



Cambridge City Council
Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee

Date: Monday, 10 February 2025

Time: 5.30 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Market Square, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ [access the building via Peashill entrance]

Contact: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk, tel:01223 457000

Agenda

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Declarations of Interest
- 3 Public Questions

Decisions for the Leader

- 4 Combined Authority Update (Pages 3 - 32)
- 5 Cambridge Delivery Company: Update Report (Pages 33 - 42)

Decisions for the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

- 6 Greater Cambridge Impact and Cambridge Pledge (Pages 43 - 54)
- 7 Detailed General Fund Budget Proposals 2025/26 and an Update to the Budget Setting Context Report to follow.
- 8 To Note Record of Urgent Decision Taken by the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources
- 8a Approval of a lease for the new East Barnwell Community Centre to Abbey People (Pages 55 - 58)

Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee Members: Robertson (Chair), Gawthrope Wood (Vice-Chair), Baigent, Bennett, Bick, Sheil, Young and Todd-Jones

Alternates: Ashton, Clough, Griffin, Martinelli and Porrer

Executive Councillors: Davey (Leader), Gilderdale (Statutory Deputy Leader with Executive Responsibility for Economy and Skills) and S. Smith (Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources)

Information for the public

The public may record (e.g. film, audio, tweet, blog) meetings which are open to the public.

For full information about committee meetings, committee reports, councillors and the democratic process:

- Website: <http://democracy.cambridge.gov.uk>
- Email: democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk
- Phone: 01223 457000

This Meeting will be live streamed to the Council's YouTube page. You can watch proceedings on the livestream or attend the meeting in person.

Those wishing to address the meeting will be able to do so virtually via Microsoft Teams, or by attending to speak in person. You must contact Democratic Services democratic.services@cambridge.gov.uk by 12 noon two working days before the meeting.

The full text of any public question must be submitted in writing by noon two working days before the date of the meeting or it will not be accepted. All questions submitted by the deadline will be published on the meeting webpage before the meeting is held.

Further information on public speaking will be supplied once registration and the written question / statement has been received.



REPORT TITLE: Combined Authority Update

To:

Cllr Mike Davey, Leader of the Council

Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee, 10th February 2025

Report by:

Lynne Miles, Director of Place & Economy

Tel: 01223 457358 Email: Lynne.Miles@Cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:

(All)

Director Approval: Lynne Miles, Director of Place & Economy, confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Executive Councillor for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	<p>It is recommended that the Leader:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Invite the Council's representative on the Combined Authority Board, Councillor Anna Smith, to provide an update on the work of the Board and issues considered at the meeting of the Combined Authority Board held on 22nd January 2025.2. Invite the Combined Authority's Assistant Director Skills and Employment to give an overview of the CPCA's work on skills and employment.
2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	<p>This is a regular report to the Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee providing an update on the activities of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Board.</p>

3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	Not applicable
4.	Background and key issues
4.1	<p>The decision sheet from the Combined Authority Board meeting on the 22nd January is attached at Appendix A.</p> <p>The decision sheet for the Combined Authority Board meeting on the 6th February will be circulated to members of this committee if it is published ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>The CPCA Chief Executive's update report to the CPCA Board at the 22nd January is appended for information at Appendix B.</p> <p>The CPCA Forward Plan, for January 2025 is attached at Appendix C. Members of the Committee may wish to highlight any areas of particular interest coming to forthcoming meetings to the Council's representative on the Board.</p>
4.2	A presentation on the CPCA's work on skills is attached at Appendix D. The CPCA's Assistant Director Skills and Employment has kindly agreed to join this committee meeting to provide an overview of this work to the committee.
4.3	The Government published a white paper on English Devolution in December. It proposes a range of new responsibilities and opportunities for what in future will be known as Strategic Authorities. The Combined Authority and its partner councils (including Cambridge City Council) will be working through the implications of the white paper in the coming months.
4.4	At its meeting on 16 th December 2024, the CPCA's Investment Committee resolved to approve the Full Business Case and £1m Revenue to deliver the Greater Cambridge Impact Investment Fund project.
8.	Implications

