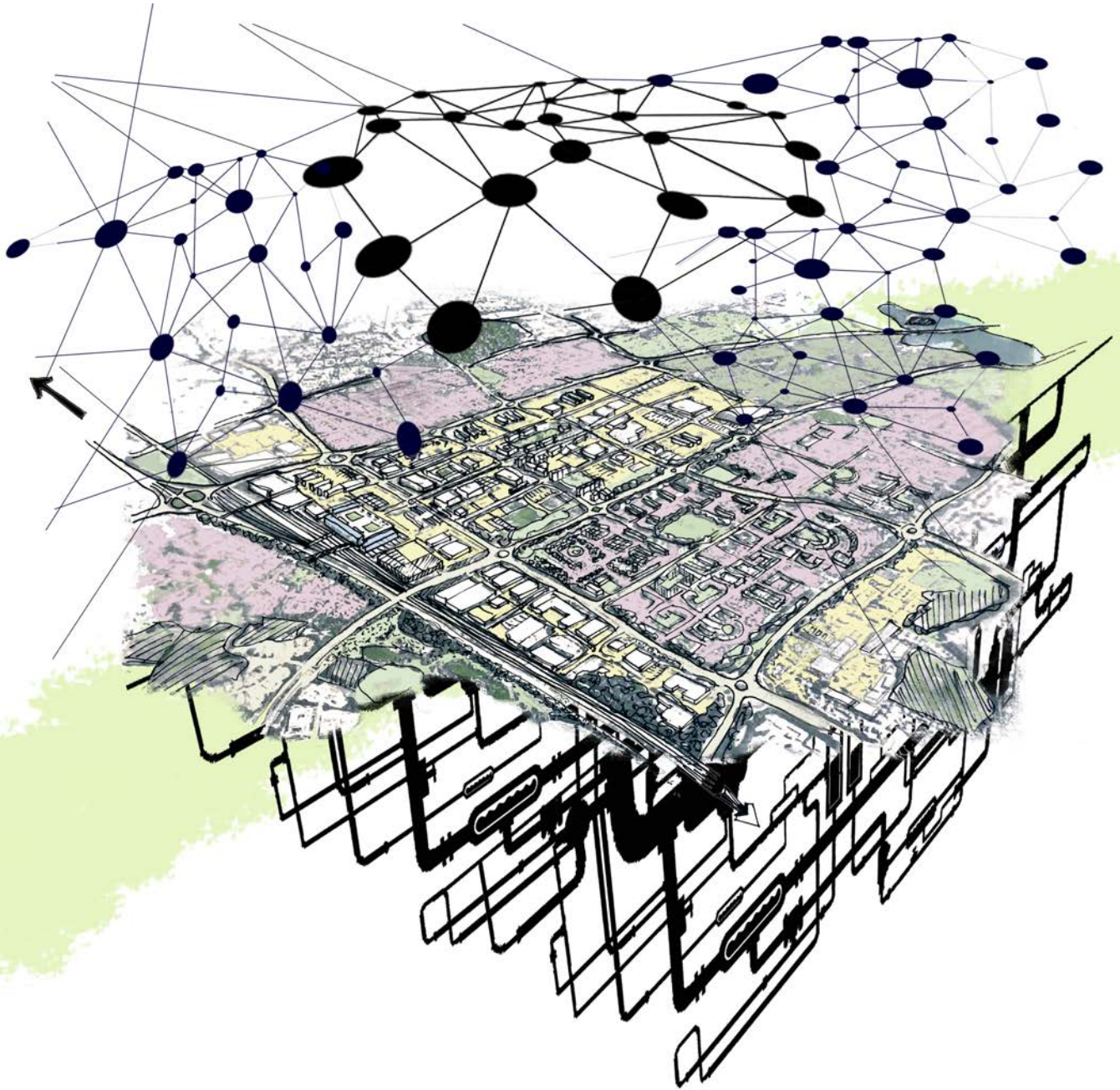


# EAST-WEST ARC: DELIVERING THE FUTURE OXFORD-MILTON KEYNES-CAMBRIDGE



**SYMPOSIUM  
JUNE 19, 2018**

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Symposium organized by the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment,  
University of Westminster:

