

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW

It's been an exciting few weeks for the future of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The government granted the Combined Authority Established Mayoral Strategic Authority (EMSA) status, which gives us greater influence over the decisions and funding that shape the region's future. This announcement came after I made an application to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, setting out why we were ready for these powers.

And this recognition opens the door to the next phase of devolution, creating the potential for greater funding flexibility and stronger local decision-making. The new Prime Minister also set out what was described as the biggest transfer of power, funding and responsibility from Westminster in a generation. This is a huge step forward for us as an authority, but the detail will matter, especially in the area of fiscal devolution

and income tax retention. I'll work with Government to make sure this policy really does give us a better share of growth we create to reinvest in our communities.

Closer to home another important step was ticking off a manifesto pledge by going live with free parking in Peterborough. I'm looking forward to seeing how much of an impact it has on getting more footfall onto our high streets.

The Combined Authority also announced that we are going to set up a Youth Hub in Wisbech to ensure more young people can access the support, skills and opportunities they need to succeed. This builds on the successful Youth Hub at Peterborough United Football Club, from last year.

It's been a busy and important summer. And whilst the detail of the devolution reforms is still to be fully confirmed, the proposals have the potential to be transformational for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. I'll be making the most of this opportunity and keeping the momentum going.



UPDATE FROM THE CEO ROB BRIDGE

The recent fire at Holme Fen Nature Reserve has been a challenging time for our emergency services. I want to thank all of our colleagues, alongside the wider emergency services and partners, for their dedication and support in responding to the incident in such difficult conditions.

The past few weeks have also been an important time for the Combined Authority, with the confirmation of our Established Mayoral Strategic Authority status marking a major milestone for our organisation and the region.

This is something we should all be very proud of. Achieving Established status recognises the progress we have made and puts us in a stronger position to take on new powers, responsibilities and funding. There is still more detail to work through, particularly around the Government's wider plans for devolution and the 'rewiring of the state', but the direction of travel presents significant opportunities for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. We will continue working closely with Government and our partners to understand what this means for the region and how we can make the most of these opportunities.

I recently visited Number 10 North in Manchester, joining Chief Executives from other Strategic Authorities and senior Government officials to discuss the Government's plans. It was an important opportunity to understand the detail of initiatives such as the 'Rewiring the State' and how we can work with Government to shape what this means for our region.

We are also continuing to support your councils across the region on Local Government Reorganisation as we await the delayed decision. The changes ahead will have implications for how local government works across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and for the Combined Authority, how our governance will need to change to reflect the new arrangements.

There has been good progress on transport. We have now purchased the site for a new bus depot at Tyrrell Park in Peterborough, an important step towards delivering bus franchising. The depot will help create opportunities for more operators to bid to run services and support a more reliable and better-connected network. We will also be launching a further consultation on our phased approach to franchising next month.

These are significant changes and opportunities for the Combined Authority and the wider region. There is plenty of work ahead, but we are in a strong position to build on the progress we have made and deliver the ambitions we have set for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

MAJOR DEVOLUTION MILESTONE SET TO BRING GREATER POWERS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is set to gain greater influence over the decisions and funding that shape the region's future after government confirmed the Combined Authority has been designated an Established Mayoral Strategic Authority.

The recognition opens the door to the next phase of devolution, creating the potential for greater funding flexibility, stronger local decision-making and new powers over transport, housing, skills and economic growth.

The designation follows an application by the Mayor to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and recognises the progress made by the Combined Authority and its readiness to take on a significantly enhanced strategic role.

Established status means the Combined Authority is now better placed to work with government on future devolution arrangements, including a 'right to request' greater devolution where local decision making can deliver better results for the public.

The announcement comes as the Prime Minister sets out what government describes as the biggest transfer of power, funding and responsibility from Westminster in a generation.

The proposals include allowing English mayors to retain a greater share of locally generated revenues, beginning with business rates from next spring, with further details on income tax retention expected at the Budget.

While the detail of the reforms is still to be confirmed, the proposals have the potential to be transformational for places like Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. By enabling areas that create jobs and grow their economies to retain more of the rewards, they could provide the region with new tools to invest in infrastructure, skills and opportunities that support long-term prosperity.

The Mayor and Combined Authority will work closely with government, local councils, businesses, universities and communities to make the most of the opportunity.

The national devolution package includes measures to bring rail and bus services under greater local control, speed up locally led transport schemes, strengthen planning and regeneration powers, give mayors more influence over skills and employment support, back local industries and innovative businesses, and introduce a new "local first" principle under which ministers must justify why powers should remain in Whitehall.

MAYOR VISITS CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE CENTRE IN WISBECH TO SEE YOUNG TALENT INSPIRED BY STEM

Cambridge Science Centre in Wisbech welcomed Mayor Paul Bristow and local partners to an event highlighting the importance of inspiring young people to pursue STEM careers.

The event gave pupils the chance to explore hands-on science activities and interactive exhibits, showcasing how early engagement can help develop skills and interest in future careers, while encouraging young people to see the opportunities available to them.

With more than 40,000 new STEM-related jobs expected across the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and Wellcome Genome Campus over the next 30 years, the event highlighted the importance of nurturing talent across the wider region and ensuring young people have the skills and opportunities to access these future careers.



