



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

PAUL BRISTOW MAYOR
OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW

October has been a month of real progress for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with major announcements, new investment and strong collaboration. Together, we are turning ambition into action.

At a special Combined Authority board meeting, we approved our Local Growth Plan, which is about unlocking our region's potential. It backs our priority sectors and identifies Opportunity Zones, setting out the investment we need in transport, homes and infrastructure to make Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the fastest-growing local economy outside London.

In Cambridge, we welcomed 17 UK trade ambassadors to the US, Europe and Australia, showcasing our innovation and the Local Growth Plan. The Innovate Cambridge Summit reinforced that we are open for business.

In Huntingdon, I met with business leaders and representatives from the Suffolk Chambers of Commerce to discuss the future of devolution and how we can work together to attract investment and improve infrastructure.

This month also brought the UK Regional Investment Summit in Birmingham. I joined fellow mayors, investors, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other members of the cabinet to promote our region and the Oxford to Cambridge corridor.

And last, but not least, the Chancellor announced Cambridge Growth Company would be boosted with £400m in funding to promote economic growth. This will support the delivery of our Local Growth Plan and fund a study into mass rapid transit in Cambridge, which we are working together to deliver.

These are results that will get Cambridgeshire and Peterborough moving.



UPDATE FROM THE CEO ROB BRIDGE

We were all deeply shocked by the tragic events at Huntingdon Rail Station last weekend. Our thoughts are with everyone affected, and we extend our sincere thanks to the emergency services for their response and the bravery of the staff and passengers on board.

October has been all about growth, ambition and momentum with several key moments that are shaping the direction of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

At our Extraordinary Board meeting, we approved the Local Growth Plan, a major moment for both the Combined Authority and the wider region. This plan sets out the investment and strategic focus needed to unlock our full potential as the nation's innovation engine. It's a bold, forward-looking plan that will be the guiding star on how we attract investment, and deliver growth across the region. A huge thank you to

all colleagues who have dedicated significant time and expertise to shaping this plan, it's a testament to the commitment and vision we have for the region.

Earlier in the month, I joined Mayor Paul Bristow and Chief of Staff Peter Graham at the Regional Investment Summit in Birmingham. This major event brought together leaders from across the UK to explore how we can boost economic growth in every region. With several Secretaries of State in attendance, it was a powerful platform to champion our region's strengths and opportunities.

We were also honoured to welcome the UK's top global trade ambassadors to Cambridge, in partnership with the Department of Business and Trade. Their visit showcased the world-leading innovation thriving in our local economy and highlighted the region's role on the international stage. The timing couldn't have been more powerful, coinciding with Chancellor Rachel Reeves' announcement of a £400 million Government investment to accelerate growth in the city. This is a clear signal of national confidence in our region's potential and a moment we should all be proud of. Together, these milestones reflect a growing momentum, one that we must continue to build on, with collaboration at every level.

AMBITIOUS ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH GETS BACKING



Last month, the Local Growth Plan was approved by local leaders on the Combined Authority Board. This Plan is our response to government request to all Mayors and Combined Authorities to set out how they will contribute to a national mission for economic growth.

Our Local Growth Plan is a long-term road map for growing the economy in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It shows how the Combined Authority will use its powers and work with partners to create the conditions for economic growth. It focuses on six priority sectors where Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has specific strengths and opportunities. The priority sectors are:

- Life Sciences
- Advanced Manufacturing & Materials
- Digital Technologies
- Defence
- Agri-Food & Tech
- Energy and Clean-Tech

The plan has two ambitions. Our core ambition is to double the size of the economy in terms of GVA by 2050 and this was part of the original devolution deal that led to the creation of the Combined Authority in 2017. The second ambition is the Mayor's vision to triple the economy by 2050. This reflects the Mayor's determination for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to achieve its full potential.

We are using a place-based approach to achieving the ambitions of the Local Growth Plan to ensure economic growth creates benefits for all in society. Our primary place-based intervention will be opportunity zones. These are designed to crowd investment to areas and embed and grow the priority sectors. We will also trial action areas - a targeted intervention to reduce the significant inequalities present in our region by addressing persistent deprivation through support on skills, health and employment.

£65M PETERBOROUGH STATION QUARTER REGENERATION TO GET MOVING AFTER GOVERNMENT BACKING



The Department for Transport (DfT) has formally approved funding for the regeneration of Peterborough Railway Station and surrounding land, unlocking £48 million to begin delivery of a new, accessible and attractive gateway to the city, being developed in partnership with Peterborough City Council.

