

# MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



## UPDATED PLANS FOR SUPPORTED BUS SERVICES APPROVED

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board has approved updated plans for the region's supported bus network, following changes shaped by responses to a six-week public engagement.

The plans include revised routes, new connections and improvements to existing services, while retaining some links residents told us were important. For example, the revised 65 will connect St Neots, Godmanchester, the Hemingfords and St Ives, while the 62 will continue to serve the Werrington loop.

The Combined Authority will now begin tendering the services, with the first changes expected from February 2027 and further changes planned for August 2027.

Feedback from residents, councillors, MPs and community groups helped shape changes to routes and timetables, with a focus on reliable services, suitable operating hours and better connections to key destinations such as rail stations and healthcare. Where possible, important links will be retained or replaced, with

Tiger on Demand also being used where appropriate.

The Combined Authority recognises that changes to local bus services matter to the people who rely on them. Once the tender process is complete and contracts are agreed, we will clearly communicate the confirmed routes, timetables and start dates to residents ahead of any changes.

The review is part of the Combined Authority's wider work to improve buses, alongside its plans for bus franchising. To view the approved proposals in full, please click here: [Bus Services Reimagined – Service Change Proposals](#)

Your support will be important in helping us communicate these changes to residents. If you are able to share information through your newsletter, website, social media, noticeboards or other local channels, please get in touch with our Communications team at [comms@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk](mailto:comms@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk) to let us know how you can support.



## UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW

The first full month after what was a busy summer of announcements has seen us push further with my Local Growth Plan target of tripling our economy and improving the transport and infrastructure we all rely on.

I joined 200 key figures from our heritage and tourism industry across the region at the first Visitor Economy Conference at Peterborough Cathedral to highlight how we can work together on the opportunities and challenges our region faces. It was encouraging to see partners come together to discuss how we can strengthen our county as a tourism destination, having secured Local Visitor Economy Partnership status from Visit England earlier this year.

I also opened Cambridge Tech Week, where I spoke about the importance of the Combined Authority creating the conditions to help advanced technology and science flourish in our region. Events like these, with global reach, continue to show how our county is growing, moving and building for the future.

We also need resilience, with water a key concern.

So, I was pleased to lead a roundtable on this very topic. We brought together government departments, water companies, local government and regulators to explore how we can work better together to secure water supplies and manage flood risks. The discussion helped inform our draft Water Resilience Plan.

Our Board approved changes to parts of the region's bus network that we fund, including new routes and connections, and improvements to existing services. Shaped by feedback from a six-week public engagement, this decision enables us to progress a network designed to improve connectivity and make journeys more reliable across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Changes will take place next year.

I'm pleased to be working with partner councils on rough sleeping and I've approved £1.75 million in funding to them to help tackle the issue, including a focus on giving people a route off the street by Christmas.

And finally, my latest Mayoral Question Time event in Ely saw residents quiz me on bus franchising, the resilience of local infrastructure, including water supply and energy. These events are about being open, accessible and accountable, and I look forward to holding more across the region during my time as Mayor. You can listen back on our YouTube page!



## UPDATE FROM THE CEO ROB BRIDGE

It has been another busy few weeks across the Combined Authority, with much of our focus continuing to be on the opportunities and challenges that come with the Government's devolution reforms and Rewiring the State.

Fiscal devolution is a key part of this work. I have been working with colleagues in Government and other Strategic Authorities on how greater control over local revenues could work in practice. We are expecting retained business rates at Cambridgeshire and Peterborough from April 2027, followed by retention of a proportion of income tax from April 2028. There is still significant work to do to make sure the approach supports growth while recognising the different needs across the country and we may get more details in the Chancellor's Autumn budget.

We are also focusing on turning our Local Growth Plan into delivery. Our pipeline of potential projects is large, but we need to concentrate on those that are ready to progress and can make a real contribution to growing our economy. We are working to develop a focused set of investable propositions and identify where we can have the

greatest impact.

The Cambridge Development Corporation is another important part of our plans for growth. Now formally established, we are continuing to work closely with colleagues on its priorities and objectives. Our Local Growth Plan and Spatial Development Strategy will be important in shaping this work and supporting sustainable growth in Cambridge and the wider region.