8.1	Relevant risks
	None
	Financial Implications
8.2	The CPCA's decision to allocate £1m to Greater Cambridge Impact has helped build the size of that pot and will inform the City Council's decision whether to confirm its own contribution of £800,000 to GCI in this year's Council Budget. The CPCA's allocation, potentially also increases the likelihood of other investors following suit.
	Legal Implications
8.3	None.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.4	None.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.5	None.
	Procurement Implications
8.6	None.
	Community Safety Implications
8.7	None.
9.	Background documents
9.1	English Devolution White Paper . Record of decision of CPCA Investment Committee meeting, 16 th December 2024

10.	Appendices
10.1	<p>Appendix A – Decision Sheet from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority Board meeting on 22 January 2025</p> <p>Appendix B – Update report to the CPCA Board meeting on 22 January from the CPCA Chief Executive</p> <p>Appendix C – CPCA Forward Plan, January 2025</p> <p>Appendix D – Presentation on the work of the CPCA on skills and employment</p>
	<p>To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact Lynne Miles, tel: 01223 457358, email: Lynne.Miles@Cambridge.gov.uk</p>



Any key decision/s set below will come into force and may be implemented after 5.00pm on the fifth clear working day after publication of the decision, unless they are called-in [see note on call in below], with the exception of any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Al Kingsley (with Nitin Patel substituting) and Councillor Edna Murphy.

2 Minutes of the previous meetings

The minutes of the meetings on 13 November 2024 and 13 December 2024 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Mayor. The Action Log was noted.

3 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Chris Boden declared an interest as a trustee of FACT Community Transport.

4 Announcements

There were no announcements made.

5 Public Questions

No public questions were received.

6 Petitions

No petitions were received.

7 Forward Plan

It was resolved to:

- A Approve the Forward Plan for January 2025

8 Combined Authority Membership Update

It was resolved to:

- A Note the temporary change in substitute member from East Cambridgeshire District Council on the Combined Authority's Audit and Governance Committee at the 28 November 2024 meeting.
- B Note the temporary change in substitute member from Peterborough City Council on the Combined Authority Board at the 13 December 2024 meeting.
- C Note the change in substitute appointments from Huntingdonshire District Council on the Combined Authority's Environment and Sustainable Communities, and Skills and Employment Committees.
- D Note the appointment of substitute member from Cambridge City Council on the Combined Authority's Audit and Governance Committee.
- E **Note the temporary change in substitute member from Cambridge City Council on the Combined Authority's Skills and Employment Committee at the 20 January 2025 meeting.**

9 Combined Authority Chief Executive Highlights Report

It was resolved to:

- A Note the contents of the report

10 Mayor's Budget

It was resolved to:

- A Note the proposed Mayoral budget for 2025-26, including the proposal to maintain the precept at £36 for a Band D property, and to provide comments to the Mayor regarding the proposed Mayoral Budget.
- B Approve the draft Mayoral Budget, including the proposed Mayoral precept noted above.
- C Delegate minor changes to the Mayor's budget, due to finalisation of council tax base figures, to the Executive Director of Resources.

11 Draft 2025/26 Corporate Strategy and Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025-2029

It was resolved to:

- A Note the consultation feedback received during the consultation period including the feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as set out in paragraph 2.26.
- B Approve the draft Corporate Strategy following its refresh subject to the inclusion of the final financial information once the budget is approved.
- C Approve the use of the Programme Response Fund in 2024-25 and 2025-26 to support the requirements of the English Devolution White Paper with any underspend on the Fund in 2024-25 being set aside in an earmarked Response Reserve.
- D Delegate authority to the Chief Executive to approve the draw down of the Programme Response Fund in 2024-25 and 2025-26, and the earmarked Response Reserve, in relation to costs arising as a result of addressing the English Devolution White Paper.
- E Approve the inclusion of the "Connect to Work" Get Britain Working initial funding of £100k split across 2024-25 and 2025-26. See paragraph 2.23.
- F Approve the Draft Budget for 2025-26 and the Capital Programme & Medium-Term Financial Plan 2025-26 to 2028-29 as contained in Appendices C, D and E and including project reprofiling set out in Appendix F, **subject to the reduction of the bus subsidy funding by £313k and a corresponding reduction of £313k in the transport levy to be divided between Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council using the existing formula.**
- G ~~Approve a 2% increase in the Transport Levy for 2025-26 totalling £14,039,563 – £10,277,774 from Cambridgeshire County Council and £3,761,789 from Peterborough City Council.~~ **Approve a 0.27% reduction in the Transport Levy for 2025-26 totalling £13,726,563 - £10,048,640 from Cambridgeshire County Council and £3,677,923 from Peterborough City Council.**
- H Approve the usage of the 2025-26 BSIP revenue grant allocation to fund an extension of the local single journey bus fare cap beyond 31 March 2025 as set out in paragraphs 2.54 and 2.55, noting that the additional costs associated with the £2 fare cap retention from January to March 2025 will be the first call on the transport underspend in 2024-25.
- I Note the Mayor's intention to allocate Highways Maintenance grants totalling £37,369,000 to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council in line with the Department for Transport formula for determining each Council's share resulting in the allocations of £29,793,213 and £7,575,787 respectively with more detail set out in paragraph 2.24.

