

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW

Our new prime minister should know better than most the importance of devolution and decentralising power to our regions. So, I hope the application I have made, on behalf of the Combined Authority, for Established Mayoral Strategic Authority status – the highest tier of devolved powers – will be successful. We believe we meet the criteria so and we hope to hear back soon.

I ended June by attending the official opening of Cambridge South Station, which was a landmark moment for transport, jobs and growth in Cambridge and the region. The Combined Authority put in early funding, which accelerated its delivery years ahead of its original plan to come with East West Rail.

I held my second Mayor's Question time in Cambridge this month, to answer public

questions around growth, transport, new development, and the future priorities for our region. More events will be held this year.

I attended the graduation ceremony at ARU Peterborough and saw again how much of an impact the Combined Authority-funded university has had on getting young people into higher education and on to great careers.

In other news for the city, we agreed to establish the new Peterborough City Centre Growth Board – another step forward for the city's regeneration. I'll be part of the Board with the City Council and Homes England to provide the leadership needed to ensure regeneration projects work together, giving Peterborough the potential to become one of the country's leading growth cities. It can also support a future Mayoral Development Corporation which will give the powers to accelerate delivery.

We are laying the foundations for new powers and economic growth, and as we head into the summer, I'm excited to keep the momentum going.



UPDATE FROM THE CEO ROB BRIDGE

Since our last update, there have been several important developments across the Combined Authority as we continue to build momentum behind our ambitions for the region.

One of the most significant milestones has been the successful outcome of our latest Government Gateway Review. Passing the review is a strong endorsement of the progress we have made as an organisation and unlocks the next five years of our Investment Fund, providing £100 million to support investment in infrastructure, skills, housing and economic growth across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The review recognised the improvements we have made in our governance, partnership working and delivery, giving us a strong platform as we continue to deliver our Local Growth Plan and wider ambitions for the region.

We have strengthened our leadership team with the appointment of Tom Bousfield as our new Executive Director of Transport. Tom brings extensive experience from local and national government and will play a key role in delivering the Mayor's ambition to improve transport across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Better connectivity is central to our

Local Growth Plan and will help unlock growth, improve access to jobs and education, and support thriving communities.

At our latest Combined Authority Board meeting, members approved our application for Established Mayoral Strategic Authority status, which has now been submitted to Government. Supported by the successful outcome of our recent Gateway Review and our track record of delivery, the application marks another important step in our devolution journey as we continue discussions with Government on securing greater powers and flexibility for the region.

We also had the opportunity to promote Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at this year's Local Government Association Conference, sharing our work on growth and devolution with colleagues from across the country. It was a great opportunity to highlight the progress being made across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and to strengthen relationships that will support our ambitions for the region.

Together, these developments demonstrate the progress we are making as an organisation and reinforce our commitment to delivering long-term growth and opportunity for communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

GROWTH, TRANSPORT AND THE REGION'S FUTURE ON THE AGENDA AT FIRST CAMBRIDGE MAYOR'S QUESTION TIME



Mayor Paul Bristow took questions directly from residents on growth, transport, new development, and the future of Cambridge and the region at his first Mayor's Question Time held in the city.

Held at the Guildhall, on Thursday 25 June, and hosted by the Cambridge Independent's Paul Brackley, members of the public submitted questions in advance and from the floor on the night, covering a wide range of topics including the region's growth ambitions, buses and rail, Mill Road, and the proposed Forest City development on the Cambridgeshire-Suffolk border.

The Mayor set out his priorities for Cambridge and the wider region, including the role of major projects such as Cambridge South station which opened to passengers on Sunday. The Combined Authority's work on bus franchising, the Mass Rapid Transit study looking at new transport infrastructure like light rail, and the region's Local Growth Plan, which aims to triple the size of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough economy by 2050, were raised.

Questions also touched on the resilience of local infrastructure, including water supply and energy, with the Mayor discussing the importance of a new Spatial Development Strategy to better plan growth around infrastructure.

A Mayor's Question Time was held earlier this year in Peterborough and further events will be organised around the region.

An audio recording of the event can be listened to here: [Mayor's Question Time – Cambridge, June 25th 2026](#)



LOCAL SKILLS IMPROVEMENT PLAN TO POWER CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH'S GROWTH OVER NEXT THREE YEARS

The Cambridgeshire Chamber of Commerce and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) have published a three-year plan to deliver the skills and training needed to achieve the region's ambition to double – and ultimately treble – the size of its economy by 2050.

The refreshed Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) 2026–2029 is built on one of the most extensive local evidence bases in the country, with 341 employer survey responses, 70 in-depth interviews and continuous labour market intelligence gathered since 2023.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE REPORT FINDINGS HERE](#)



PETERBOROUGH YOUTH HUB SHOWCASES SUCCESS DURING HM TREASURY AND DWP VISIT

The Peterborough Youth Hub welcomed officials from HM Treasury and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) to showcase its work tackling youth unemployment.

