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Our modern Industrial Strategy is a long-term plan to boost productivity and earning power for people throughout the country. Today, alongside local partners, we launched the next Local Industrial Strategies – for Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Buckinghamshire and the South East Midlands. Together, these places make up the Oxford-Cambridge Arc. This follows the launch of West Midland's Local Industrial Strategy and Greater Manchester's Local Industrial Strategy.

Our shared national and local ambition is for the South East Midlands Local Industrial Strategy, along with the other Local Industrial Strategies within the Arc, to boost productivity and people's earning power through our collaborative national, regional and local leadership, recognising the economic strengths and potential of the South East Midlands.

Forging our future

This ambitious strategy has been led by the South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership and the local authorities; and agreed with government. I would like to thank colleagues across the South East Midlands for your work in developing it.

The strategy sets out the South East Midlands ambition to ensure everyone in the region is able to contribute to and benefit from continued growth.

Working for the South East Midland's economy and future prosperity

As we set out in our Joint Declaration with local partners in March, these Local Industrial Strategies mark a major contribution to the government's wider work on the Arc with their focus on driving productivity.

These new strategies set out how partners across the Arc will work to:

- Harness the collective strength of the Arc's research base – driving greater collaboration on science and research; developing a network of 'living labs' to trial and commercialise new technologies; and growing the role of the Arc as a global research and innovation hub;
- Bring employers and skills providers together to understand the current and future skills needs, and planning provision to meet them;

- Maximise the economic benefits of new transport, energy and digital infrastructure within the Arc;
- Develop an improved business support and finance programme for high growth companies, a shared approach to commercial premises and an Internationalisation Delivery Plan to encourage greater trade and inward investment in the Arc; and
- Codesign a Natural Capital Planning approach to development within the Arc, seeking to embody Government's 25 Year Environment Plan and contributing to the Clean Growth Grand Challenge Mission to halve the energy use of new buildings by 2030.

The South East Midland's Local Industrial Strategy also sets out the local interventions which will be progressed in the South East Midlands specifically.

The South East Midlands aims to become the 'Connected Core' of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc: the place with the space and connectedness to support commercialisation and rapid spinning-out of high growth ventures.

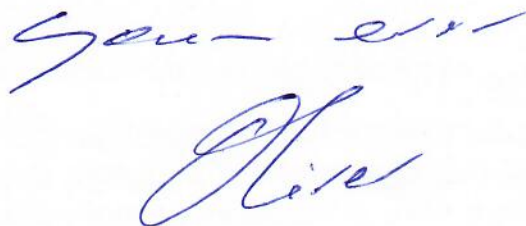
The South East Midlands' Local Industrial Strategy includes commitments to:

- Becoming the 'Connected Core' of the Oxford-Cambridge Arc: the place with the space, and connectedness between key innovators and markets, to enable ideas and inventions to be tested, enhanced, commercialised and spun out into high growth ventures
- Leading the way on the Future of Mobility Grand Challenge, through continued investment in the area's aerospace and advanced engineering excellence, and by pioneering the use of innovative freight technologies and demand-responsive transport
- Putting employers at the heart of innovative skills provision and becoming the Oxford-Cambridge Arc's core provider of digital skills, attracting and training the next generation to lead the global digital revolution
- Improving productivity and sustainability in tandem, fueled by renewable energy, smart and connected transport solutions, and greener vehicles, buildings and design principles
- Providing an exemplary business environment, with high-quality commercial premises and support for incubator, scale-up, innovation, trade and investment activity within the Arc.

Building long-term partnerships

Importantly, this Local Industrial Strategy is more than a set of policies and commitments. It is a new way of working for government, working across departments to build long-term partnerships with business, academia, and South East Midlands partners.

I look forward to continuing to work with you, local leaders, and wider business and community stakeholders on the implementation of this Local Industrial Strategy. Together, this work sets the long-term future for how the South East Midlands can fully realise its potential.



Rt Hon Lord Henley