- J Delegate any minor changes required to the budget before 1 April 2025 to the Executive Director of Resources including the inclusion of grant announcements made prior to 1 April 2025.

12 Investment Committee Papers

It was resolved to:

- A Approve the change request and budget increase of £2m for the Cygnet Bridge project.
- B Approve the concept proposal for the CPCA Strategic Investment and Innovation Growth Fund and for it to be developed into a business case as the next stage.
- C Approve the concept proposal for Littleport Business and Community Centre and for it to be developed into a business case as the next stage.
- D Note the Chief Executive Approval Decisions from December 2024.
- E Note the decisions from Investment Committee held on 16 December 2024.

13 Greater South East Net Zero Hub - Overview of programmes, finance and governance

It was resolved to:

- A Note the overview of the Greater South East Net Zero Hub (GSENZH) including an overview of programmes, finance and governance

14 Committee Calendar 2025/26

It was resolved to:

- A Approve the calendar of meetings for the 2025/26 Municipal Year

Notes:

- a) Statements in **bold type** indicate additional/amended resolutions made at the meeting.
- b) Five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may call-in a key decision of the Mayor, the Combined Authority Board or an Officer for scrutiny by notifying the Monitoring Officer, except for any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

This page is intentionally left blank



Combined Authority Board

22 January 2025

Title:	Combined Authority Chief Executive Highlights Report
Report of:	Rob Bridge, Chief Executive
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required

Recommendations:

A	Note the content of this report
---	---------------------------------

Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

X	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
X	Achieving good growth
X	Increased connectivity
X	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

1.1	This report provides a general update on the key activities of the Combined Authority and the Mayor since the last Board meeting, which are not covered in other reports to this Meeting. It also provides information on some key developments, risks and opportunities that have emerged.
-----	---

2. Key Activities

2.1	Devolution White Paper Following the publication of the English Devolution White Paper on 16 December 2024, Senior Officers at the Combined Authority have spent time reviewing the key elements of the white paper as well as holding discussions with MHCLG and other Mayoral Combined Authorities to fully understand the emerging opportunities and next steps, both short and medium term.
-----	---

