



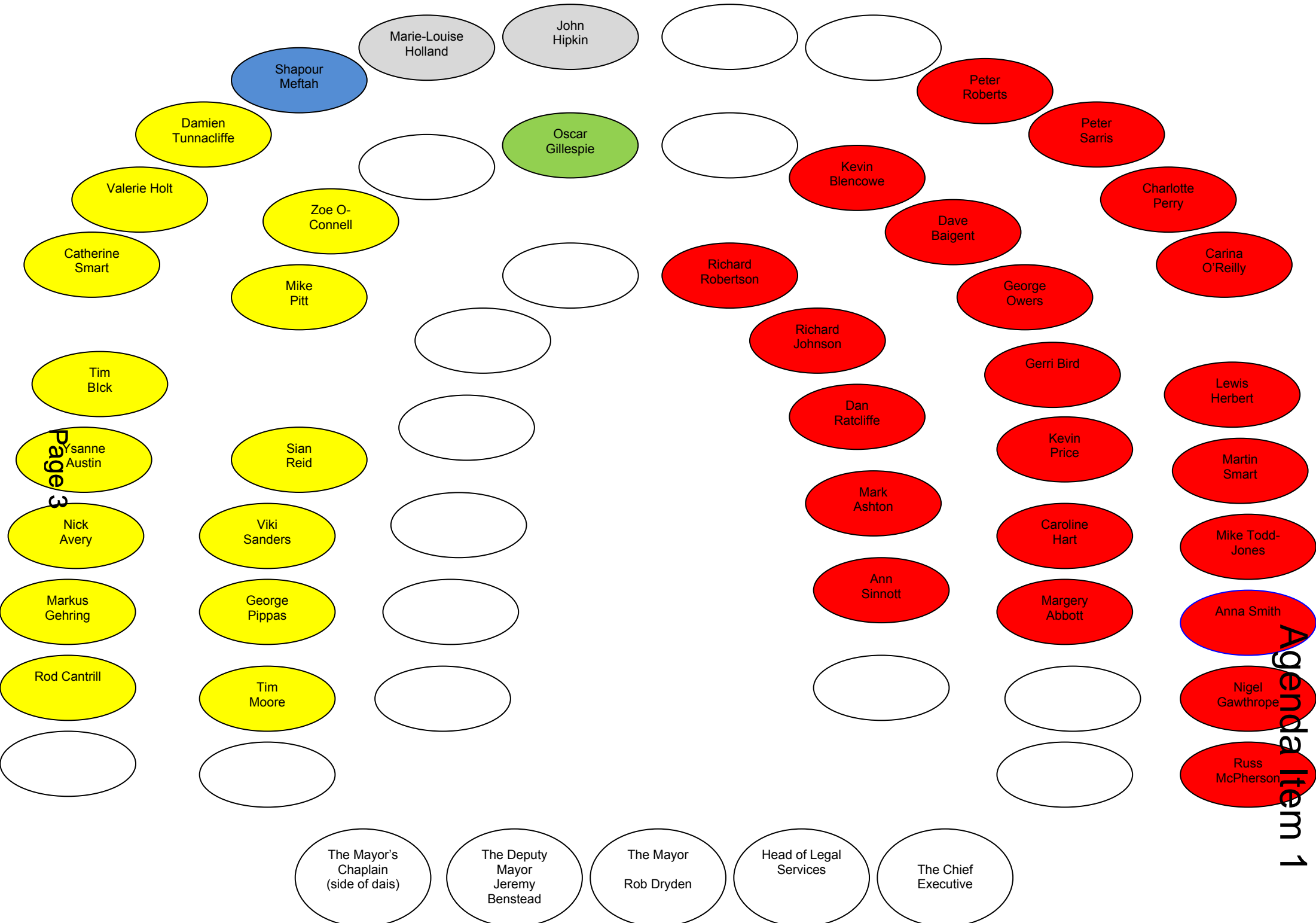
CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

INFORMATION PACK

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Catherine Smart

Tim Bick

Ysanne Austin

Nick Avery

Markus Gehring

Rod Cantrill

Damien Tunncliffe

Valerie Holt

Zoe O-Connell

Mike Pitt

Sian Reid

Viki Sanders

George Pippas

Tim Moore

Shapour Meftah

Marie-Louise Holland

The Mayor's Chaplain (side of dais)

The Deputy Mayor Jeremy Benstead

The Mayor Rob Dryden

Head of Legal Services

The Chief Executive

John Hipkin

Oscar Gillespie

Richard Robertson

Richard Johnson

Dan Ratcliffe

Mark Ashton

Ann Sinnott

Kevin Blencowe

Dave Baigent

George Owers

Gerri Bird

Kevin Price

Caroline Hart

Margery Abbott

Peter Roberts

Peter Sarris

Charlotte Perry

Carina O'Reilly

Lewis Herbert

Martin Smart

Mike Todd-Jones

Anna Smith

Nigel Gawthrop

Russ McPherson

Agenda Item 1

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Oral Questions in Order for Council

Primary Questions

1) Councillor C. Smart to the Leader

Can the Leader tell the Council about the progress of his talks with various parties to improve the conditions for people trying to use the railway station?

