



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

PAUL BRISTOW MAYOR
OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW

The last month was another month of delivery for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with important progress on both our long-term plans and immediate priorities.

At the September Combined Authority Board, we gave the green light to invest £800,000 from the Shared Prosperity Fund into two projects that matter deeply to our communities. The work to strengthen the River Cam's infrastructure at Baits Bite Lock, protecting both river users and the city's appeal to visitors, and in Peterborough, investment in the Cathedral will secure this historic landmark as a cultural and economic asset for generations to come.

We also approved our new Corporate Plan. This sets out a clear direction for the next four years, bringing together my vision for the region with

the wider goals of the Combined Authority.

September also saw Cambridge Tech Week, where I was proud to speak about our region's ability to turn ideas into opportunity. It was an incredible event, bringing innovators, investors, and business leaders from around the world to see first-hand the strengths Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has to offer.

Finally, I met with Chris Boardman, the National Active Travel Commissioner. We discussed how we can accelerate new walking, cycling, and active travel options, making transport healthier and more convenient for residents, improving connections and creating better choices for everyone.

At the Combined Authority, we are taking important steps from investing in heritage and culture to supporting innovation and better transport. At the heart of it all, we are working towards one shared goal: ensuring everyone in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can live healthier, wealthier, and happier lives.



UPDATE FROM THE CEO ROB BRIDGE

As we move into the final quarter of this calendar year, we continue to make some exciting developments that reflect the ambition and the progress we're driving across the region.

This month sees the publication of the State of the Region report, our most comprehensive insights into the region's economy, communities, environment, and future opportunities. The report is a powerful tool that not only highlights where we are today but also helps us to shape where we're heading and our decisions moving forward.

In addition, the Combined Authority Board approved our new Corporate Plan which sets out our ambition and focus for the next 4 years.

We're also proud to announce that the Combined Authority has been shortlisted for the John Prescott Regional Transport Authority of the Year at the National Transport Awards. This recognition follows a year of important decisions in public transport, including the launch of the Tiger Bus Pass, the Tiger on Demand service, and the expansion of Tiger bus routes. These initiatives are already making a real difference in how people move around our region, with accessibility, affordability and sustainability at the heart of our approach to public transport.

I'm delighted to highlight the opening of the new Youth Employment Hub at Peterborough United stadium. This dedicated space is designed to give young people the support they need to access work, training and education, helping to unlock potential and build brighter futures. With continued collaborative working partners and stakeholders making meaningful strides towards a more connected and prosperous future for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

PIONEERING NEW YOUTH EMPLOYMENT HUB TO OPEN AT PETERBOROUGH UNITED



An innovative new Youth Employment Hub to give young people the support they need to find work, training and education, is set to open at the home of Peterborough United.

Paul Bristow announced the investment as part of the new Youth Guarantee Trailblazer. The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority is one of only eight areas chosen nationally to lead a new approach designed to stop young people ending up unemployed or not in education or training.

Working with Peterborough United Foundation and based at their Weston Homes Stadium, partners also include EFL in the Community (the charitable arm of the English Football League) Jobcentre Plus and the wider community. The Hub will bring services together under one roof - from careers advice and skills training to mental health support and job-matching for people aged 16-24.

The Hub is due to open in late Autumn 2025 and will be supporting any young person seeking training or employment support.

STATE OF THE REGION 2025 REPORT SETS OUT OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

The State of the Region 2025 report has been published, providing a comprehensive overview of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's economy, communities, environment, and future opportunities. Produced by the Combined Authority, the report combines data across nine themes, including business and skills, health, transport, housing, climate resilience, and nature, offering an evidence base to guide regional strategy, investment, and policy.

Key findings include:

- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's economy has grown faster than the national average since 1998, driven by global strengths in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.
- Total employment has grown by 6.5% since 2017, matching national trends, with particularly strong jobs growth in life sciences and healthcare (up 67.6% since 2017).
- The region is home to 19% of England's highest quality agricultural land, underlining its importance to UK food security.
- Transport challenges remain, with far more people able to reach jobs and services by car than by bus.
- Health and wellbeing outcomes vary significantly, with lower healthy life expectancy and higher avoidable mortality in Fenland and Peterborough compared to other areas.
- Overall wellbeing levels remain high, with average life satisfaction across the region rated between 7.0 and 8.0 out of 10.
- Flood risk is a major issue, with over a third of land across the region at risk from rivers, rising to more than 80% in Fenland.
- While Cambridge leads globally on science, research and innovation, inequalities persist across skills, earnings and housing affordability.