NEUMAN Michael (Professor of Sustainable urbanism)  
SHARKEY Megan (Research assistant and Doctoral student)  
TCHAPI Mireille (Research fellow)  
ITOVA Irena (Research assistant and Doctoral student)  
GELGOTA Alec (Research assistant and Doctoral student)

With the help of the faculty staff:

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SCROGGINS Daniel (Events coordinator/ Web editor)  
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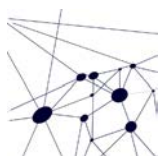
And the support of:

BROOKHOUSE Stephen (Professor, Interim Dean of the Faculty)  
CHARRINGTON Harry (Professor, Head of the Dept. of Architecture)  
MORGAN Sadie (Professor)  
SHARRATT Peter (Professor)  
WOLTJER Johan (Professor, Director of Research of the Faculty)

London, June 2018

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## The East-West Arc

On 19 June 2018 the University of Westminster with the support of the National Infrastructure Commission invites you to the East – West Arc Symposium, examining the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Arc as a gateway to deliver sustainable prosperity, at our Marylebone Campus.

The East-West Arc from Oxford through Milton Keynes to Cambridge is one of the most innovative and dynamic areas of the UK, central to the greater urbanised area from London to Birmingham. Its potential is recognised by the government as a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the region to become a 'knowledge-intensive growth cluster, competing globally'. Yet that potential is capped by inadequate infrastructure and expensive housing, among other factors.

As HS2 and the train and expressway linking Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge become realities, this vital region can be seen better as a gateway in all directions, thus helping to rebalance growth across the UK. The symposium on delivering a sustainable future for the East-West Arc will address these challenges from a range of perspectives.

## Why is this symposium important?

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) report PARTNERING FOR PROSPERITY: A new deal for the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford Arc sets out one vision and approach to infrastructure-led growth linked to place making. It sets out new thinking to meet the housing challenge that is equivalent to a new city the size of Birmingham. Government is focusing on the strategic importance of the Arc, comprised of three recently-formed regional growth boards, due to its inherent potential, plus its links with London, the Midlands and beyond.

To further strategic thinking, the NIC held a successful Ideas Competition last year, with scores of entries submitting bold visions. Building on these initiatives, the symposium will explore these ideas and others, as well as establish an ongoing forum for dialogue on how to design and deliver them so that we can envision the East-West Arc as gateway that strengthens in all directions.

## 26 local authorities comprise the Arc

The East-West Arc spans Oxford to Cambridge through Milton Keynes. It is a gateway from London to Birmingham and beyond, and a key area of the greater London city region.

### Oxfordshire

Cherwell  
Oxford City  
South Oxfordshire  
Vale of White Horse  
West Oxfordshire

### Buckinghamshire

Wycombe  
Chiltern  
Aylesbury Vale  
South Buckinghamshire

### Northamptonshire

Corby  
East Northamptonshire  
Daventry  
Northampton  
South Northamptonshire  
Kettering  
Wellingborough

### Cambridgeshire

Huntingdonshire  
East Cambridgeshire  
Cambridge City  
South Cambridgeshire  
Fenland

