

**Vision for the
Oxford to Cambridge
Growth Corridor**

Introduction

The Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor represents one of the UK's most significant long-term opportunities for economic growth, scientific leadership and national prosperity. Already home to world-leading universities, globally recognised innovation clusters and pioneering businesses, the Corridor has the foundations to achieve the vision set out in this document: to become a top 10 global innovation cluster. This vision builds on a substantial body of work over many years, across universities, local authorities, and business networks that have contributed to growth in the Corridor.

The mission of the Growth Corridor is to build an integrated innovation ecosystem that rapidly converts research into scalable technologies, captures greater long-term value for the UK, and improves people's lives across the region and nationwide. Achieving this will require more than research excellence alone. It will depend on creating a more connected, collaborative and globally competitive economic geography, one that links together talent, infrastructure, investment, businesses, universities and communities into a complete end-to-end innovation system.

This vision is about far more than economic output. It is about how innovation and growth can improve outcomes for people, businesses and places across the Corridor and the wider UK; and sustainable, infrastructure-led growth that delivers strong public services for communities and ensures the benefits of growth are felt by all. By strengthening connectivity, accelerating innovation, supporting sustainable development and enabling greater commercialisation and adoption of new technologies, the Corridor can help deliver high-quality jobs, improved health outcomes, new homes, better infrastructure and enhanced quality of life for communities across the region. At the same time, the technologies, businesses and innovations developed within the corridor can support productivity, resilience and growth across the wider UK economy.

The Corridor has the potential to become a globally connected supercluster that brings together the complementary strengths of the Industrial Strategy sectors across Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy Industries, Defence, Digital and Technologies, Creative

Industries and Life Sciences into a more integrated and collaborative ecosystem. This means strengthening connections not only between Oxford and Cambridge, but across the entire Corridor including Milton Keynes, Bedford and beyond, and with complementary innovation clusters, sectors and regions throughout the UK and internationally.

At each stage of growth, there is a responsibility to local communities, particularly recognising the potential for adverse impacts. This vision comes with a commitment to mitigating these effects and maximising shared value, ensuring that the benefits of growth are realised early, distributed fairly, and accessible to local people and businesses. Achieving this vision will require partnership at every level. Success cannot be delivered by any one institution, place or sector acting alone. It will depend on stronger collaboration between central and local government, universities, businesses, investors, infrastructure providers and communities, aligning long-term priorities while respecting and reinforcing the distinct identities and leadership of places across the Corridor. The aim is not to create a single centralised model, but to enable more coordinated action around shared opportunities and challenges.

The Corridor also has an important national role to play within the UK innovation system. By accelerating the commercialisation, adoption and diffusion of innovation, the region can help address longstanding UK challenges around productivity, scaling and value capture. This means ensuring that innovation translates not only into discovery, but into scalable businesses, stronger supply chains, improved public services and tangible economic benefit across sectors and regions nationwide.

This document therefore sets out a shared strategic framework for the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor, outlining the core areas of focus, strategic priorities and long-term objectives required to support delivery of the vision and mission. Together, these provide a platform for deeper collaboration between government, industry, academia and local leadership, helping shape coordinated workstreams and investment priorities that can unlock the full economic and societal potential of the Corridor over the coming decades.

Strategic Framework for the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor

Vision

To become a top 10 global innovation cluster

Mission

To build an integrated Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor that rapidly converts research into scalable technologies, captures value for the UK, and improves people's lives across the region and nationwide.

Strategy

Integrate the Corridor into a single innovation ecosystem

Position the Growth Corridor as a globally connected hub of UK innovation

Accelerate innovation adoption and diffusion across the UK

Build a complete end-to-end innovation and value capture system

Enhance quality of life through inclusive growth, nature and sustainable development

Objectives

£78bn
cumulative GVA
by 2035

160,000
additional jobs
by 2035

6%
skilled worker growth
2030-35*

5%
start-up creation
growth 2030-35**

£105bn
of additional VC
Funding by 2035

* Skilled worker growth rising from 2.77% to 6% by 2030 and then remaining constant until 2035 and beyond.

** Start-up creation rising from 1% to 5% by 2030 and then remaining constant until 2035 and beyond.

Strategic Priorities for the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor

The following strategic priorities set out the key areas of focus required to support delivery of the Growth Corridor's vision and mission, building on the work already underway to ensure that the right underpinning infrastructure is in place to support sustainable growth. Together, they provide a framework for strengthening connectivity, accelerating innovation, attracting investment and talent, improving quality of life and ensuring that the benefits of growth are captured across the region and the wider UK economy.

The priorities are intended to support deeper collaboration between government, industry, academia and local leadership, helping align long-term investment, policy and delivery around a shared ambition for the Corridor.

Strategic Priorities

A. Integrate the Corridor into a single innovation ecosystem

- Create a functionally integrated economic geography, linking the Growth Corridor into a single labour market and innovation system, rather than a set of disconnected centres
- Use infrastructure (including East West Rail, alongside other enhancements) as the backbone to enable movement of people, ideas and capital, unlocking agglomeration effects at scale
- Shift from individual cluster strength to a “cluster of clusters” system, where complementary specialisms across the corridor operate as a coordinated network
- Enable dense collaboration networks between universities, firms, investors and institutions, supporting knowledge spillovers and faster innovation cycles
- Align spatial planning, housing and commercial development to support growth of the labour market and innovation districts
- Build a coherent global brand and investment proposition, positioning the Corridor as a single destination for capital, talent and enterprise
- Coordinate regional partnerships to better connect local leadership with central government, industry and academia, enabling deeper collaboration through a shared workplan at Corridor scale while respecting and reinforcing the autonomy and strengths of individual places.
- Strengthen collaboration between education providers, employers, local leadership and government to support future workforce needs across the Corridor's innovation economy.

