



CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH
COMBINED AUTHORITY

PAUL BRISTOW MAYOR
OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW

In the last month, I passed my first 100 days as Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This milestone has given me the chance to reflect on what we have achieved so far. From urgent action to secure the Tiger Pass and stepping in to save valued bus routes at risk, to making the case for road and rail upgrades, housing delivery, skills investment, and major infrastructure, the work to get Cambridgeshire and Peterborough moving is well underway.

Bringing this region together has been central to our approach. Whether it is councils, MPs, business leaders, or community groups, we are stronger when we speak with one voice. On Ely junction, transport investment, and promoting the region to investors, we have seen that unity is power. This is just the start. Government wants growth here, which is understandable, we are a global centre for innovation and should be ambitious. But it's also vital that growth works for the people who live here. A stronger economy must mean more jobs and opportunity, better public services, and healthier,

wealthier lives.

Part of our efforts on the growth mission is showcasing our regions strengths, and a great example of this is Cambridge Tech week. The Combined Authority is sponsoring the event, that will bring visitors to Cambridge, support local businesses, and act as a shop window to attract new investment and opportunities to the region.

We are also investing in key heritage and tourism assets. The Combined Authority funding committee has approved £800,000 of Shared Prosperity Fund investment for Peterborough Cathedral and Baits Bite Lock on the River Cam. The River Cam is central to life in Cambridge, and if these locks fail it would threaten river users and the city's appeal to visitors. In Peterborough, upgrading the Cathedral will secure its future as a cultural and tourist hub, attracting more people and supporting the local economy. The final decision to approve the funding will be made by the Combined Authority Board on September 24.

Whether building a light rail system in Cambridge, dualling A-roads, delivering the Fens Reservoir, or a new community stadium in Peterborough, we have a real opportunity to shape a stronger, more connected, and prosperous future. I am determined to make that happen, and will continue to work towards those goals.



UPDATE FROM THE CEO ROB BRIDGE

As we enter September, it's a good moment to look back on a busy and productive period of work across the Combined Authority – and to look ahead to what promises to be another important and active month for our region.

We continue to make progress across key areas, with the Combined Authority's thematic committees meeting over the coming weeks to help shape important decisions ahead of the next Combined Authority Board on 24th September. It's set to be another significant month, with work advancing on both our Corporate Plan and Local Growth Plan, which are both scheduled for discussion on the 24th.

The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill has now had its Second Reading in Parliament – the next step in its legislative journey. We continue to follow its progress closely to

understand what it could mean for devolution and local governance in our region.

August also saw continued work across our priorities. From maintaining vital local bus links through effective partnership working to securing all 100 placements in our fully funded internship programme for people aged 22 and over, with 89 participants already matched with employers, we continue to demonstrate our commitment to inclusive growth, connectivity and skills development.

Finally, we were delighted by Network Rail's announcement that Cambridge South station is expected to operate a full service when it opens. This is brilliant news for our region and the result of extensive work by the Combined Authority Mayor and our partners, whose efforts helped secure this vital step for future connectivity and growth.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward through another important and busy month for our region.

PAUL BRISTOW'S FIRST 100 DAYS AS MAYOR OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH



It's been 100 days since Paul Bristow was elected Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and from day one he has set to work delivering on his pledge to 'Get Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Moving'.

From safeguarding the Tiger pass, stepping in on threatened bus routes, investing in skills capacity and campaigning for critical upgrades to infrastructure, the Mayor's focus has been on action and uniting the region behind a bold agenda for growth.

The Mayor acted immediately to start aligning the Combined Authority's work with the clear direction set out in his manifesto and a mission to 'make the Mayor matter'. This included:

- Pausing the Combined Authority corporate plan and mayoral pledges, and starting a strategic reset to focus on his manifesto, delivery and outcomes for region.
- Taking action so a target to cut by 15% the miles driven on the region's roads by 2030.
- Prioritising visible leadership: visiting the region, listening to local voices, and raising awareness of key local and national issues and how the Combined Authority can act.

Transport has been a key area early on, including:

- Extending the Tiger pass: £1 bus fares for under-25s have been secured until March 2026. It is a key step towards the Mayor's goal of a permanent, affordable discount pass for young people.
- Bus route rescue: The Combined Authority stepped in to protect threatened services; the 33 between March and Whittlesey, the 31 between Ramsey and Whittlesey and the 9/X9 between Cambridge and Littleport,
- Ely junction upgrade: The Mayor galvanised council leaders and MPs support, cross party, to push for long-overdue upgrades at Ely junction.

