



Department
for Transport

Councillor Emily Smith
Chair, Oxfordshire Growth Board

Baroness Vere of Norbiton
Minister for Roads, Buses and Places

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Dear Councillor Smith,

Thank you for your letter of 28 September in your capacity as the Chair of the Oxfordshire Growth Board, requesting an update on the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway.

The Government is clear that the Oxford to Cambridge Arc presents a unique opportunity for it to work with partners to deliver a transformational economic legacy, with a focus on quality, connected and sustainable placemaking. This includes ensuring that the need for all necessary infrastructure, including strategic roads, is fully assessed and where necessary provided for.

As you are aware, in March the Government paused the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway project. This is while we consider how roads investment, alongside other transport investment, can best support the Government's ambition for the Oxford to Cambridge Arc, and benefit the people who live and work there.

I recognise the important role that the Oxfordshire Plan 2050 and Economic Prospectus have in achieving our ambitions for the Arc, alongside the other plans and strategies led by local partners to which you refer. To support this and other work, the Government is therefore prioritising its work on the approach to delivering the necessary transport infrastructure in the Arc. I will write again more fully, including in respect of the position of the Expressway project, in due course.

Thank you for taking the time to write with these concerns.

*Yours,
Charlotte*

BARONESS VERE OF NORBITON