2) Councillor Austin to the Executive Councillor for City Centre and Public Places

On 9 July 21 punt touts were counted between St Johns College and Kings College. How are plans progressing to control this activity?

3) Councillor Reid to the Executive Councillor for Communities

Does the Executive Councillor agree that political balance and local knowledge are important considerations in making appointments to collaborative external bodies such as Clay Farm Community Centre?

4) Councillor Bick to the Executive Councillor for Environment and Waste

Following his recent failure to recognise the Parker's Piece conservation plan by public consultation before installing new concrete bases and bins, for which his officers have apologised, can the Executive Councillor confirm the undertaking he made at the West-Central Area Committee to consult on any future changes like this to Parker's Piece which are potentially in conflict with the conservation plan?

5) Councillor Cantrill to the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

The proposals for a national living wage announced at the budget, appear to be a living wage in name only and does not appear to reflect the aims of the long established living wage campaign. Can the Executive Councillor confirm that the city council will continue with its efforts to pursue the living wage campaign as pursued by the Living Wage Foundation?

Secondary Question

Councillor Reid to the Leader

Does the Leader agree that the council should be transparent in the financial reporting it offers to support decision making and scrutiny?

Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

February 2015

Summary

The LGA is engaged with decision makers in London and Brussels to ensure the benefits of the proposed EU-US trade agreement can be realised without detrimental impacts to local public services as provided by councils.

Whilst recognising the significant free trade benefits of the deal, the LGA is pressing for:

1. Clear and specific safeguards for services delivered by councils, including education and social services. The approach is currently unsatisfactory in a deal which could have public sector consequences if the drafting is not watertight.
2. The continued right for councils to determine their own service delivery models now and in the future.
3. The continued right for national governments and councils to set public policy and standards in all fields: health, safety, environmental protection, labour law, data protection, consumer protection etc.
4. A levelling up rather than a levelling down of common EU-US goods and services standards.
5. Reform or removal of the special tribunal (ISDS) mechanism in order to limit private litigation against public authorities. Talks have currently been suspended on this issue.
6. The fullest transparency in the negotiating process itself and local government representation in the negotiations via the EU's Committee of the Regions.

Briefing

Both the European Commission and the UK Government emphasise that the deal will have no negative impact upon services delivered by councils.

These are negotiations: there is no actual written text of the deal yet which stakeholders can examine.

What is TTIP?

TTIP is a free trade agreement currently being negotiated between the European Union and the United States. The deal aims to:

- Open up access for nearly all services and goods markets between the two continents – reducing customs duties on goods, reducing restrictions on services, and further opening up public procurement markets.

For example, the US currently imposes duties on EU firms exporting textiles, cars, ceramics, and agricultural products to the US. Also, US public contracts can currently give preference to US companies. The aim

of TTIP is to ensure that companies are treated equally irrespective of their continent of origin.

- Improve regulatory coherence between EU and US standards

For example, a car would currently have one set of checks when it leaves the US to ensure that it meets US standards, and another set of checks when it comes into the EU to ensure that it meets a different set of EU standards. This can be a barrier to trade given that, in some areas, EU and US standards are similar i.e. health, safety, labour law, environmental standards, consumer protection, protection of privacy, protection of cultural diversity, the financial guarantees required for service providers etc. The deal would aim to move towards a common set of EU-US standards in these fields.

- Improve EU-US cooperation when setting international standards

For example, the EU and US would discuss together in a more structured way before negotiating international labour standards within the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Proponents of TTIP say the agreement would result in significant economic growth, job creation, and lower prices in both continents. Critics fear it may:

- make it more difficult for EU public authorities at all levels to regulate markets for public benefit
- increase corporate power giving business a greater ability to litigate against public authorities
- make it difficult to renationalise public services once liberalised due to ambiguities over scope, a deregulatory 'ratchet clause', and a special tribunal known as the ISDS (investor-state dispute settlement) mechanism.

Overall scope

The scope of the deal forms part of the negotiations. It is clear however that the final agreement will be exceptionally wide ranging in its scope and scale.