To help power forward the local economy, the Mayor has championed investment and major infrastructure and regeneration projects:

- Putting the region in the national spotlight at UKREiiF – one of the country's biggest infrastructure and real estate conferences – showcasing the opportunities for investment in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Welcoming government recognition for the Fens Reservoir being designated a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP).



The Combined Authority's £2.50 cap will end on 31 October 2025. After that, fares will revert to the Government's national £3 cap.

KEEPING CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH MOVING: VITAL BUS ROUTES CONTINUE



Communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have kept their vital bus services thanks to decisive action by the Combined Authority and local operators. From Monday 1 September, services that were due to be withdrawn are continuing, alongside new routes to improve connections for towns and villages.

Key changes:

- 9/X9 (Cambridge–Littleport): Now operated by A2B Buses, to a revised timetable.
- 33 (Peterborough–Whittlesey): Continues with Stagecoach East, now only runs between Peterborough and Whittlesey.
- 31 (Ramsey–Whittlesey): Taken on by Dews Coaches, with connections at Whittlesey for the 33 to Peterborough.
- 32 (March–Whittlesey): New Dews Coaches route, serving March, Ramsey, Coates and Turves – restoring links to villages without buses for several years. Connects with the 33 for onward travel to Peterborough.
- X32 (March–Whittlesey Express): New express link from March to Whittlesey, with connections to Peterborough via the 33.

To make journeys seamless and affordable, the new CPCA Connect ticket is valid across the 31, 32, X32 and 33. Available until 31 October 2025, it costs just £5 for unlimited day travel – or only £2 for Tiger Pass holders – and can be purchased directly from drivers on the bus.

Paul Bristow, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, visited Whittlesey on Monday to meet residents and see the new and protected services in action. [You can learn more about that here.](#)

If you would like any materials to support the promotion of these services, please contact us at comms@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

CAMBRIDGE'S TIME TO SHINE: SHOWCASING OUR REGION AT CAMBRIDGE TECH WEEK 2025

As we approach Cambridge Tech Week from 15 to 19 September 2025, Cambridge is set to take centre stage. The city will host Cambridge Tech Week and BioCentury Grand Rounds Europe 2025, showcasing why our region is at the heart of global innovation.

We are proud to be sponsoring Cambridge Tech Week, a five-day celebration of AI, clean tech, quantum computing, and health tech. The event brings together innovators, investors, and business leaders from around the world. We are also delighted that Paul Bristow, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, will be speaking, highlighting the collaboration in turning ideas into opportunity.

These events are proof that Cambridge is a place where the future is being built. International businesses are recognising our region as a place where start-ups can access the support they need to turn bold ideas into world-changing solutions. In 2024, Cambridge start-ups received \$2.3 billion of investment, that's double the investment received in 2023. That investment means more high-quality jobs for residents across the region, as well as more money for the businesses sitting in the life sciences and tech supply chain, or those providing goods and services associated with the sector.

This September, the world is looking to Cambridge to turbocharge innovation and make history, and these events will celebrate the ingenuity, energy, and ambition that make our city a global hub for change. We are proud to support this journey and excited to see the future taking shape right here in Cambridge.

FULLY FUNDED INTERNSHIPS NEAR 100 MILESTONE

Our Skills and Employment Team are closing in on a major achievement by securing all 100 of our fully funded internships for people aged 22 and over. So far, we have agreements in place with employers for 89 internships, with the remaining 10 currently being finalised.

These internships are 100% salary-funded, offering employers a risk-free way to bring new skills into their teams while providing participants with valuable experience and a pathway to future employment. Reaching this milestone will be a fantastic boost for both local talent and the region's businesses, and we're excited to share the success once all 100 places are confirmed.



FUNDING COMMITTEE BACKS PLAN TO SAFEGUARD RIVER CAM AND BOOST PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL



An important step in funding two of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's most important heritage and tourism assets has been taken after the Combined Authority's Funding Committee backed £800,000 in investment to help protect them.