Developed with local councils, universities, health partners, business groups, and the Office for National Statistics. The State of the Region 2025 report and interactive data portal can be accessed here: <https://cpca.dashboards.cityscience.com/>

MAYOR MEETS ACTIVE TRAVEL COMMISSIONER TO CHAMPION ACTIVE TRAVEL ACROSS THE REGION



Paul Bristow met with Chris Boardman, the National Active Travel Commissioner earlier this month, to explore opportunities for how the region can accelerate better active travel to create healthier and more convenient transport choices for residents.

The discussion focused on improving infrastructure for walking, wheeling and cycling to make it safer, more accessible and attractive to communities - these improvements are key to building a fully integrated transport network.

The visit highlighted the need for continued investment and partnership working with government to improve active travel infrastructure and create more joined-up routes which connect more people and places. The Mayor and Commissioner spoke about the benefits of reduced congestion, economic and quality of life benefits.

The Combined Authority's emerging strategy sets out an ambitious vision for transforming active travel across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by 2050. It focuses on three

core outcomes: enhancing the region's active travel network, empowering people with greater choice in how they travel and delivering meaningful social and environmental benefits.

Key objectives include improving public health and wellbeing, reducing reliance on private vehicles and ensuring fairer, more inclusive access to public transport options for all communities. Over the next two years, eight dedicated walking, wheeling and cycling schemes will be rolled out with a particular focus on supporting school-aged children to travel independently. These initiatives will include the implementation of safer crossings and improved infrastructure around school footfall zones. This aims to improve safety, reduce rural isolation and form long-term active travel habits from an early age.

With Cambridge already recognised as UK's 'cycling capital' thanks to its flat terrain, extensive cycle routes and strong cycling culture, the wider region is well positioned to build on this success and expand its walking and cycling infrastructure.

CONNECTION AND INNOVATION AT CAMBS TECH WEEK

The Combined Authority was a proud sponsor Day 4 of Cambridge Tech Week 2025, a day dedicated to exploring the future of computing and the technological breakthroughs poised to redefine performance and efficiency across industries.

Throughout the week, our Inward Investment team actively engaged with international businesses and tech leaders showcasing the strengths of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a destination for investment in innovation.



YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY IN NATIONAL YOUTH VOICE CENSUS

Thousands of young people have shared their views in this year's Youth Employment UK Youth Voice Census, and the results are now in.

The annual survey gives 11-30 year-olds the opportunity to speak up about their experiences of education, work, life and the support available to them. Every response helps decision makers, locally and nationally, understand the challenges young people face and where support is most needed.

By supporting this year's Census, we've helped ensure that the voices of young people across our region are heard loud and clear. The insights will guide our work to tackle barriers, highlight priorities, and create more opportunities for young people here in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

[**READ THE FULL REPORT**](#)

RIVER CAM'S SURVIVAL AND PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL'S FUTURE BOOSTED BY £800,000



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 are 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.

We have passed over 60,000 Tiger Pass applications with more than 2.5 million journeys taken with a Tiger Pass across the region.

Milestone Reached:
60,000 applications
 and more than
2.5 million journeys
TIGER Bus Pass



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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



13 OCTOBER

Funding Committee
10:00am

10 NOVEMBER

Skills Committee
10:00am

22 OCTOBER

Extraordinary Meeting, Combined Authority Board
09:30am

10 NOVEMBER

Business Board
2:30pm

3 NOVEMBER

Funding Committee
10:00am

11 NOVEMBER

Audit and Governance Committee
10:00am

5 NOVEMBER

Growth Committee
10:00am

13 NOVEMBER

Overview and Scrutiny 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 SHORTLISTED FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY OF THE YEAR

The Combined Authority has been shortlisted for 'John Prescott Regional Transport Authority of the Year' at the 2025 National Transport Awards, recognizing a year of progress toward an inclusive transport network.



COMBINED AUTHORITY INTERNSHIP SCHEME TACKLES SKILLS SHORTAGE IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

A transformative internship programme, led by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, is changing lives and helping residents into work while tackling the region's skills shortage. The programme connects local talent with major employers.



£250,000 BOOST FOR LOCAL PROJECTS THROUGH UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

The Combined Authority has additional £250,000 of investment into four key projects as part of its UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme for 2025/26, boosting their impact for residents, businesses, and communities.



MAYOR VISITS A428 DUALLING SCHEME, HALING PROJECT AS KEY TO GETTING THE REGION MOVING

Paul Bristow visited the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet site to see progress on the £1bn road dualling scheme set to speed up journeys in the region. The improvements will provide better connections across the region.