CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

PAUL BRISTOW MAYOR OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



NEW YOUTH HUB SET TO OPEN IN WISBECH

A new Youth Hub is set to open in Wisbech in early 2027, bringing vital employment, skills and wellbeing support to young people across Fenland. The Hub will offer a dedicated lifeline to those struggling to access work or training.

Backed by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and run by local charity Centre 33, the Hub will support young people aged 16 to 25, focusing on helping those who are currently Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

Based at the Annabelle Davis Centre in Wisbech, the Hub will bring together support for employment, careers, training, wellbeing and housing under one roof. It will also deliver outreach across Fenland, helping young people in rural and surrounding communities access support closer to home.

Drawing on the proven success of the Youth Hub already operating in Peterborough, the Wisbech site aims to make it easier for young people to access the right support without having to navigate multiple organisations.

Alongside the launch, Mayor Paul Bristow is challenging 33 local businesses to support the next generation by pledging one tangible opportunity for a young person. This could include work experience, a placement, mentoring or support into training. Participating businesses will be recognised as part of the campaign, with progress towards the target of 33 pledges shared along the way.

If you know any local businesses that would be interested in taking part, please encourage them to get involved and help connect more young people with opportunities. Businesses can register their interest here.

The investment comes at an important time, with around one in seven (14.2%) 16 to 24-year-olds across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough currently classed as NEET.



UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR

PAUL BRISTOW

If greater devolution is about giving our region more tools to drive growth, it should also allow us to retain more of the benefits to reinvest in infrastructure and our communities.

And so, while there was plenty in the Autumn Budget I would have done differently, I'm determined to make the most of the opportunities it gives.

Mayors will get a share of business rates from April 2027 and of income tax from 2028 as part of the Government's Fiscal Devolution Roadmap. The detail on this will be vital, but it's a significant step forward.

The proposal to explore Cambridge Biomedical Campus as a special Business Rates status could benefit our region as the site expands. The Campus already contributes £4.7 billion to the UK economy each year and could quadruple its contribution over 25 years. The proposed Good Growth Fund and borrowing powers are also encouraging. With the right approach, they will give us greater scope for long-term, infrastructure-led development. My priority is growth that benefits local people, and further devolved powers must help us achieve that.

This Budget followed a busy summer of announcements from central government, chiefly Rewiring the State, and now I will continue pushing forward with our partners on our Local Growth Plan and my ambition of tripling the economy by 2050.

And talking of growth, I toured the Wellcome Genome Campus in South Cambridgeshire to see how they are progressing with their expansion. Its workforce is expected to grow from around 3,000 to 9,000 over the next decade. Better transport and infrastructure will be key to helping the Campus realise its potential.

I was pleased to be re-elected as Chair of the A47 Alliance, the cross-border campaign group whose mission is to dual the whole road from Lowestoft in Suffolk to the A1 west of Peterborough. As Chair, I will work with Alliance partners to keep up momentum, make a stronger case for dualling and push for the investment needed to realise the region's long-term ambitions and support better journeys in Peterborough, Fenland and beyond.

We held our first Peterborough Growth Board. Speeding up Peterborough's regeneration has been a priority since I became Mayor. The Growth Board reflects a shared commitment with the City Council and Homes England to get the city's economy moving, with a clear focus on delivering results.

And finally, we launched a new social media format for Mayor's Question Time, allowing me to reach more of our residents. I will answer the public's questions on social media. Finding new ways to be open, accessible and accountable is important.



UPDATE FROM THE CEO

ROB BRIDGE

The last few weeks have been particularly busy, with the Government's Autumn Budget being an important development for us as a Mayoral Strategic Authority.

One of the biggest changes is how we will be funded in the future. From April 2027, Mayors will receive a share of business rates raised in their areas, followed by a proportion of income tax from 2028. This is an important step towards giving regions greater control over the money they generate and more opportunity to invest in local priorities and support growth. There is still more detail to work through, but this represents a real shift in how funding and decisions are brought closer to local communities.