As we look at how we support growth across the region, making sure people can access jobs, education and other opportunities is just as important. Our work on the bus network is an important part of this. The updated Bus Network Review proposals have been approved, with officers now working on tendering the services. The first changes are expected from February 2027, with further changes planned for August 2027. We are also continuing to work towards wider bus reform, with a supplementary consultation underway on the proposed staged introduction of bus franchising. The consultation closes on Tuesday 27 October.

There is a great deal happening across the Combined Authority as we continue to take on new responsibilities and work with Government and our partners to deliver for the region. A huge thank you, as always, for everything colleagues are doing to keep this work moving forward.

## FIRST VISITOR ECONOMY CONFERENCE HELD IN PETERBOROUGH



Cambridgeshire and Peterborough hosted a busy and energetic first Visitor Economy Conference at Peterborough Cathedral, bringing together 200 key figures from the region's heritage and tourism industry.

The event focused on the region's new Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) and its role in supporting growth across the visitor economy, which is worth £2.4 billion to the local economy and supports around 40,000 jobs.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough achieved LVEP status in June following a bid led by the Combined Authority and supported by eight regional partners. A new five-year tourism strategy has since been co-created with the industry, with an LVEP Board being established to champion its delivery.

A core message from the day was the importance working together, so it is easier for visitors to explore more parts of the region, stay longer and spend more money and businesses were encouraged to get involved with the LVEP and through it support local communities in new opportunities.

The conference also explored opportunities linked to major developments, including the new Universal theme park in Bedfordshire, and heard from Peterborough City Council about plans for the Station Quarter and how regeneration can support the visitor economy.

The event provided an opportunity for businesses and partners to discuss the opportunities ahead and how the LVEP can help showcase Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a destination.



## MAYOR QUIZZED ON TRANSPORT, WATER AND ECONOMIC GROWTH AT ELY QUESTION TIME

Mayor Paul Bristow faced questions from residents on transport, infrastructure, water and economic growth at the latest Mayor's Question Time, held at Ely City FC.

The event was hosted by Paul Brackley, editor of the Cambridge Independent, who put residents' questions directly to the Mayor.

Topics raised included bus franchising and the Mayor's commitment to delivering it, the future of rural bus services, the recently decided Cambourne to Cambridge busway, and the case for light rail and trams serving Cambridge and the wider area.

Residents also questioned the Mayor on economic growth across the Fens and the region's water resources, reflecting the strong public interest in how the area balances growth with pressure on water supply and the rural economy.

[LISTEN HERE](#)



## £5.4M INVESTMENT SET TO UNLOCK MORE THAN 5,500 EV CHARGERS IN THE REGION

More than 5,500 electric vehicle charge points are set to be installed across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, unlocked by £5.4 million in Combined Authority funding, subject to final approvals.

The Combined Authority secured the funding through the Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund to support residents without driveways or off-street parking. Following a joint procurement by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council, Believ will deliver 5,585 charge points across the region, including 1,058 in Peterborough and 4,527 in Cambridgeshire.

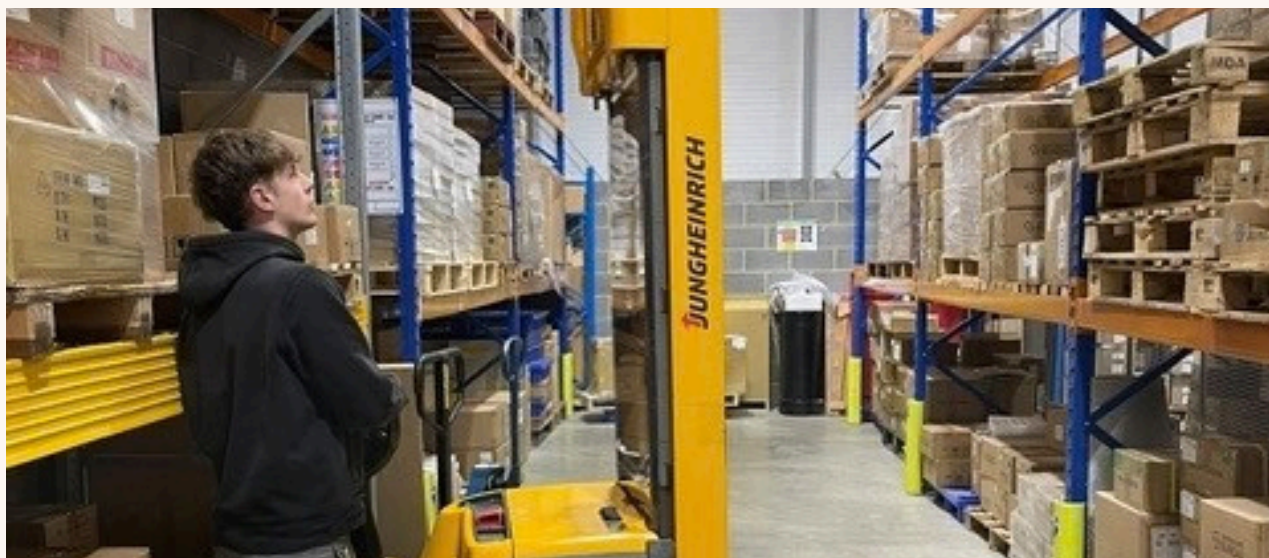
The investment will support the region's target for 80% of households without off-street parking to be within a five-minute walk of a public charger or able to charge on-street by 2040.