During the visit to the flagship facility at Peterborough United stadium, officials met with Jobcentre Plus work coaches, youth mentors and partners including Mind and Cross Keys, before discussing the region's ambitious 10-year Youth Employment Strategy.

The Peterborough Youth Hub has become a beacon of regional success by proving that a tailored, and holistic support is the key to unlocking youth potential. Part of the government's £2.5 billion youth employment support offer, Youth Hubs provides 16 to 24-year-olds with targeted skills training, mental health and housing support as well as and direct job matching.

The initiative has already delivered massive regional impact:

- 394 young people supported since its doors opened.
- 33 young people successfully placed into full-time employment since October.
- 250+ young people proactively reaching out for support since April alone.

The visit reinforced the Peterborough Youth Hub as a strong example of how community-led partnerships can help remove barriers to employment and support young people into work.

NEW GROWTH BOARD TO ACCELERATE PETERBOROUGH CITY CENTRE TRANSFORMATION



The next chapter in Peterborough's transformation is set to begin after partners have agreed to establish the new Peterborough City Centre Growth Board.

The Growth Board will bring together local and national organisations to accelerate regeneration, attract investment and unlock the city's full potential.

At the heart of the programme is an ambitious long-term vision, aligned with the region's Local Growth Plan.

This builds on major investments, including the £65 million Station Quarter programme, the continued expansion of ARU Peterborough and the new city leisure centre, signalling a new era of growth and opportunity.

Meeting for the first time in autumn, the Board will unite the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Peterborough City Council and Homes England, with the Mayor working in partnership with Peterborough City Council Leadership and the Government to drive forward the city's regeneration programme.

By coordinating major investments and creating a single vision for the city centre, the partnership will help deliver new homes, jobs, commercial

opportunities and high-quality public spaces, while attracting further public and private investment.

Peterborough has been identified as a Fast Growth City Opportunity Zone in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Growth Plan, recognising its potential to become one of the country's leading growth cities.

The new Growth Board provides the leadership needed to ensure regeneration projects work together, creating a city centre that is greater than the sum of its parts.

It will also develop a shared long-term vision for Peterborough city centre, strengthen the city's investment proposition and support future delivery arrangements, including the potential creation of a Mayoral Development Corporation, working with the Mayor to explore the most effective delivery model for the future.

The establishment of the Peterborough City Centre Growth Board marks a new phase of collaboration and delivery, with local leaders helping to drive momentum at pace, creating the leadership needed to transform the city centre and secure Peterborough's future as one of the UK's fastest-growing cities.

TIGER ON DEMAND EXPANDS TO SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



Tiger on Demand has expanded into 13 South Cambridgeshire villages, giving more residents access to flexible, demand-responsive public transport.

The service now covers Harlton, Hauxton, Harston, Haslingfield, Barrington, South Trumpington (Park & Ride), Great Shelford, Little Shelford, Whittlesford, Foxton, Newton, Shepreth and Stapleford.

Unlike a traditional bus service operating to a fixed timetable and route, Tiger on Demand allows residents to book journeys between virtual bus stops across a much wider travel zone, making it easier to travel when they need to.

The expansion has replaced the existing 32 service, offering passengers a more flexible way

to travel and better reflecting how people travel today.

The expansion was made possible through Developer funding secured by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

You can explore the new service area, find their nearest virtual bus stop and learn more about Tiger on Demand here:

<https://transport.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/buses/tiger-on-demand/>

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

There have been more than **50,000 passenger journeys** using the Tiger on Demand since the service launched in 2024.



£15 MILLION BOOST TO CREATE MORE COLLEGE PLACES ACROSS CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

Local Post 16 Further Education Statutory Providers across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are set to benefit from more than £15 million of investment to expand learner places and specialist training facilities across the region.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has approved a new Skills Capital Programme worth £15.1 million, bringing together £14.45 million of Department for Education investment with additional funding from the Combined Authority's FE Cold Spots programme.

The investment comes as the region prepares for increasing demand for post-16 education, with the number of 16 to 19-year-olds expected to continue rising over the coming years.

Funding will support projects that create additional learner capacity through the refurbishment or reconfiguration of existing facilities, expansion of teaching and workshop spaces and, where justified, the development of new learning facilities.

Alongside creating additional post-16 places, the programme will invest significantly in construction skills training. This will help colleges expand facilities and specialist provision needed to train the next generation of skilled workers required to deliver housing, infrastructure, retrofit and net zero projects across the region.

The programme forms part of a wider long-term strategy to strengthen skills and infrastructure across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, ensuring education and training provision keeps pace with population growth, employer demand and the region's economic ambitions.

Successful projects are expected to be approved during 2026 and early 2027, with delivery beginning in 2027 and new learner places becoming available from 2028 onwards.

FREE PARKING IN PETERBOROUGH TO GO LIVE THIS SUMMER

Free parking has been confirmed for Peterborough from August 3 after Peterborough City Council's cabinet yesterday (July 21) accepted grant funding from the Combined Authority to deliver free parking in four council-owned car parks from 3pm.