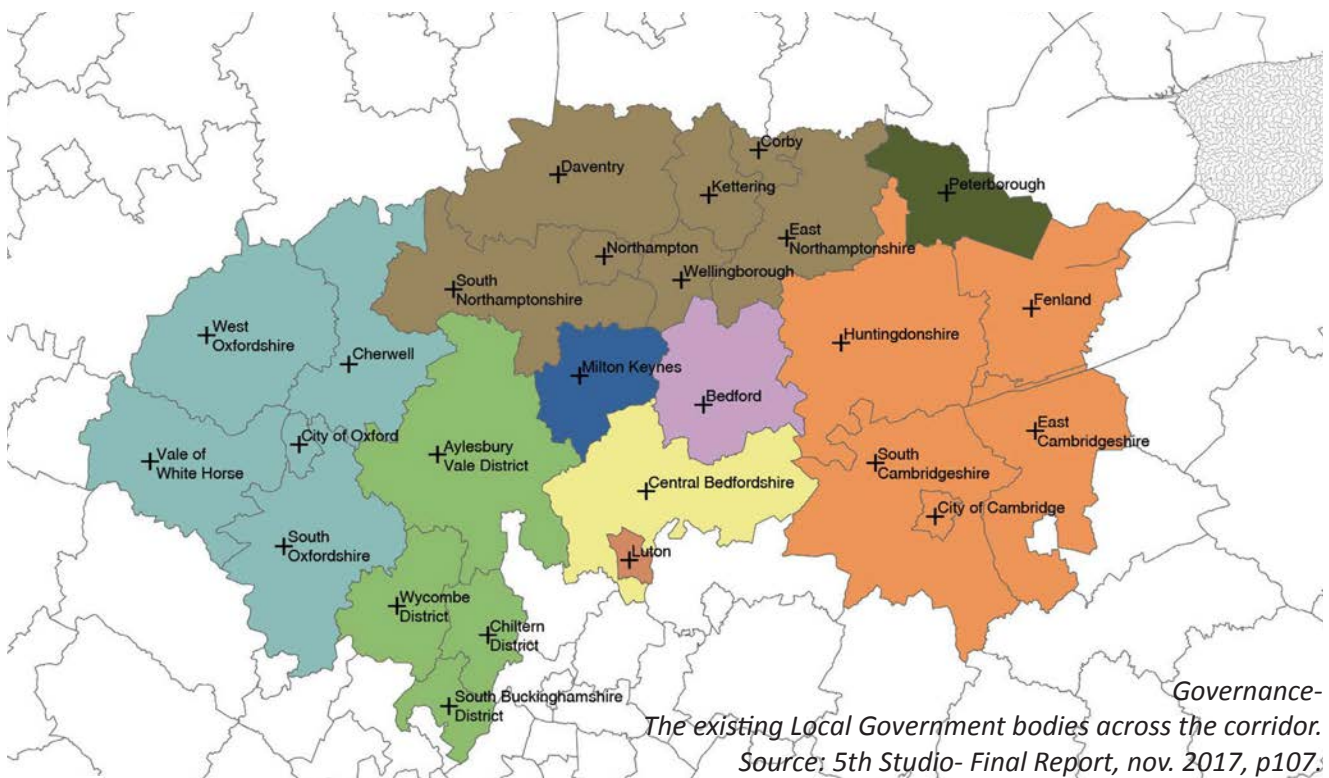
### Milton Keynes

### Central Bedfordshire

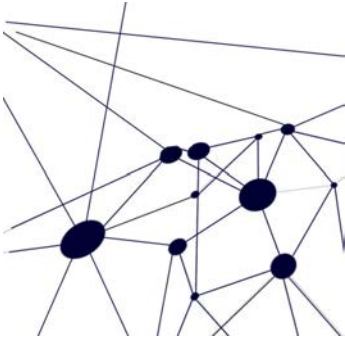
### Luton

### Bedford

### Peterborough



## Themes



**The nature of the city region today and how it effects the East-West Arc.**

**How to govern and deliver the East-West Arc in the context of the city region.**

**Establishing a Forum on the London City Region in which debate can occur on the East-West Arc and other contemporary development issues.**

## Symposium and workshop 9:30am to 4:00pm

The symposium will feature interactive dialogue including the audience with leading figures in local and national government, professions, industry, the academy and other groups dealing with the East-West Arc. Bringing together in constructive dialogue this wide range of sectors best frames the debates on the future of this dynamic territory. Panel topics include the National Infrastructure Commission's extensive work on the Arc, the Futures of the City Region, Governing and Delivering the City Region, and presentations from University of Westminster Design Studios on the East-West Arc. It concludes with a workshop on key elements necessary for the delivery framework.

## Workshop 1 hour and 15 minutes

The goals of the workshop are to develop a framework for future steps in the East-West Arc and its surrounding areas, and to establish the University of Westminster as a forum for this debate and dialogue to occur.

The participants will include those from the range of sectors from the morning sessions, plus citizens, organisations, researchers, students and others.

The format will involve breakout small-group sessions. Each breakout session will focus on one topic, including Future Vision, Leadership and Governance, Infrastructure-Led Growth, and Finance and Investment.