Approval marks a major milestone in transforming the station and surrounding area. It marks another step towards the Combined Authority's wider plans to support Peterborough's regeneration, grow the economy, unlock jobs and housing, improve connectivity and make the city centre more attractive for residents and visitors.

Work will begin this autumn on the first phase of works– the City-Link – delivering major improvements to pedestrian and cycle access between the station and the city centre. The works will replace much of the existing Cowgate underpass with a safer, more direct, accessible and welcoming route. These works, also funded by £1.5 million from the Towns Fund, will kickstart the wider multi-million regeneration of the Station Quarter.

MAYOR HOSTS SUFFOLK BUSINESSES DISCUSS DEVOLUTION IN EAST OF ENGLAND

Leaders and representatives have called for greater collaboration to unlock the East of England's full potential and secure the investment it deserves.

Paul Bristow met with business leaders and representatives from Suffolk Chambers of Commerce to discuss the future of devolution and how the East of England can better coordinate efforts to attract investment, improve infrastructure, and deliver for local communities. The Cambridgeshire and Suffolk Chambers of Commerce acknowledged that while administrative boundaries may divide East of England, the region's economic and social challenges are shared, and so must the solutions.

The meeting brought together key figures from Suffolk and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to discuss the establishment of a Combined County Authority, and election of a Mayor in Norfolk and Suffolk. Suffolk businesses operating across the shared boundary were keen to hear about the benefits of devolution coming to Suffolk and the opportunities for cross-boundary collaboration on key issues including transport and skills provision.

Having benefitted from devolution since 2017, Paul Bristow emphasised his eagerness to ensure the wider East of England is able to benefit and can learn from the experience in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

SECRETARY OF STATE JOINS MAYOR TO OPEN NEW PETERBOROUGH YOUTH HUB



A major new Youth Hub has officially opened in Peterborough, marking a significant step in supporting young people into work, training and further education across the region.

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, joined Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Paul Bristow for the official launch on Thursday 6th November at Peterborough United's Weston Homes Stadium – home of the new hub.

Developed by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (Combined Authority) in partnership with Peterborough United Foundation, EFL in the Community, Jobcentre Plus, and local youth organisations, the hub brings together employment, skills, and wellbeing services under one roof.

It offers young people aged 16–24 a welcoming space to access tailored careers advice, job-matching, CV support, skills training, and wellbeing guidance – all designed to help them take the next step towards their future.

The launch event brought together representatives from local youth organisations, local businesses and training providers, alongside members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Youth Forum, who are helping shape the region's new Youth Guarantee Trailblazer Programme.

The Youth Forum gives 16–25 year-olds with lived experience of being out of work or education a direct voice in influencing how support is designed and delivered. Their input will be central as the Combined Authority continues to develop new approaches to tackling youth unemployment and ensuring every young person has a pathway to meaningful work or training.

The Peterborough Youth Employment Hub is open to anyone aged 16–24 looking for guidance or opportunities. Young people can drop in or contact the hub directly for more information.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

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



10 NOVEMBER

Skills Committee
10:00am

26 NOVEMBER

Combined Authority Board
10:00am

11 NOVEMBER

Audit and Governance Committee
10:00am

3 DECEMBER

Growth Committee
10:00am

13 NOVEMBER

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
10:00am

8 DECEMBER

Funding Committee
10:00am

17 NOVEMBER

Transport Committee
10:00am

5 JANUARY

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 WELCOMES GLOBAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVES

Investment in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough took centre stage last week as Paul Bristow welcomed the UK's top global trade ambassadors to the region to showcase opportunities and world-leading innovation in the local economy.



CAMBRIDGE KINETICS AND COMBINED AUTHORITY LEAD THE WAY WITH YOUTH APPRENTICESHIPS

Cambridge Kinetics has become the first business in the region to successfully onboard an apprentice through the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Youth Guarantee Age Grant, part of the Youth Trailblazer initiative.



CPCA GROWTH HUB SUPPORTS NATIONAL MOTOR GROUP EXPAND INTO PETERBOROUGH

The CPCA Growth Hub provided vital guidance and connections to help a family-owned national vehicle sales, leasing, and finance business to establish a strong local presence in Peterborough.



MAYOR HOSTS BUS SUMMIT TO DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS IN REGIONS TRANSPORT NETWORK

Yesterday, Paul Bristow hosted a Bus Summit with Leon Daniels OBE and bus operators from across the region. The insights gathered will directly inform ongoing work to determine the most effective way to deliver a better bus network for our communities.