Chargers will be installed on residential streets, with locations confirmed following surveys, assessments and engagement with local communities. The contract also includes measures to support affordability and ensure chargers are delivered in areas that need them most.

Subject to final approvals, installation is expected to begin next year.

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## SUPPORTED INTERN TO PERMANENT TEAM MEMBER



The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is proud to celebrate Kaleb Whittle, who recently transitioned from a 16-week supported internship into a full-time, permanent Warehouse Operator role at FORTEC UK.

Following an industry experience day hosted with Inspire2Ignite, Kaleb secured the internship and quickly immersed himself in warehouse operations. He gained hands-on experience in health and safety, IT processes, stock management, and operating a stacker truck. His exceptional accuracy, positive attitude, and eagerness to learn made him a seamless fit for the team, making FORTEC UK's decision to offer him a permanent contract an easy one.

Reflecting on his journey, Kaleb said: "In my time here, I have learnt how to use a stacker truck, locate stock, receive and despatch stock, and much more. I have also really enjoyed socialising with everyone in the company."

Andrew Ferrier, Operations Director at FORTEC UK, added: "Kaleb's progression is a great example of what can be achieved when young people are given the opportunity to gain meaningful, hands-on industry experience. We're very pleased to have Kaleb as part of the team and look forward to supporting his continued development."

Kaleb's success reflects the wider impact of the Combined Authority's internship scheme. More than 281 young people have started internships with over 85 businesses across the region, and 75% of interns from the first year have gone on to remain in employment long-term. With 92% of participants achieving a positive destination or recognised digital training badge, the scheme is helping young people build skills, gain experience and move into lasting employment.

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**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](#).



## 2 NOVEMBER

Funding Committee  
10:00am

## 10 NOVEMBER

Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
10:00am

## 3 NOVEMBER

Growth Committee  
10:00am

## 12 NOVEMBER

Audit and Governance Committee  
10:00am

## 4 NOVEMBER

Transport Committee  
10:00am

## 25 NOVEMBER

Combined Authority Board  
10:00am

## 9 NOVEMBER

Skills Committee  
10:00am

## 7 DECEMBER

Funding Committee  
10:00am



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

**PAUL BRISTOW** MAYOR  
OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH

# LATEST NEWS

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



## **PARTNERS COME TOGETHER FOR WATER RESILIENCE ROUNDTABLE**

Mayor Paul Bristow brought together government, water companies, local authorities and regulators to discuss how to address the region's water challenges, helping shape the Combined Authority's draft Water Resilience Plan.



## **YOUTH GUARANTEE TRAILBLAZER CELEBRATES YEAR 1 ACHIEVEMENTS**

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Youth Guarantee Trailblazer has published its Year 1 evaluation, highlighting how delivery partners expanded support for young people into education, employment and training. The findings will inform Year 2.



## **CAMBRIDGE SOUTH WELCOMES OVER 400,000 JOURNEYS SINCE OPENING**

Over 400 thousand journeys have been made to and from Cambridge South station since it opened its gates 100 days ago, transforming the way people travel to and from Europe's largest biomedical campus - home to world-class science, NHS hospitals and business facilities.



## **MAYOR WELCOMES TAIWANESE BUSINESS DELEGATION TO CAMBRIDGE**

Mayor Paul Bristow welcomed a Taiwanese business delegation to Cambridge to explore opportunities for greater collaboration and investment, particularly across semiconductors and advanced manufacturing, where Taiwan and the region share strengths.