# Symposium

9:00

**Registration and coffee- ROOM MG14-**

**- HOGG LECTURE THEATER-**

9:30 – 9:40

## **Introductions and welcomes**

Prof. Roland Dannreuther (Deputy Vice Chancellor)

Prof. Stephen Brookhouse (Interim Dean)

Prof. Michael Neuman (Organizer)

9:40 – 10:00

## **KEYNOTE SPEAKER ON THE EAST-WEST ARC**

### **Sadie Morgan,**

Professor at the University of Westminster / Commissioner for the National Infrastructure Commission / Director at dRMM Architects

10:00 – 11:00

## **PANEL 1- FUTURES OF THE CITY REGION**

### **John Acres,**

President of the Royal Town Planning Institute RTPI

### **Markus Appenzeller,**

MLA+ Partner / Head of Urbanism at the Academy of Architecture, Amsterdam

### **Rachel Fisher,**

Deputy Director, Regeneration and Infrastructure, Cities and Local Growth Unit, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

### **Lewis Herbert,**

Councillor, Chair of Greater Cambridge Partners / Chair of Fast Growth Cities Network

### **Michael Neuman** (moderator),

Professor at the University of Westminster

11:00 – 11:30

**TEA- ROOM MG14-**

# Programme

- HOGG LECTURE THEATER-

11:30 – 11:50

## STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

### 3 Faculty of Architecture student studio work on the Milton Keynes corridor

Olga Ivanova, Master of Arts in Urban Design  
Martin Miranda, Bachelor Designing Cities  
Paresh Parmar, Master of Architecture

### Discussion

11:50 – 12:45

## PANEL 2- GOVERNING AND DELIVERING THE CITY REGION

### Adrian Colwell,

Executive Director of Place and Growth / Cherwell and South Northamptonshire

### Peter Sharratt,

Professor at the University of Westminster / WSP

### Cecilia Wong,

Professor at the University of Manchester

### Johan Woltjer (moderator),

Professor at the University of Westminster

12:45 – 13:45

**LUNCH** - ROOM MG14-

13:45 – 14:45

**WORKSHOP** - CHILTERN HALL-

4 working groups led by moderators:

**Vision**, Michael Neuman, Krystallia Kamvasinou

**Leadership and Governance**, Johan Woltjer, Giulio Verdini

**Infrastructure-Led Growth**, Cecilia Wong, Rodaina Alkhani

**Finance and Investment**, Peter Sharratt, Jim Coleman

14:45 – 15:00

**Plenary with feedback from each groups & future directions**

15:00 – 16:00

**COCKTAIL RECEPTION**- ROOM MG14-



## **Sadie Morgan**

**Director at dRMM Architects, and Commissioner for the National Infrastructure Commission, Professor at the University of Westminster**

Sadie Morgan is a founding director of Stirling Prize winning architecture practice dRMM, whose recent high profile projects include Hastings Pier, Trafalgar Place at Elephant & Castle, Maggie's Oldham, and Faraday House at the Battersea Power Station. In 2016 she was appointed professor at the University of Westminster and awarded an honorary doctorate from London South Bank University. Professor Morgan chairs the Independent Design Panel for High Speed Two (HS2), is a commissioner of the National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) and commissioner of the Thames Estuary 2050 Growth Commission. In 2017 she was appointed as a Mayor's design advocate for the Greater London Authority.





## **John Acres**

**President of the Royal Town Planning Institute RTPI**

John holds an MSC in Urban and Regional Planning from London University and a Diploma in Town Planning. For many years he was involved in the Area Improvement schemes in London in the Local Government. John served on the Government's Affordable Rural Housing Commission, was founding Board member of the South Shropshire Housing Association and Councillor in Warwickshire for 8 years. Currently, he is a planning consultant operating for private and public sector clients in England.



## **Markus Appenzeller**

**Head of Urbanism at the Academy of Architecture of Amsterdam /  
Director and partner at MLA+**

Markus graduated from the Berlage Institute in Rotterdam, the Urban Transformation School in St. Petersburg and the Moscow School of Architecture. In 2012 Markus co-founded the multi-award-winning architecture, planning and consultancy practice MLA+ with offices in Rotterdam, London, Berlin, Moscow, St. Petersburg, Shanghai, Shenzhen and Rio de Janeiro. MLA+ designs master plans for megacities. In 2017 he was appointed Head of Urbanism at the Amsterdam Academy of Architecture.



