

Richard Fuller MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

14th March 2023

Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
11 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

Dear Jeremy

Alternatives for Sustainable Economic Growth in the OxCam Arc

The communities and businesses that comprise the OxCam Arc represent some of the greatest potential for sustainable economic growth in the United Kingdom. Internationally recognised academic centres have attracted global capital and talent to nurture the next generation of leading businesses.

Government policies to nurture sustainable growth need to be flexible to keep pace with innovation, to promote our global competitiveness, and to maintain the support of residents both new and long standing.

As a cross party group of Members of Parliament representing constituencies across the OxCam Arc, we are fully aware of the potential for sustainable growth and of the rapid changes already underway locally to secure that growth.

To date, the driving force for sustainable economic growth has been the 2016 National Infrastructure Commission Report but we believe that this approach needs a review and that alternatives should be considered.

Specifically, the 2016 Report is now falling short because:

- The Expressway does not traverse Buckinghamshire
- The business case for East West Rail has substantial difficulties
- The “one million” homes target has been dropped by the Government
- Environmental expectations have risen calling into question major infrastructure initiatives and the nature of future housebuilding
- Faster adoption of technology during COVID has changed work and travel patterns
- Local support has been lost due to poor communication, execution or from rising pressure on local services

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We are committed to optimising sustainable economic growth in the OxCam Arc but ask that the government looks to update the 2016 proposals, with a plan refocused on environmentally sound transport links that truly inspire a vision for future and with five principles at its core:

1. Led locally not nationally
2. Focused on sustainable economic growth not housing overspill
3. Population growth balanced with public service provision
4. Net zero goals placed at the centre of the plan
5. Directed to attract to global capital and global talent

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Richard Fuller'.

Richard Fuller, MP for North East Bedfordshire

cc: Rt Hon Mark Harper MP
Rt Hon Michael Gove MP