



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
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Delivering ambitious housing growth in the Cambridge–Milton Keynes–Oxford Corridor

Dear all,

The Government believes that the corridor between Cambridge and Oxford has the potential to be a globally significant economy. A combination of innovation, entrepreneurship and highly-skilled workers has established it as one of the most productive and fastest growing areas in the UK. It also includes some of the least affordable housing markets in the country.

The National Infrastructure Commission has stated that realising its full potential as a world class economic hub would require delivery of up to 1 million new homes here by 2050. The Government welcomes this ambition. Last year, we set out a significant programme of investment in infrastructure, housing and business to support it.

Realising the ambition of 1 million homes here will require additional action from central and local partners. This action includes Government's planning reforms, our national programmes such as the Housing Infrastructure Fund, the forthcoming national prospectus inviting proposals for locally-led new garden communities, and further work to understand the potential for housing growth across the corridor.

Government will also soon begin detailed analysis to explore potential locations for new settlements across the corridor, their alignment with transport infrastructure, and any environmental considerations.

Therefore, we now invite local authorities from across the corridor to bring forward ambitious proposals for transformational housing growth, including new settlements. Proposals should be led by the relevant local authority, working closely with partners including Local Enterprise Partnerships, universities and colleges, landowners, businesses, and others. Where appropriate, these should build on any housing deal discussions that are already underway. They should focus on:

- **Economic rationale:** how new settlements will support job creation and economic growth; any propositions involving existing or new anchor institutions or industries.
- **Transport and other infrastructure:** connections to existing and planned transport networks; potential for new transport schemes; requirements for other forms of infrastructure to support housing growth (healthcare, utilities, education, etc); key challenges (inc. funding and planning).
- **Geography and land:** understanding potential locations; availability of land including ownership and physical and legal constraints; factoring environmental considerations into any proposals.
- **Delivery:** proposed scale and pace of delivery; deliverability and commercial viability.
- **Partnerships:** how local authorities will work together and with other key partners; the role of central government.
- **Funding:** how proposals could be funded, including the role of private finance.

Along with colleagues across government and corridor champion Iain Stewart MP, I want to see swift action. I know this feeling is shared across the corridor. Therefore, I would welcome your proposals by Friday 14 September. Following this, I would be keen to discuss the most ambitious proposals. My officials will be in touch to discuss this further and stand ready to support you throughout this process.

I am sending this letter to the leaders of all local authorities in the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor, and copying it to partners including Local Enterprise Partnerships, England's Economic Heartland, universities and colleges across the corridor.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kit Malthouse". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

KIT MALTHOUSE MP