## **Rachel Fisher**

**Deputy Director, Regeneration and Infrastructure, Cities and Local Growth Unit, Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government**

Rachel Fisher is Head of infrastructure (cities and local growth) at the DCLG, former head of policy for the National Housing Federation and an influential campaigner for affordable housing in England. Prior to this she worked at CABE (latterly Design Council) and also the RICS, where she developed a broad understanding of urban design, sustainability and regeneration policy and practice. She is also the co-director of Urbanistas, a women-led network at the intersection of urbanism, design and social enterprise.



## **Lewis Herbert**

**Councillor, Chair of Greater Cambridge Partners, Chair of Fast Growth Cities Network**

Lewis Herbert is Leader of Cambridge City Council and has been a leading contributor to devolution in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, recently as the Combined Authority Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning. He chairs the “Fast Growth Cities” grouping on the East West arc (Norwich, Cambridge, Milton Keynes, Oxford and Swindon) and is acting Chair of the Greater Cambridge Partnership. Board. He has been Leader of the City Council since 2014 and a Councillor since 2004.



## **Michael Neuman - moderator**

**Professor of sustainable urbanism at the University of Westminster**

Michael Neuman is Professor of Sustainable Urbanism at the University of Westminster and principal of the Michael Neuman Consultancy. His books include Engendering Cities, The Futures of the City Region, The Imaginative Institution, and Building California’s Future. His research and practice span urbanism, planning, design, engineering, sustainability, infrastructure and governance. He earned his doctorate from UC Berkeley and masters from the University of Pennsylvania, both in City and Regional Planning.



## **Adrian Colwell**

**Executive Director of Place and Growth, Cherwell and South Northants Councils**

Adrian Colwell is Executive Director for Place and Growth for both Cherwell and South Northamptonshire Councils. He is responsible for planning, economic growth, regeneration and transport matters. He leads the growth of the two districts through their respective Local Plans and accompanying economic growth strategies. He has been a consultant, civil servant and Local Government officer in England and Scotland with a background in planning and regeneration, economic development, policy and legislative analysis, housing, transport and public service reform.



## **Peter Sharratt**

**Professor of professional practice at the University of Westminster, WSP**

Peter Sharratt rejoined WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff in 2016 to direct and lead their new Strategic Consultancy for UK and EMEIA, focusing on critical national infrastructure, construction and development sectors. In 2014 he was appointed Visiting Professor of professional practice to the University of Westminster as part of the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment. His objective is to help leaders re-think the growth challenges that we face and to design and deliver the solutions that make a difference.



## **Cecilia Wong**

**Director of Spatial Policy & Analysis Laboratory, Manchester Urban Institute of the University of Manchester**

Cecilia Wong is Professor of Spatial Planning, Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences and Fellow of the Royal Town Planning Institute. She has research expertise on strategic spatial planning, policy monitoring and analysis, urban and regional development, and housing and infrastructure planning. She has conducted major research projects for the UK central government and has served as an expert panel member of the European Commission's Urban Audit II and the UN-Habitat City Prosperity Index.



## **Johan Woltjer - moderator**

**Professor of urban infrastructure at the University of Westminster**

Johan Woltjer is the Professor of Urban Infrastructures at the University of Westminster. He also is an Honorary Professor in urban and regional development at the University of Groningen and a Visiting Professor at the University of Reading. Professor Woltjer focuses his substantive work on understanding international urban and regional development (particularly Europe and Asia), resilient cities, urban geographies, and capacities for water and infrastructure management.

## Panel 1

### Futures of the City Region

Today, the debates surrounding the city region are more complex than ever in many dimensions. They are multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-scalar; and they are exploding in size and complexity.

When we considered metropolises and city regions in the past, the focus was more internal, on trade, commuting and capital flows between the inner core and the surrounding hinterland. The impetus today responds to globalization, rapid urbanization, neo-liberalisation, climate change, migration and other factors. The dual foci now are both within and external to the city region. Do we have the means to grasp and deal with these new realities?

