

Oxford-Cambridge Arc Unit
Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

please reply to:
Roger Blake
70 Dynevor Road
Stoke Newington
London
N16 0DX

roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk

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Dear Sir / Madam,

Priorities for Oxford-Cambridge Arc Spatial Framework

Railfuture is Britain's leading and longest-established national independent voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for a better railway across a bigger network for passengers, and freight users, to support economic (housing and productivity) growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities. We seek to influence decision makers at local, regional and national levels to implement pro-rail policies in development and transport planning.

Creating the Vision for the Arc

1 What kind of place could it be? What words come to mind?

Sustainable Connected Better transport Thriving economy Better place.

4 What do you think are the most important things that the Spatial Framework needs to do, as a strategic plan, to make the most of the area's unique potential for economic growth to 2050 and beyond? Work at an Arc-wide level to tackle shared issues / opportunities on:
Economy Connectivity and growth Place-making

Connectivity and Infrastructure

Infrastructure

Thinking about your vision for the future of the area, how important is it that the Spatial Framework focuses on:

1 Making sure planning takes a combined approach to new development by providing the infrastructure and services required at the right time to support growth.

Very important

2 Making sure new development makes the most of existing resources.

Very important

3 Making sure that digital infrastructure is put in at the same time as other development takes place.

Very important

New development

Thinking about your vision for the future of the area, how important is it that the Spatial Framework focuses on:

1 Making sure growth within the Arc is placed around areas with better transport links.

Very important

www.railfuture.org.uk www.railfuturescotland.org.uk www.railfuturewales.org.uk
www.railwatch.org.uk

2 Making sure new development cuts down the need to travel around the local area.

Important

3 Making sure new developments reduce existing and future infrastructure demand and resources used.

Important

4 Making sure sustainable transport principles are included in the design of new developments.

Very important

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

Not being constrained by known existing and currently-planned rail infrastructure, but anticipating the opportunities for new developments in areas which have reasonable prospects of new rail infrastructure in the medium-longer-term eg The Windrush Line in West Oxfordshire supporting growth at Eynsham / Salt Cross, Witney and Carterton, and in West Suffolk at Haverhill via South Cambridgeshire.

Getting around

Thinking about your vision for the future of the area, how important is it that the Spatial Framework focuses on:

1 Creating better transport connections across the Arc and making sure they are provided in a way which supports sustainable new growth.

Very important

2 Making sure there are more opportunities for active travel such as walking and cycling across the Arc.

Important

3 Making sure that there is the right form of public transport in the right areas across the Arc and can be used by all travellers, including people with any particular needs.

Important

4 Cutting down on the impact of cars and other private vehicles within the Arc.

Very important

Place-making

Location of growth

Thinking about your vision for the future of the area, how important is it that the Spatial Framework focuses on:

1 Making sure new developments are built in the most sustainable locations, for the environment, the economy and communities.

Very important

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

As with the previous comment about new developments in the context of connectivity and infrastructure, not being confined to the currently 'most sustainable locations' but anticipating additional locations which could be sustainable with the right infrastructure, especially rail transport, interventions.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Blake BA, MRTPI (Rtd), MTPS
Railfuture
Director for Infrastructure & Networks

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