Bishops Road, Car Haven, Riverside and Pleasure Fair Meadow car parks will all be covered by the scheme, between Monday to Friday, as part of a time-limited trial.

The scheme was pledged by Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Paul Bristow in his manifesto, as part of his wider ambition to regenerate Peterborough city centre and support the high street.

Free parking aims to bring in more footfall to support local businesses and the health and vibrancy of the evening economy. The impact of free parking will be monitored to assess its impacts.

£891,667 of the total Mayor's budget set aside for free parking will enable the scheme to run until the end of March 2028.

This scheme aims to support the evening economy, attract more visitors, support city centre businesses and attractions, and help local traders compete with out-of-town and online retailers.

CAMBRIDGE SOUTH STATION OPENING VITAL FOR TRANSPORT, JOBS AND GROWTH



Cambridge South Station opened on Sunday 28 June, providing a direct rail link to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus and marking a significant milestone for transport in Cambridge and the wider region.

The station is key to unlocking growth, opening up opportunity, and supporting better journeys in Cambridge, providing a direct rail link to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. All passing services will stop at the station and will serve up to nine trains per hour, meaning Cambridge South will make a difference from day one for those getting to work and patients using the three world class hospitals on site. It is expected to welcome 1.8 million passengers a year.

The Combined Authority's Local Growth Plan sets out Paul Bristow's ambition to triple the size of the regional economy by 2050. The life sciences sector in Cambridge alone is expected to support around 27,000 jobs by 2031. Cambridge South will make more these jobs accessible to talent from across the region.

The Cambridge Biomedical Campus is one of the Europe's most intensive sites for life sciences worth £4.7bn to the UK economy, and this could rise to £18.2bn by 2050. Cambridge South will be a key enabler of that growth.

Cambridge South is also an important part of the Mayor's plans to get Cambridgeshire and Peterborough moving. It will form a spine of stations for the city including the central and north stations, providing a foundation for better journeys in Cambridge and the wider region.

The station was delivered ahead of its original timetable, having originally been planned to open alongside East West Rail. Its accelerated delivery was supported by early-stage funding from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. Construction was funded through a £250 million Government investment, including a £5 million contribution from the Combined Authority.

RESIDENTS URGED TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF LOCAL BUS SERVICES AS BUS NETWORK REVIEW ENGAGEMENT COMES TO AN END



The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is encouraging residents to have their say on proposed changes to local bus services as the Bus Network Review engagement comes to an end, with the engagement closing at 5pm on Tuesday 28 July.

Since launching last month, more than 1000 residents and bus users from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have already shared their views on proposals designed to improve local bus services by making them more reliable, better connected and better value for money.

The proposals include changes to routes across Cambridge City, Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Peterborough. In some areas, this could mean new routes and improved connections, while in others, existing routes could be simplified or replaced to better reflect how passengers use local bus services today.

The proposals are based on a review of bus services currently funded by the Combined Authority. The review examined how routes are being used, whether they meet local travel needs, how well they connect people to key destinations, and whether they provide the best possible value for public funding.

The Combined Authority would like to thank everyone who has already taken the time to share their views. Residents who have not yet taken part are encouraged to review the proposals for their local area and complete the survey before the engagement closes.

Following the close of the engagement, we will review the feedback received and refine the proposals where appropriate. The updated proposals will then be presented to the Combined Authority Board in September (23 September), where members will consider them before making a final decision.

THERE'S STILL TIME TO TAKE PART

Residents can respond online via the consultation webpage at:
[Bus Network Review](#)

General comments and questions can also be emailed to:
consultations@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

Accessible formats are available on request.



**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](#).



3 AUGUST

Funding Committee
10:00am

10 SEPTEMBER

Audit and Governance Committee
10:00am

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



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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](#).



ARU PETERBOROUGH GRADUATES LOOK TO THE FUTURE

New [ARU Peterborough](#) graduates are looking to the future after crossing the stage at Peterborough Cathedral on Thursday 9 July, with many already taking the first step into fulfilling careers.



GATEWAY REVIEW SIGNALS CONFIDENCE IN COMBINED AUTHORITY AND RELEASES £100M INVESTMENT

The Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority has successfully passed its latest Government Gateway Review, marking a strong vote of confidence in the organisation's progress and future direction.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE CONSTABULARY CUTS ENERGY COSTS WITH NEW SOLAR CANOPIES THROUGH FUNDS SECURED BY CPCA

Cambridgeshire Constabulary is set to save thousands of pounds in energy costs following the installation of new solar canopies and panels at its Huntingdon headquarters, with funding from the Great British Energy's Mayoral Renewable Energy Fund.



NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORT TO ACCELERATE MAYOR'S MISSION TO GET CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH MOVING

The Combined Authority has appointed Tom Bousfield as its new Executive Director of Transport, a senior strategic role central to delivering the Mayor's bold ambition to get Cambridgeshire & Peterborough moving. Tom joins the Combined Authority from the South Yorkshire Combined Authority, where he serves as Executive Director.