Negotiations cover many goods and services markets: everything from agricultural products, cars, chemicals, food and drink, ceramics, clothes, ICT products and services, textiles, and tobacco, through to distributive services (wholesale/retail), architect services, financial services, management consultancy, and property services.

The EU is able however to negotiate certain 'reservations' (exclusions) related to different service sectors to bring them outside of aspects of the agreement. The LGA understands that the EU may seek for a range of services to be sheltered from different aspects of the final agreement.¹ Such exclusions could allow for example for EU public authorities to limit the market access of US firms, provided they are not already established in the EU, and for specific national regulatory arrangements to continue for public policy reasons.

¹ including amongst others: publicly-funded education services; environmental services; all health services receiving any form of public support; and social services whether publicly or privately funded (except UK care homes).

In addition there are a number of reservations foreseen for certain service areas which will only apply in some EU countries e.g. there could be 'reservations' foreseen for medical, dental, or veterinary services in the UK.

Scope as regards public services

The European Commission and Government emphasise that services such as the NHS, and local government services such as education and social services, as well as water, will not be affected in any way by the agreement.

Nevertheless, exclusions for such services need to be clearly spelt out in the final text.

As the negotiations are confidential, and there is no agreed text, stakeholders are not able to assess which services might fall within, or outside of, different provisions in the deal as it evolves.

Previous similar trade deals (such as GATS) have included a blanket exclusion for public services, but this is not yet evident for TTIP. Another approach could be to adopt a 'positive list' i.e. only named sectors would come within the scope of the agreement.

The approach to public services is therefore currently unsatisfactory in a deal which could have public sector consequences if the drafting is not watertight.

Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism

A much-discussed aspect of the deal is a dispute settlement mechanism which bypasses the traditional courts. Some fear the ISDS, although well established for many years under other trade deals, may prompt a rise in litigation against public authorities e.g. fracking firms potentially suing public authorities for limiting drilling; energy firms potentially suing public authorities for changes to energy policies (such as more/fewer nuclear power stations); or, as is the case in Uruguay and Australia, tobacco companies suing public authorities for increasing the size of health warnings on cigarette packets.

The European Commission underlines that this well-established mechanism would not limit public policy choices but simply gives businesses the ability to hold public authorities to account over contracts which have been agreed. The mechanism is used rarely in Europe, and there has never been a successful case against a UK authority. The mechanism would also protect UK companies operating in the US for example.

Talks over the ISDS have currently been suspended due to these difficulties.

Interactions between the ISDS and the Community 'Right to Bid' in England also need to be explored.

Irreversible deregulation?

There are also concerns about a deregulatory 'ratchet clause' being discussed which critics fear may make it difficult to remunicipalise a service once it has been liberalised (a particularly sensitive issue in the NHS for example). Again, the European Commission and Government have assured stakeholders that public authorities will continue to have full control over whether a service is privatised or not, and that the ratchet clause will not affect public services, or the ability to bring an outsourced service back 'in-house'.

The process & transparency

The talks started in July 2013 and many rounds of negotiations have been completed so far. However, the complex deal will still take at least another few years to negotiate and be ratified by all EU Member States and the European Parliament.²

Concerns are fuelled by the fact that trade negotiations are more confidential than normal pieces of EU legislation. They are not subject to the usual decision-making process involving the European Parliament. The deal will only be unveiled once it's finally agreed by EU and US officials.

In January 2015 the European Commission released certain documents following pressure from stakeholders and the European Ombudsman. However several key documents, such as the actual draft texts of different chapters under discussion, still remain confidential. This is normal for trade deals.

The LGA response

The LGA fully recognises the importance of free trade and economic growth, and welcomes the reported £10 billion the deal could add to the UK economy each year. Nevertheless member councils have raised concerns around the scope of the proposals, the ISDS mechanism, the need for UK/EU standards to be upheld, and the need for councils to maintain their full ability to set public policy.

The LGA is in dialogue with Government and the European Commission and is also working through the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) – two key bodies representing the interests of local authorities in Brussels.

Whilst recognising the significant free trade benefits of the deal, the LGA is pressing for:

1. Clear and specific safeguards for services delivered by councils, including education and social services. The approach is currently unsatisfactory in a deal which could have public sector consequences if the drafting is not watertight.
2. The continued right for councils to determine their own service delivery models now and in the future.
3. The continued right for national governments and councils to set public policy and standards in all fields: health, safety, environmental protection, labour law, data protection, consumer protection etc.
4. A levelling up rather than a levelling down of common EU-US goods and services standards.
5. Reform or removal of the special tribunal (ISDS) mechanism in order to limit private litigation against public authorities. Talks have currently been suspended on this issue.