NEW YOUTH HUB SET FOR FENLAND

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority will establish a Fenland Youth Hub in Wisbech, giving more young people access to the skills, training and support they need to progress into education, employment or further training.

The £140,000 project, funded through the Combined Authority's Youth Guarantee Trailblazer funding, will build on the successful Youth Hub at Peterborough United Football Club. The new hub will provide a relaxed, welcoming 'one-stop-shop' for young people, alongside outreach to towns and villages across Fenland.

The investment responds to Fenland's significant educational and skills challenges, with the area experiencing some of the poorest outcomes in England. In 2025, 3.9% of 16–17-year-olds across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough were not in education, employment or training, compared with 3.4% nationally.

The hub has also been shaped by engagement with young people through Fenland Youth Voice, ensuring it responds to local needs and barriers to opportunity.

The Combined Authority will initially 'seed fund' the hub to establish and trial the service. Following procurement, operators will be expected to develop a sustainable model through partnerships, external funding and links with existing local services.

PAUL BRISTOW BRINGS MAYOR'S QUESTION TIME TO ELY



Mayor's Question Time is back and residents are invited to put their questions directly to the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Paul Bristow. The latest event is on Thursday 17 September in Ely.

The free event will be held at Ely City Football Club and hosted by Paul Brackley, Editor of Cambridge Independent. Doors open at 5:00pm, with the Question Time session beginning at 5:30pm.

The Ely event follows two successful Mayor's Question Time sessions in Peterborough and Cambridge, continuing the Mayor's commitment to hearing directly from residents across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough about the issues that matter most to them.

Residents and local businesses can submit questions in advance using the online form below. The deadline for advance submissions is Tuesday 15 September.

You can submit your questions here: [Mayor's Question Time: Ask Your Question Form \(Ely\) – Fill out form](#)

People are also welcome to attend on the evening and ask questions from the floor. The event will be split into two parts, beginning with pre-submitted questions before moving on to questions from those attending in person. As many questions as possible will be taken during the session.

Everyone is welcome to attend, whether or not they wish to ask a question.

Mayor's Question Time is part of a commitment to openness and transparency.



MAJOR MILESTONE FOR BUS FRANCHISING AS NEW PETERBOROUGH DEPOT SITE SECURED



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has today completed the purchase of land (Tuesday 4th August) for a new bus depot in Tyrrell Park, Peterborough, marking a significant milestone in the region's journey towards bus franchising.

Securing the site represents a major step forward for the project. While the depot will not become operational immediately, the Combined Authority will continue to progress the further work required to bring the facility into use and support a modern bus fleet.

As part of the Combined Authority's commitment to delivering a reliable, affordable and integrated transport network, the new depot will play a vital role in supporting the future operation of franchised bus services across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The site will provide key operational facilities, including fleet maintenance and driver dispatch. It is not intended to be a public-facing facility or passenger interchange.

The depot will form a critical part of the infrastructure needed to support economic growth and deliver a more sustainable transport network across the region.

By taking ownership of key depot infrastructure, the Combined Authority will reduce barriers to entry for bus operators, enabling companies of all sizes to compete fairly for contracts to run local services. Greater competition will help deliver better value for money while supporting more frequent, reliable and better-connected bus services for communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Combined Authority has been working in partnership with Peterborough City Council to develop this project. It also responds to the barriers to growth, identified in the Local Growth Plan that need to be overcome including transport constraints and the need to improve people's access to transport.



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

PAUL BRISTOW MAYOR
OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH

UPCOMING EVENTS

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



7 SEPTEMBER

Funding Committee
10:00am

14 SEPTEMBER

Skills Committee
10:00am

8 SEPTEMBER

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
10:00am

15 SEPTEMBER

Growth Committee
10:00am

9 SEPTEMBER

Transport Committee
10:00am

23 SEPTEMBER

Combined Authority Board
10:00am

10 SEPTEMBER

Audit and Governance Committee
10:00am

12 OCTOBER

Funding Committee
10:00am

LATEST NEWS

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



INTERNSHIP SUCCESS HIGHLIGHTS URGENT NEED FOR NEXT GENERATION TO SECURE REGIONAL HERITAGE SECTOR

The Combined Authority and Historic England highlighted the impact of fully-funded internships in supporting young people into careers, with Intern Yfke (pictured) securing a fixed-term contract following her placement.



MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW STATEMENT ON TECHNICAL SKILLS FOR 14-YEAR-OLDS

Paul Bristow gave a statement after government [news](#) of changes to the education system that will see 14-year-olds get early access to technical education, skills training and work experience.



MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW STATEMENT ON THE £2 BUS FARE CAP

Following the [news](#) that Government is to lower the national bus fare cap to £2 from January 2027, Mayor Paul Bristow made a statement welcoming the change and highlighting the benefits for passengers, local communities and the economy, while calling for longer-term certainty on bus fares.



MAYOR VISITS CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S RISING SPACE-TECH AND AGRI-TECH INNOVATORS

Mayor Paul Bristow visited two of the region's fast-growing innovation businesses to see first-hand the kind of pioneering, high-skill companies which are driving Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's economy forward.