	<p>We are now planning the next steps for taking on the new responsibilities as this becomes legislation and we are designated as a Mayoral Strategic Authority. We are also working on the pathway to being designated as an 'established' authority as set out in the White Paper. The current established authorities are consistent with what was announced in the Chancellor's budget and clarity on the process is helpful as our role and responsibilities change.</p> <p>As part of our ongoing engagement with the Government, the Combined Authority is currently drafting a response to the publication of the White Paper. Our response will consist of two parts, a joint response with the other MCAs, currently being finalised by Chief Executives, and an individual response on the unique opportunities and challenges for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.</p>
2.2	<p>Comprehensive Spending Review</p> <p>In December, HM Treasury launched Phase 2 of the Spending Review following the Autumn Budget on 30 October 2024.</p> <p>As part of this process, the Combined Authority has been invited to submit feedback on government spending priorities, and to suggest policy ideas that could inform decisions about departmental budgets, and resource allocation over the multi-year Spending Review period. The deadline for submissions is 9 February 2025.</p> <p>The Combined Authority are drafting a submission that will highlight the need to sustainably fund Mayoral Combined Authority's so that we can seize the opportunities as set out in the Devolution White Paper, successfully leveraging additional responsibilities to drive growth and cement the region's position as a net contributor to UK PLC.</p> <p>The submission will also highlight the need for long-term funding to enable the Local Growth Plan to be delivered effectively, removing barriers to growth and unlocking the region's full potential.</p>
2.3	<p>Local Growth Plan</p> <p>Our emerging Local Growth Plan was discussed at the Government's Growth Mission Board meeting in December 2024 with feedback subsequently received from MHCLG Officials.</p> <p>The Sector Priorities, developed in collaboration with Constituent Councils and partner organisations, were positively received by the Growth Mission Board and these will continue to be taken forward as part of the future development of a National Industrial Strategy.</p> <p>Since December, we have also received further clarity around the timeline and process for developing our Local Growth Plan. Three stages of development have been outlined:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Co-determine shared priorities (by end of Jan) – as set out in previous report 2. Consider jointly with HMG how we reflect the priorities in relevant programmes and policies (Jan - July 2025) 2. Finalise and publish plans (over Summer 2025).
2.4	<p>Homes England Strategic Place Partnership</p> <p>In November, the Combined Authority Board approved the organisation entering a Memorandum of Understanding with Homes England to agree a Strategic Place Partnership (SPP).</p> <p>The Strategic Place Partnership (SPP) is a model developed by Homes England to enable greater collaboration and partnership working at a sub-regional scale, recognising those places with ambitious proposals for place-based growth and regeneration.</p> <p>Homes England have already signed SPPs with Greater Manchester Combined Authority, West Midlands Combined Authority, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the Association of South Essex Local Authorities, and recently Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and North East Combined Authority.</p> <p>Since the November meeting of the Combined Authority Board, work to shape the plans and commitments within the SPP has continued and a ceremonial signing of the agreement is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 29 January in Huntingdonshire.</p> <p>As outlined in the Devolution White Paper, the SPP will ensure the region, through the CPCA, can influence and shape the investment priorities of Homes England for our area. In addition, this will lead</p>

	<p>to opportunities of finance and resources to help deliver the CPCA Shared Ambition (for which Homes England are a contributor) and the emerging Local Growth Plan.</p> <p>The White Paper also outlined an expectation that all MCAs, including new organisations, will develop SPPs.</p>
2.5	<p>Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP)</p> <p>Encouraging progress has been made on establishing a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (C&P). LVEPs are a key policy tool for Visit England (VE), bringing together public and private sector partners to grow the visitor economy for the benefit of residents, tourists and businesses. The Combined Authority received a mandate from our constituent authorities in the autumn, to convene and drive the development of an LVEP. We are working closely with VE, local authorities, Destination Management Organisations and other partners, to bring a recommendation to Board and submit an expression of interest to VE this financial year. If approved, we will then aim to make a full application this summer, with the goal of accreditation by VE by the end of 2025.</p>
2.6	<p>East of England APPG</p> <p>The Combined Authority continues to work in partnership with the East of England APPG. Building on the last meeting in November, regarding the Autumn Statement, the APPG have written to Treasury Ministers with key growth requirements and investments for the region. Subsequently, Treasury Ministers have agreed to meet with the APPG ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The Combined Authority will be included in those meetings.</p> <p>For a number of months the Combined Authority has been an active member of the APPG Skills working group; the APPG is now in the process of establishing a working group on Investment and the Combined Authority intends to join that group also.</p>
2.7	<p>Ely Junction Taskforce</p> <p>An established taskforce, organised by England's Economic Heartland, to focus and coordinate partner efforts to progress Ely Area Capacity Enhancements (otherwise known as Ely Junction Upgrade) has stepped up it's meeting cycle ahead of the Comprehensive Spending Review. The taskforce is in the process of revisiting key messages and co-ordinating activity.</p>

