawn within the Arc area, replaced by sensible criteria based policy. The Arc could become a world leading industrial area for the manufacturing and trialling of clean energy technology, a national leader in development of green skills (for new build and retrofit).

Air quality and waste

Q8: Making sure new development helps to improve air quality within the Arc. For example, through high quality design, low emission zones and sustainable transport. [~~Not important~~/~~Less important~~/~~Neutral~~/~~Important~~/~~Very Important~~]

Q9: Taking a combined approach to air quality across the Arc. For example, through being careful about where each land uses should go, supporting journeys via public transport and active travel and enhancing green spaces and routes across the area. [~~Not important~~/~~Less important~~/~~Neutral~~/~~Important~~/~~Very Important~~]

Q10: Making better use of resources and managing waste. For example, promoting the re-use of materials, and protecting and improving soil quality and minerals. [~~Not important~~/~~Less important~~/~~Neutral~~/~~Important~~/~~Very Important~~]

Q11: Anything else to add about your vision for air quality and waste?

Peterborough CC would welcome a clear statement supporting the prioritisation of walking /cycling over vehicle travel in all new major infrastructure plans / road upgrade programmes / town planning / transport planning.

Water

Q12: Promoting a combined approach to managing water across the Arc, through protecting water resources, improving water quality and reducing the risk of flooding. For example, treating wastewater, improving water storage, and reusing surface runoff. [~~Not important/~~ Less important/~~Neutral/~~ Important/~~Very Important~~]

Q13: Making sure new development reduces existing flood risk and is resilient to future flooding. For example, through tree planting and multifunctional sustainable drainage. [~~Not important/~~ Less important/~~Neutral/~~ Important/~~Very Important~~]

Q14: Improving water availability and cutting the risk of drought. For example, through new sustainable water resources and infrastructure, and measures which reduce water use. [~~Not important/~~ Less important/~~Neutral/~~ Important/~~Very Important~~]

Q15: Anything else to add about your vision for water?

Peterborough CC considers that the Arc framework needs to prepare for the unpredictable, as the climate changes. New infrastructure therefore needs to assume 'worst case' scenarios, and build in additional capacity (rather than 'just enough'). Where new infrastructure is planned (eg reservoir) wider opportunities must be taken (eg for biodiversity or as an energy store). Vision should include net gain for water courses, with a minimum 'good quality' WFD rating for all watercourses.

The Economy

Education and training

Q1: Making sure the Arc keeps growing as a place of educational excellence, partnership and research. For example, through growth which helps existing universities and colleges. [~~Not important/~~ Less important/~~Neutral/~~ Important/~~Very Important~~]

Q2: Making sure the economic benefits of growth are felt by all communities within the Arc. For example, through putting new education and training facilities in places where more people can easily get to go to them. [~~Not important/~~ Less important/~~Neutral/~~ Important/~~Very Important~~]

Q3: Anything else to add about your vision for education and training?

Peterborough CC considers that the Arc should explicitly support the delivery of a new university at Peterborough, as well as a programme more generally to 'level up' skills and education attainment across the area.

Jobs and businesses

Q4: Making sure that the Arc keeps growing as a place for business, science and technology, and innovation. For example, through putting these types of new workspaces in places where they can make the most of cross-sector collaboration. [~~Not important/~~ Less important/~~Neutral/~~ Important/~~Very Important~~]

Q5: Making sure that existing industries keep growing within the Arc. For example, through putting industries in the best places to suit their needs [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q6: Making sure the Arc builds upon and grows its skills, expertise and capabilities. For example, through making sure people can get around easily to bring the right people to the right job locations. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q7: Making sure that the right types of buildings are provided in the Arc so that businesses can keep growing as well as supporting the green economy. For example, through building new flexible and adaptable workspaces meet the needs of a range of different businesses of different sizes. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q8: Anything else to add about your vision for jobs and businesses?

Peterborough is one of four environment cities and has pioneered 'circular economy' ideas (with international recognition). It has an exceptionally strong environment sector. The Arc should explicitly acknowledge, support and strengthen Peterborough's such sector.

Connectivity and Infrastructure

Infrastructure

Q1: Making sure planning takes a combined approach to new development by providing the infrastructure and services required at the right time to support growth. For example, by planning for the need for utilities (e.g. water, energy, waste) and community infrastructure (e.g. schools, hospitals, GP surgeries). [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q2: Making sure new development makes the most of existing resources. For example, through making sure that materials are reused, renewable energy supplies are used, and waste is properly planned for. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q3: Making sure that digital infrastructure is put in at the same time as other development takes place. For example, speeding up the fitting of high-speed broadband to support home-based work and help new ways of learning. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q4: Anything else to add about your vision for infrastructure?

Peterborough CC considers that there is a real danger that new infrastructure, especially transport, is focussed too much down a very narrow single geographic path from Oxford to Cambridge. It is essentially that all communities, and especially larger ones such as Peterborough, are properly connected into any 'central corridor' proposal.

New development

Q5: Making sure growth within the Arc is placed around areas with better transport links. For example, through having more development around stations and bus routes, supported by cycling and walking tracks. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q6: Making sure new development cuts down the need to travel around the local area. For example, through providing safe and easy walking and cycling routes to town centres, shops and schools [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q7: Making sure new developments reduce existing and future infrastructure demand and resources used. For example, making sure that designs leave enough space for existing and future measures which reduce energy and water use, and cut down on waste. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q8: Making sure sustainable transport principles are included in the design of new developments. For example, by designing new developments in a way that enables people to walk or cycle all or part of their journeys. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q9: Anything else to add about new developments in the context of connectivity and infrastructure?

Peterborough CC considers that planning powers should be strengthened to refuse poorly designed developments - focusing instead on the inclusion of high quality walking/cycling infrastructure and public transport options.