The proposals, kick-started by Paul Bristow, would see funding go to projects designed to protect heritage, attract visitors, and boost the local economy and would be funded through part of the Combined Authority's UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation from Government.

The projects are:

River Cam, Baits Bite Lock – £500,000

A recent survey found the lock at risk of failure, threatening safety, water levels, flood management and navigation on one of Cambridge's most iconic stretches of river. The funding will allow the Cam

Conservators to carry out urgent stabilisation, protecting the lock, river users, and the city's tourism offer while longer-term solutions are developed, including at the also-vulnerable Jesus Lock.

Peterborough Cathedral – £299,432

The Cathedral's outdated lighting will be replaced with a modern, energy-efficient system. This will improve safety, accessibility and sustainability, as well as support a wider range of cultural events. The upgrade will enhance visitor experience, create new income opportunities, and strengthen the Cathedral's role as a major heritage and cultural hub for Peterborough.

The projects reflect a focus on investing in fewer but more impactful schemes, ensuring heritage and tourism assets are protected, modernised, and able to thrive for future generations.

LOCAL GROWTH PLAN ENGAGEMENT

To ensure the Local Growth Plan reflects the breadth of opportunity and ambition across the region, we developed a structured and inclusive engagement plan, aligned to Government guidance, to complement the engagement which has already been undertaken with local authorities.

In a series of targeted roundtables, 1:1 meetings and partner sessions, we provided stakeholders with an opportunity to engage with and provide feedback on the emerging LGP, while also highlighting pathways for future collaboration and the potential for more joined-up delivery across the region. Over 200 organisations such as businesses, government bodies and education providers, have been contacted and provided an opportunity to feedback.

RESIDENTS SHARE VIEWS AT TIGER ROUTE DROP-IN EVENTS ACROSS THE REGION



Over the past month, officers from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have been out and about across the region, hosting a series of drop-in events for residents to find out more about the new Tiger Routes, which launched earlier this year.

The events took place at key locations along the routes, including but not limited to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Huntingdon Bus Station, Chatteris Library and Sutton Timebanks Coffee morning. The drop-in events provided an opportunity for local people to speak directly with the team, ask questions, and share feedback of the services so far.

We are really grateful to everyone who took the time to attend. The feedback gathered at these events will be used as part of our initial review of the routes, helping us to better understand how they are working and where improvements can be made.

As well as listening to feedback, the team were able to offer advice on how best to use the routes, provide journey planning support, and hand out printed timetables and other materials to help residents make the most of the services.

If you would like any materials to support the ongoing promotion of the Tiger Routes, such as timetables, flyers and posters, please contact us at comms@cambridgeshrepeterborough-ca.gov.uk.



We have passed over 50,000 Tiger Pass applications with more than 2.2 million journeys taken with a Tiger Pass across the region.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are our upcoming meetings. You can view the full calendar [on our website here](#).



8 SEPTEMBER

Skills Committee
10:00am

15 SEPTEMBER

Transport Committee
10:00am

8 SEPTEMBER

Business Panel
2:30pm

18 SEPTEMBER

Audit and Governance Committee
10:00am

9 SEPTEMBER

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
10:00am

24 SEPTEMBER

Combined Authority Board
10:00am

10 SEPTEMBER

Growth Committee
10:00am

13 OCTOBER

Funding Committee
10:00am



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LATEST NEWS

Here are a few of our latest news stories. You can view all of them [on our website here](#).



COMBINED AUTHORITY FUNDING SUPPORTS SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL SCHEME IN PETERBOROUGH

A sustainable travel scheme designed to make it easier for people to walk and cycle in Thorpe Wood, that was funded by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, has been officially opened.



FREE CARBON LITERACY TRAINING FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH BUSINESSES

The CPCA Growth Hub is proud to offer free Carbon Literacy Training to businesses across the region, helping organisations unlock energy savings, strengthen business resilience, and upskill their workforce.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY TO ATTEND DSEI

Officers from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Inward Investment team are attending the Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) conference in London, to connect with global leaders and showcase our region as the place to invest.



14 COMMUNITY PROJECTS AWARDED FUNDING TO SUPPORT LOCAL LEARNERS

Fourteen local organisations have been awarded grants through the Community Grants Programme, highlighting the commitment to ensuring residents from priority postcodes have the opportunity to thrive through learning, skills and employment.