² Any one of the 28 EU Member States can block the deal. The European Parliament must simply approve or not the whole deal as presented. It cannot make amendments.

6. The fullest transparency in the negotiating process itself and local government representation in the negotiations via the EU's Committee of the Regions.

We will keep councils informed of progress and welcome comments to the e-mail addresses below.

Links

European Commission TTIP pages: <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/ttip/>

European Commission factsheet on TTIP and public services:
<http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/press/index.cfm?id=1115>

Local Government Association European & International pages:
<http://www.local.gov.uk/european-and-international>

Contact

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tina.holland@local.gov.uk LGA (London)

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Motion 7c Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

This council notes:

1. That the EU and USA launched negotiations in July 2013 on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).
2. That negotiations are underway to determine which goods and services TTIP will apply to and if new rules can be agreed to protect investors, harmonise standards, reduce tariffs and open new markets throughout the EU and USA.
3. That there has been no impact assessment about the potential impact on local authorities.
4. That there has been no scrutiny of the negotiating texts by local government and no consultation with local government representatives
5. That MPs are also unable to scrutinise the negotiating documents.

This council believes that:-

- ~~1. TTIP could have a detrimental impact on local services, employment, suppliers and decision-making.~~
- ~~2. A thorough impact assessment of TTIP on local authorities must be undertaken before the negotiations can be concluded.~~
- ~~3. The proposed Investor State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism has been used by corporations to overturn democratic decisions by all levels of governments at significant public cost. Local decision-making must be protected from ISDS.~~
- ~~4. The EU's food, environmental and labour standards are better than those in the US and TTIP negotiations must raise and not lower these standards across the EU and USA.~~
- ~~5. Sourcing supplies and employment locally is important to strengthening local economies and meeting local needs. TTIP must not impact on local authorities' ability to act in the best interests its communities.~~

This council resolves:

To hold a Councillor briefing and meeting including an invited speaker from LGIU or equivalent organisation, and better informed by that meeting:

1. To write to the secretary of state for communities and local government, local MPs, and all Eastern Region MEPs raising our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and the secrecy of the negotiating process.

2. To write to the local government association to raise our serious concerns about the impact of TTIP on local authorities and ask them to raise these with government on our behalf.
3. To call for an impact assessment on the impact of TTIP on local authorities.
- ~~4. To publicise the council's concerns about TTIP; join with other local authorities which are opposed to TTIP across Europe and work with local campaigners to raise awareness about the problems of TTIP.~~
- ~~5. To contact the local authorities of municipalities twinned with Cambridge asking them to consider passing a similar motion on TTIP~~

AMENDMENT TO COUNCIL MOTION 7D - 23 JULY 2015
GREATER CAMBRIDGE COMBINED AUTHORITY

Proposed by Councillor Lewis Herbert, Seconded Councillor Kevin Blencowe

Delete all after 'Council', and amend so it reads:

Council supports further devolution to Greater Cambridge and Cambridgeshire from Whitehall, as articulated in this week's letter to Greg Clark from all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough council leaders and public bodies, and is seeking improvements in the Cities and Local Devolution Bill to build on that strong partnership.

Delivering improvements now for our residents is our immediate priority, including by making the case for an improved share of national funding and increased freedoms for service delivery and local decision making.

Our focus as a Council is to build on the strong partnership and increasing achievements of councils within the Greater Cambridge area, working with our Universities and education bodies and local businesses, to improve the lives of Cambridge and Greater Cambridge residents, and help protect the city against future funding cuts from government. This will build on the achievements of the City Deal and our commitment to a Combined Authority for Greater Cambridge, and expand joint delivery and shared services locally.

In addition, we also support working for wider devolution across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough footprint, including all seven councils and the Local Enterprise Partnership area, helped by the recent securing of Cambridgeshire business rates above growth projections from Treasury.

Building on earlier Council decisions, Council states that our devolution objectives are to

- provide future benefit to the city and Greater Cambridge area;
- aid delivery of the Council's priorities for affordable housing, anti-poverty, transport, skills, service transformation and quality of life within communities and neighbourhoods; and

- recognise the importance to government of Greater Cambridge and Cambridgeshire as a 'Southern Powerhouse', delivering significant extra returns to the Treasury for every additional pound they invest in transport and rail infrastructure, education, skills and research.

Council therefore asks the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

a) to press for Combined Authority provisions in the Bill that are genuinely flexible as promised by the Government spokesperson in the House of Lords on 21st July, and

b) to seek maximum mutually agreed devolution for both Greater Cambridge and for the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and our 'Southern Powerhouse'.