Place-making

Location of growth

Q1: Making sure new developments are built in the most sustainable locations, for the environment, the economy and communities. For example, by developing brownfield redevelopment and making sure they have good access to town centres, shops and schools. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q2: Anything else to add about your vision for location of growth?

Peterborough CC considers that the location of new growth needs to be truly evidence-led, based on a land-led approach to identify the best use for land for all users of land: nature, agriculture, historic environment, infrastructure (including flood risk) and development. This evidence led approach may lead to large scale new settlements, based on sustainability principles, modern technology and infrastructure; rather than further 'adding on' development to all existing settlements.

Homes in your area

Q3: Ensuring the right types of housing are delivered in the right locations to meet the needs of both renters and buyers. For example, family houses, first-time buyers, specialist housing, student accommodation and opportunities for people to build their own homes. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q4: Increasing the amount and availability of affordable homes within the Arc. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q5: Anything else to add about your vision for homes in your area?

Peterborough CC considers that new homes (and their affordability / energy efficiency/accessibility) should also be linked to retrofitting existing homes. There is a real risk of a 'two tier' society, with new homeowners living in very low cost (to run) homes, whilst existing homeowners live in very expensive (to run) homes. A

widescale retrofit programme of energy efficiency measures needs to be directly linked to new home development.

Design of new developments and streets

Q6: Making sure a coordinated approach is taken to the design and delivery of new developments to ensure they are supported by new and existing infrastructure. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q7: Making sure the environment and sustainability is at the heart of new developments. For example, by improving the built and natural environment, making sure development complements surrounding areas, and is supported by the right level of infrastructure. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q8: Making sure there is the right mix of uses in new developments to help make high quality and thriving new places. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q9: Making sure new developments help support healthy lifestyles for existing and future communities. For example, through walking and cycling, high quality green spaces, and accessible streets. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q10: Making sure new developments promote resilience to climate change. For example, through green roofs, managing surface water, tree planting, storing rainwater and new green spaces. [~~Not important/ Less important/ Neutral/ Important/ Very Important~~]

Q11: Anything else to add about your vision for the design of new developments and streets?

Peterborough CC considers that poor quality designed developments are difficult to refuse planning permission, primarily for two reasons: local authorities lack the skills and tools to determine what is 'poor/good quality'; and, second, the planning inspectorate exceptionally rarely supports councils which refuse poor quality design. The Arc framework needs to provide the tools, and back decision makers refusing poor design.

Our commitment to engaging communities

Q1: How can government engage the public better? [Communication materials/ Social listening/ Focus groups/ 1-1 interviews and experiments/ Ethnography/ Citizen assemblies and citizen juries/ Other types of engagement]

All of the above

Q2: Before this consultation, I was familiar with the area known as the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. [Yes/ No]

Yes

Q3: Do you have anything else to add on engaging communities?

Public engagement is extremely time consuming, and requires a clear engagement plan and resources. 'Tick box' exercise can disillusion participants. The 'not important' to 'very important' basis of this consultation was ill thought through. Peterborough CC is very concerned at the lack of transparency / independent examination of the Arc Framework prior to adoption.

Our commitment to data, evidence and digital tools

Q1: To what extent do you agree with our proposed approach on data and evidence?
[Strongly disagree/ Disagree/ Neutral/ Agree/ Strongly Agree]

Agree

Q2: Do you have anything else to add on data, evidence and digital tools?

Peterborough CC agrees that a more data / digital based approach is appropriate, but to be effective it needs long term commitment to keep it up to date and managed. Local authorities need the resources to effectively make use of such data – at present, local authority use of data is generally very poor, with access to GIS, for example, very limited.

How we will monitor and deliver the Framework

Q1: to what extent do you agree with our proposed approach on delivery and funding?
[Strongly disagree/ Disagree/ Neutral/ Agree/ Strongly Agree]

Neutral

Q2: Do you have anything else to add on delivery and funding?

Peterborough CC considers that delivery and funding should have a clear focus on 'levelling up' within the Arc, so that investment is not concentrated in the few (as has been the case). Too often, investment flows to already overheating economic areas, rather than those areas with considerable potential (eg Peterborough).

Monitoring and evaluation

Q1: To what extent do you agree with our proposed approach on monitoring and evaluation?
[Strongly disagree/ Disagree/ Neutral/ Agree/ Strongly agree]

Neutral

Q2: Do you have anything else to add on monitoring and evaluation?

Nil

Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

Q1: To what extent do you agree with the key strategic issues and opportunities in the proposed scope for the Sustainability Appraisal of the Spatial Framework? [Strongly disagree/ Disagree/ Neutral/ Agree/ Strongly agree]

Neutral

Q2: Are there any other strategic issues and/or opportunities that need to be considered in the appraisal?

Nil

Q3: Are you aware of any additional strategic data that we should take into account as part of the sustainability appraisal?

Nil

Q4: Are you aware of any additional plans or programmes you think will be important to consider within the sustainability appraisal?

The proposed 'land use framework for Cambridgeshire-Peterborough', shortly to be launched by the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission (FFCC), should be monitored for its relevance/assistance.

The Historic Environment Records (HER) provide strategic data which are essential to set out a comprehensive baseline. Without this information, the baseline currently set-out in Creating a vision for the Oxford Cambridge-Arc document is not sufficiently informed for the purpose of developing a Spatial Framework. It is therefore important to recognise both the value of the information maintained and enhanced by the HERs within the Arc, and the essential role the HERs play in dissemination of information, outreach and education.

Q5: To what extent do you agree with our approach to the SA? [Strongly disagree/ Disagree/ Neutral/ Agree/ Strongly agree]

Neutral