Understanding the complexity of the contemporary city region and the forces that shape it has proven too much a challenge for a single mind or discipline – hence our assembling a range of experts. The panel examines this new logic in relation to the Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge corridor that should inform all aspects of its planning and governing. This challenge engenders extensive integration and is thus a learning endeavour that will require our best thinking and cooperation.

## Panel 2

### Governing and Delivering the City Region

A key governance imperative for the 21st century is long term sustainability and growth in city regions. Sustainability, however, is often overshadowed by economic development and competitiveness. An underlying concern is about the long-term consequences of prevailing settlement patterns and the “lock-in” they signify in terms of unsustainable practices. “Lock-in” because these patterns are instantiated in institutionalized governance structures and practices. Government currently lack a coherent framework and supportive metrics for promoting sustainability and growth at the city-region scale.

City region governance is complicated by many factors, not the least of which being that they lack clear agency. Another concern is the extent to which city regions can “learn” to govern themselves, to develop sustainably, to grow equitably, and so on. The “learning region” has direct implications for the issues that the corridor faces. We believe that if we are to be prosperous and sustainable in the future, changing city region governance practices invites radical rethinking, a challenge we extend to our panellists and the audience.

# Workshop

## Vision

This workshop will explore what the Oxford – Milton Keynes – Cambridge corridor region should / could look like in the future. Is it a gateway? A region unto itself? An integral part of the greater London city region? What forces impact on its future? Is there only one possible future? Is it a 'natural' geography? Or is it a new, largely human geography? Can it be integrated and whole, or is it destined to remain fragmented? How can we, as individuals, organisations and governments, actively shape this dynamic and complex place? Concretely, what can we as individuals and as government agencies do to design a vision and bring it into being?

**Moderators,** Michael Neuman, Krystallia Kamvasinou

## Infrastructure Led-Growth

Demand for affordable housing and sustainable mobility in the Arc both outpace supply by large margins. These factors combine to hinder growth and sustainability. These factors represent a high risk for the success in the Arc, and its long-term competitiveness and liveability. This workshop will explore the possible levers for building a comprehensive approach that integrates housing, jobs, road-rail and blue-green infrastructures into a coherent growth strategy. What types of infrastructure best accommodate growth, where should they be located and how should they be interconnected? How to balance local, regional and national interests while shaping a regional vision for in which infrastructure delivers prosperity and sustainability?

**Moderators,** Cecilia Wong, Rodaina Alkhani



## Leadership and Governance

This workshop will address the questions of whether existing institutional arrangements are sufficient to plan, design, finance, deliver, and govern over the long term the complex and interrelated corridor initiative. With 30 councils, 10 shires, government agencies, and other local authorities; what are the governance structures and processes for interaction and decision making that can best guide this region over the next decades? What laws, finance mechanisms, and contractual arrangements amongst sectors need to be adopted or amended? Are there better, not-yet-devised means that reconcile interests and marshal resources? In the current absence of regional planning and government, what best coordinates and aligns this plethora of entities: distributed, bottom-up, or unitary approaches?

**Moderators,** Johan Woltjer, Giulio Verdini

## Finance and Investment

As highlighted by recent studies commissioned by the National Infrastructure Commission, the Arc contains high growth cities and renowned universities as well as nine of the UK's top 100 high growth tech firms. This workshop will address the key issues that affect how to pay for, operate and maintain the infrastructures and housing stock driving this activity. The Arc's singular economic geography and future growth potential calls for innovation in finance so that all sectors contribute equitably in the costs and impacts of growth. How to balance public and private sector so that investment across the Arc is viable over the long term? How to secure life-cycle financing yet mitigate risk sustainably?

**Moderators,** Peter Sharratt, Jim Coleman

# References

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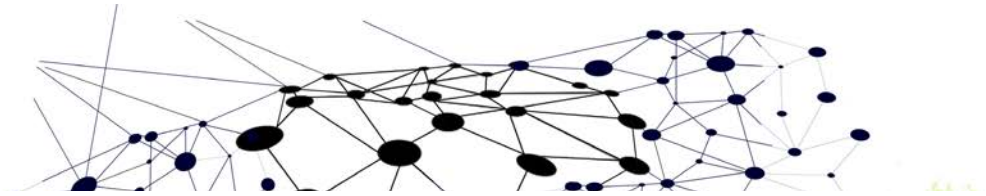
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