B. Position the Growth Corridor as a globally connected hub of UK innovation

- Strengthen access to global venture capital and scale-up funding, reducing the current leakage of high-growth firms to overseas ecosystems
- Establish the Corridor as an interface with global innovation systems, capital markets and talent flows
- Embed the Corridor within international knowledge and value chains, ensuring UK innovation connects to global markets and supply chains
- Position the Corridor as a gateway for inward investment and technology diffusion, not just a source of research excellence
- Leverage the region's global reputation while reframing it as a single integrated ecosystem rather than competing locations
- Attract and retain deep pools of international talent, recognising that domestic supply alone cannot meet long-term demand for skilled workers

C. Accelerate innovation adoption and diffusion across the UK

- Move beyond discovery to focus on the full innovation lifecycle, from knowledge creation, to commercialisation, to adoption & diffusion
- Support diffusion to other regions and sectors, ensuring benefits are felt nationally, not just within the Corridor
- Accelerate commercialisation and scaling to ensure we can effectively build upon research output
- Ensure technologies developed in the Corridor are adopted across the UK economy, maximising productivity gains and national value capture
- Position the Corridor as a test bed for innovation, enabling early adoption in sectors such as healthcare, construction, energy and public services
- Reduce value leakage by building domestic capability across: Manufacturing; Supply chains and Scale-up ecosystems

D. Build a complete end-to-end innovation and value capture system

- Ensure the Corridor functions as a fully integrated system linking knowledge chains and value chains
- Work in partnership on all components required for scale: Capital; Skills ; Infrastructure; Supply chains and Institutions
- Work in partnership on supply-side and demand-side interventions, recognising that innovation only drives productivity when adopted at scale
- Improve conditions for firms to start, scale and stay within the region, capturing long-term economic value domestically
- Support complementarity across clusters and sectors, enabling cross-sector innovation and new market creation

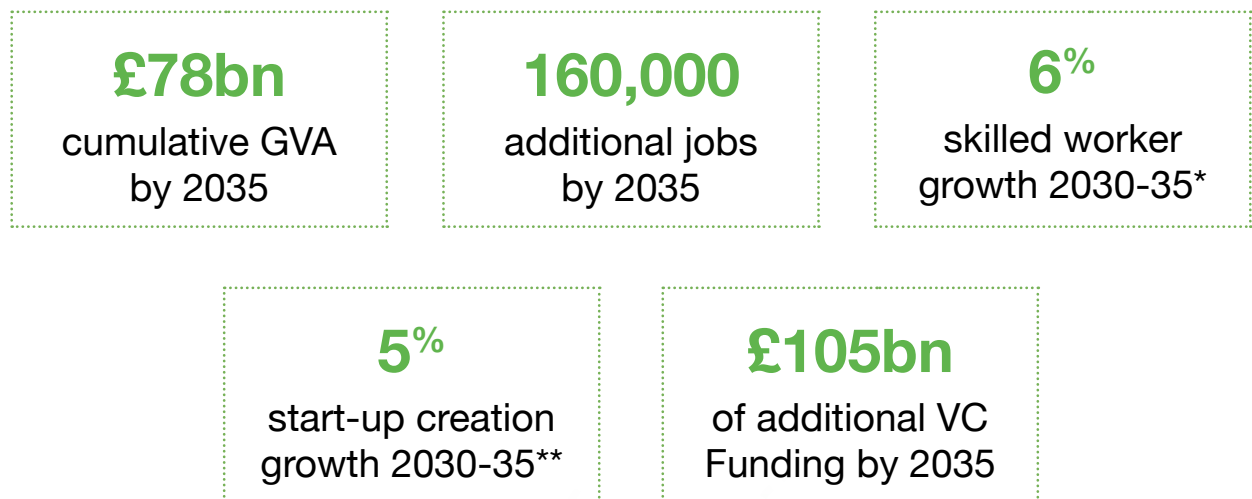
E. Enhance quality of life through inclusive growth, nature and sustainable development

- Ensure growth delivers tangible benefits for local communities through improved access to high-quality jobs, skills, education and career pathways across the Corridor
- Support the delivery of healthy, well-connected and affordable communities, aligning housing, infrastructure and public services with long-term economic and population growth.
- Leverage the Corridor's strengths in science, technology and collaboration to improve health outcomes, accelerate innovation in public services and enhance quality of life for communities across the region
- Integrate principles of a nature-positive built environment and nature-based solutions at scale to demonstrate leadership globally in sustainable growth
- Deliver innovative solutions to challenges across the Corridor, including water stress, climate resilience, housing pressure and biodiversity loss, by creating investment opportunities in natural capital
- Enhance the wellbeing of communities in the Corridor by prioritising active transport and creating places where new and existing communities have access to high quality natural green spaces that benefit their mental and physical wellbeing.
- Create a network of natural green and blue spaces, enhancing the climate resilience of the area and supporting species that cannot live alongside development, so that the network is greater than the sum of its parts.

Long-Term Growth and Innovation Objectives

The following objectives are drawn from the [Supercluster Board and Public First report](#) that helped establish the Growth Corridor as a nationally significant economic opportunity and was referenced by the Chancellor in setting out the ambition to unlock up to £78bn in additional GVA by 2035.

Together, these objectives illustrate the scale of opportunity that could be realised through coordinated focus and provide a framework for measuring progress towards the vision of becoming a top-10 global innovation cluster and a major driver of UK productivity, investment and technological leadership.



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** Start-up creation rising from 1% to 5% by 2030 and then remaining constant until 2035 and beyond.

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