This is part of the Government's wider Rewiring the State programme, which will bring further changes to the responsibilities and powers of Strategic Authorities. The forthcoming Delivery Plan will set out more detail, and it is important that the needs and opportunities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are reflected as these plans develop.

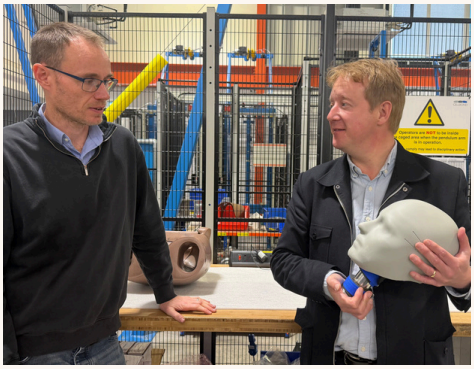
I have also continued to spend time with colleagues at No10 North, including discussions about opportunities to support growth across the country. One of these is the Government's Strategic Sites Accelerator, which will work with Mayors and local leaders to identify opportunities for up to 10 major industrial and commercial sites across the UK. Delivering growth in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough means tackling the viability challenges that can sometimes prevent major developments from going ahead. The programme will focus on sites with strong investor demand, where Government backing can help overcome these barriers and bring forward development. This is a welcome step towards attracting investment, creating jobs and making the most of our region's economic potential.

There is a great deal changing, and the coming months will be important as we begin to understand what these new powers and responsibilities will mean in practice. Our focus remains on making the most of these opportunities and ensuring they deliver lasting benefits for the communities and businesses we serve.

MAYOR VISITS ALCONBURY WEALD TO SEE BUSINESSES EXCELLING IN INNOVATION







Mayor Paul Bristow visited two innovative Huntingdonshire businesses, celebrating their contributions to the regional economy and exploring opportunities for future growth.

The first visit was to AM Fresh, a family-owned Spanish company with sites at Alconbury Weald and Peterborough, supplying fresh produce to major UK retailers and 30 countries worldwide.

The Mayor toured its newly opened Omega Centre, which brings science and industry together to advance fruit biochemistry and packing technology. He heard how the business is using research, taste testing and AI to improve product quality, alongside its work with local education providers to develop future talent through opportunities such as T Level placements.

The Mayor then visited Encocam, a globally recognised advanced manufacturing business at Alconbury Weald, specialising in automotive safety technologies and engineering.

During the visit, he toured its specialist crash test dummy facility and heard about the opportunities and challenges facing the automotive sector, as well as the company's plans for future growth and investment in the region.

Encocam also highlighted its commitment to developing local skills, having delivered more than 20 apprenticeship schemes over the past decade and regularly engaging with local schools to create pathways into engineering careers.

Both businesses showcase the innovation, investment and skills development that are central to the Combined Authority's ambitions for economic growth across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.



BUS NETWORK REVIEW UPDATE

Work is continuing on the Bus Network Review following approval of the updated proposals by the Combined Authority Board in September. An update was shared at Transport Committee on Wednesday 4 November, and work is ongoing to move things forward.

We'll keep you updated as things progress. Your support will be important in helping us share information with residents, and we'll be in touch when there are further updates and opportunities to help spread the word.

PETERBOROUGH GROWTH BOARD TAKES FIRST STEP TOWARDS TURNING CITY'S POTENTIAL INTO PROGRESS



Peterborough's new City Centre Growth Board has met for the first time, bringing together the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Peterborough City Council and Homes England with a clear task: turn the city's growth ambitions into action.

Peterborough has momentum, political alignment and is putting together a clear plan to deliver regeneration and growth for Peterborough. Identified as a Fast Growth City Opportunity Zone in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Growth Plan, the city has a significant opportunity to become one of the country's leading growth cities.

