



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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Cllr Liz Leffman
Cllr Susan Brown
Cllr David Hingley
Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers
Cllr Bethia Thomas
Cllr Andy Graham

17 March 2026

Dear all,

SUPERCHARGING INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN GREATER OXFORD

As you know, this government is committed to ambitious growth in Greater Oxford as part of our ongoing efforts to realise the full potential of the Oxford-Cambridge corridor.

Oxford already has one of the fastest-growing economies in the UK, driven by its world-leading technology, life sciences, and knowledge-intensive sectors, from advanced manufacturing to Artificial Intelligence. The city and its environs are perfectly placed to deliver nationally significant growth to the benefit of existing and new communities and the country as a whole, but to unlock such growth we must address numerous long-standing constraints including inadequate transport connections, a lack of affordable housing, and energy and sewage capacity pressures.

In May 2025, I appointed Neale Coleman as Chair of the Oxford Growth Commission (OGC) and tasked him with identifying how best to unlock new development and accelerate growth across Oxford and its surrounding areas. The OGC's interim report that was published on 15 December 2025 recommended that a priority for the next 12 months should be consideration of the need for an appropriate delivery vehicle to support development in and around Oxford.

To take full advantage of Greater Oxford's unique assets and ensure that we maximise its contribution to national economic growth, the government is convinced that a bold place-based intervention is required to address the constraints it faces. That is why earlier today we announced our intention to consult on establishing a centrally-led development corporation to deliver nationally significant growth in Greater Oxford. Neale Coleman has been asked to factor this proposal into his ongoing work as Chair of the OGC.

A centrally-led approach is intended to provide the stability, capability and capacity needed to coordinate complex infrastructure delivery across multiple local authorities, landowners, delivery partners and agencies, and to secure the significant public and private investment required to unlock growth at the desired scale.

We aim to launch a consultation before the end of the year and expect it to cover the following:

- The case for establishing a centrally-led Urban Development Corporation.
- The proposed objectives and activities of the Development Corporation.
- The proposed geographical boundary in which the Development Corporation would operate.
- The proposed approach to powers that the Development Corporation would be granted.

- The proposed approach to governance of the Development Corporation, including the role of local democratic representation.

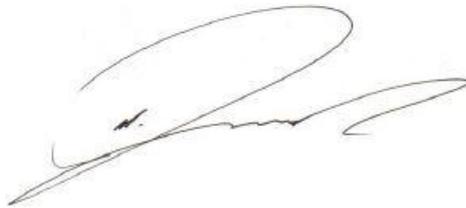
To ensure that the nationally significant growth that we seek is inclusive and sustainable, and that its benefits will be felt by existing as well as new communities, we are committed to an ongoing partnership with local leaders, communities and residents. Your insights, knowledge and direct input will help shape the delivery vehicle's ambition and focus. Should a decision be taken to establish a centrally-led development corporation, it is our intention that local democratically elected leaders would be invited to join the Board.

To strengthen our commitment to supercharge growth in the Oxford-Cambridge corridor, we have also announced today that the government will double its initial £400 million investment, meaning that up to £800 million will now be available to help bring forward development in this critical economic area.

As you are aware, a consultation is currently taking place about Local Government Reorganisation in Oxfordshire. I want to stress that this is an entirely separate and unrelated process to our intention to consult on a centrally led development corporation for Greater Oxford. All authorities in the Oxfordshire area were invited in February 2025 to make proposals for reorganisation, and the various proposals received in November 2025 are currently being consulted upon. No decision has been made in respect of reorganisation, and no decision will be made until my ministerial colleagues have carefully considered each of the proposals received, consultation responses, and all other relevant material.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming months as we progress this important endeavour.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew Pennycook', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

MATTHEW PENNYCOOK MP
Minister of State for Housing and Planning