



Secretary of State
Department for Transport
Great Minster House
33 Horseferry Road
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EEH Business Unit
c/o Buckinghamshire Council
Walton Street
Aylesbury
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30 September 2021

Dear Secretary of State

England's Economic Heartland's Spending Review 2021 submission

I am pleased to submit to you England's Economic Heartland's investment proposition for the forthcoming Spending Review.

The Heartland is a net contributor to the Exchequer. The region's strengths in science and technology innovation, our universities and historic landscape make it a global operator, representing Britain's interests and growth opportunities on a national and international scale.

The region includes the entirety of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, a national government priority. In July 2021, the government stated that the Oxford-Cambridge Arc had the 'potential to be one of the most prosperous, innovative and sustainable economic areas in the world, and can make a major contribution to national economic recovery as we seek to build back better from the impact of COVID-19'. However, as acknowledged by the government, challenges with the region's transport system are 'holding back' its potential.

Investment in infrastructure and connectivity will support the delivery of local plans and lever benefits that stretch far beyond our region's boundaries.

It will improve productivity rates which will enable the Heartland to compete for 'Global Britain' on an international scale with places such as Silicon Valley.

And it can play a key role in government's levelling-up agenda. The return on government's investment is not only required for national levelling-up but will also unlock economic opportunities for our residents across our region, where there are significant pockets of both urban and rural deprivation. Improved connectivity will allow people to find employment in labour markets which were previously inaccessible and/or too expensive to live in, while the sustainable housing growth it supports will open more choice in where people live.

As the region's sub-national transport body, our submission draws on our transport strategy 'Connecting People, Transforming Journeys', published in February 2021. The strategy is a

vision-led, evidence-based plan agreed by our partners as the framework for investing and planning the region's transport system over the next 30 years.

Our submission sets out the investment opportunities that are required to unlock the region's potential, as a major contributor to national economic recovery. It will also ensure the area remains an exemplar for the UK's world-leading decarbonisation plans.

It includes our immediate infrastructure priorities which require capital funding. We have also identified the required revenue funding which will allow EEH and its partners to develop the schemes which will realise our shared ambitions for the Heartland.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Wenham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cllr Richard Wenham
Chair
England's Economic Heartland