The priority is to make partnership count by attracting investment and bringing visible change across the city centre.

The Growth Board brings partners together around shared priorities, helping coordinate investment, tackle barriers to regeneration and strengthen Peterborough's proposition to investors and developers.

Its focus will be on unlocking opportunities for new homes, jobs and businesses while improving the city centre.

At its first meeting, the Growth Board discussed how to turn the visioning work with the public, partners and stakeholders into a delivery plan to stimulate investment and regeneration.

The Board will expand over time to bring in other local and national organisations able to contribute expertise, investment and influence.

The Board will also continue to explore the Mayor's vision for a Mayoral Development Corporation and the potential evolution of the Growth Board to support Peterborough's wider regeneration ambitions.

The first meeting builds on the work to promote Peterborough's growth potential at UKREiiF 2026. Over three days, the Combined Authority, Peterborough City Council and Homes England showcased the city's potential to more than 1,000 investors, developers and partners.

The focus now is on building on that interest and returning to UKREiiF in 2027 with a stronger proposition, underpinned by tangible progress and a clear pipeline of opportunities — turning interest into investment conversations.

MAYOR WITNESSES AND SUPPORTS GROWTH AT THE WELLCOME GENOME CAMPUS

Mayor Paul Bristow visited Wellcome Genome Campus in South Cambridgeshire to hear about its ambitious expansion plans and the opportunities for regional growth.



The Mayor toured the site, where the first phase of expansion is expected to be completed in 2028. Over the next decade, the Campus plans to grow from 125 to 440 acres, with its workforce increasing from 3,000 to 9,000.

The expansion will support world-leading research, innovation and new businesses, alongside 1,500 homes, community facilities and improved infrastructure. Discussions also highlighted the importance of better transport links, including mass rapid transit and active travel, to support the growing science and technology hub.

MAYOR'S QUESTION TIME GOES ONLINE

Mayor Paul Bristow is inviting residents and businesses to put their questions directly to him as part of a new online Q&A.

The Combined Authority is collecting questions from across the region, giving residents the opportunity to raise the issues that matter to them. The Mayor will then answer selected questions through the Combined Authority's social media channels.

Whether it's transport, housing, jobs, economic growth or the future of local communities, this is an opportunity for residents to find out more about the Mayor's plans and priorities for the region.

Residents can submit their questions through an online form or head to the Combined Authority's social media channels to leave a question in the comments.

Please help us spread the word and encourage your residents to get involved. Questions must be submitted by 5pm on Thursday 19 November 2026.

SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS HERE

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are our upcoming meetings. You can view the full calendar on our website here.





25 NOVEMBER
Combined Authority Board
10:00am

7 DECEMBER
Funding Committee
10:00am

8 DECEMBER
Growth Committee
10:00am

9 DECEMBER
Transport Committee
10:00am

10 DECEMBER
Audit and Governance Committee
10:00am

14 DECEMBER
Skills Committee
10:00am

5 JANUARY
Combined Authority Board
10:00am

13 JANUARY
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.



MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW STATEMENT ON REGIONAL WATER COUNCILS

Paul Bristow has made a statement in response to the Government's announcement that new regional water councils will be created, alongside new powers for Mayors to hold water companies to account.



MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW STATEMENT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

Paul Bristow, has made a statement following the recent news that the Government has delayed a decision on local government reorganisation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough until 2027.



PAUL BRISTOW: CAMBRIDGE SOUTH 'ALREADY MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE'

Paul Bristow reacted to news about Cambridge South train station serving 400,000 journeys in it's first 100 days, transforming the way people travel to and from Europe's largest biomedical campus - home to world-class science, NHS hospitals and business facilities.



MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW REAFFIRMED AS CHAIR OF A47 ALLIANCE

Paul Bristow, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and the only directly elected Mayor in the East of England, has been reaffirmed as Chair of the A47 Alliance, pledging to put the case for investment in the increasingly congested route, firmly back on the agenda.