3. Economy and Growth

3.1	<p>UKREiiF</p> <p>On Wednesday, 4 December, UKREiiF officially announced Team Cambridgeshire & Peterborough's attendance in 2025. The announcement was made via their LinkedIn platform to over 10,000 followers and press contacts.</p> <p>Our immediate focus is on the Westminster Event, Driving Growth for the UK: Pivotal role for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which will take place on Monday 27 January.</p> <p>This event will feature a series of panel discussions exploring how our region's strengths and assets can contribute to driving economic growth across the UK. This will include contributions from MPs and Business Leaders, and we anticipate a keynote speech from a Government Minister. The event is also an opportunity to highlight how collectively Team Cambridgeshire & Peterborough is advancing an equitable, pioneering, connected and resilient region (our Shared Ambition outcomes) and in doing so accelerating growth and opportunities.</p> <p>Over 60 participants have currently responded to say they will be attending, including local business leaders, representatives from Homes England, the region's Universities, business membership organisations and the National Wealth Fund.</p> <p>By the end of January, the Combined Authority will have shared the first high-level for our pavilion events with UKREiiF. Place Directors have a key role in shaping this.</p>
-----	--

3.2	<p>Construction Hub Visit</p> <p>In December, Dr Nik Johnson, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, was given a tour of Cambridge Regional College's (CRC) cutting-edge Construction Hub on its Huntingdon campus, to see how Combined Authority investment was helping new talent get into the sector.</p> <p>The Combined Authority provided a Local Growth Fund grant of £2.5 million to refurbish and kit out part of the campus space with a state-of-the-art range of workshops and equipment to train people in general construction skills and trades including carpentry, electrical, and bricklaying. The aim of the Construction Hub is to help meet the significant skills shortages in the sector, while also setting learners on the path to good careers.</p> <p>Mayor Dr Johnson was joined by Katy Davies, of the Combined Authority Business Board, and who has a specialism in skills. The tour was led by CRC Principal and Chief Executive Mark Robertson and Deputy Principal for Curriculum Development Kate da Costa.</p> <p>During the tour the Mayor spoke to electrical students aged 16 and 17, as well as Level 2 Carpentry students, many of whom were working towards an apprenticeship in the trades. There were a variety of future aspirations ranging from going on to eventually start their own businesses, to working in heritage and building renovation.</p>
-----	---

4. Place & Connectivity	
4.1	<p>Tiger Bus Pass</p> <p>To date, the Tiger £1 Bus Pass campaign has achieved over 35,400 applications and supported an impressive 736,400 journeys. The campaign continues to perform strongly, with a reach of over 52,000, 86,000 impressions and an engagement rate of 2.69%.</p> <p>We are now collaborating with operators to analyse areas for increased usage, focusing on the purpose of journeys. For example, we are identifying opportunities to promote leisure travel during weekends by engaging key leisure stakeholders, such as football stadiums, gyms, and other recreational venues.</p> <p>Additionally, we are maintaining our focus on schools and colleges to raise awareness of the scheme. The Tiger Pass has proven to be a lifeline for students, particularly in areas where local school bus services are no longer available.</p> <p>To enhance storytelling and showcase the scheme's impact, we are working to obtain more video case studies. These will highlight the benefits and real-life usage of the pass.</p> <p>On social media, we continue to target the younger demographic, particularly the 16-25 age group, which has shown strong support for the scheme. Leveraging trending topics to promote the pass has been highly effective, driving significant engagement and reinforcing the campaign's success.</p>
4.2	<p>Tiger On Demand</p> <p>Since its launch, the Tiger on Demand service has successfully transported 1,767 passengers across 1,364 trips, demonstrating growing engagement with this new and innovative transport solution. The West Huntingdonshire zone launched as planned on 30th November, with the additional zones in Fenland, East Cambridgeshire, and South Cambridgeshire following on 11th January.</p> <p>To support the launch, we have implemented a comprehensive OASIS campaign plan, including distribution of printed materials across libraries, mobile libraries, and key community hubs, as well as targeted digital campaigns on social media.</p> <p>We are working closely with local councils, community groups, and stakeholders to raise awareness and address feedback swiftly, ensuring the service evolves to meet residents' needs effectively. This collaborative approach has been instrumental in achieving positive feedback and steady uptake across the region.</p>

4.3	<p>Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy</p> <p>Preliminary work on the Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy is in progress, focusing on building a strong foundation through comprehensive evidence gathering, and rigorous assessment. This phase aims to establish a clear understanding of transport challenges, opportunities, and future needs across the region, acknowledging the importance of the strategy for the Local Plan.</p> <p>Simultaneously, efforts are being made to design an inclusive and robust approach to stakeholder engagement and options assessment. This approach will ensure that the strategy is informed by different perspectives, balancing technical expertise with the insights and priorities of partners. By combining thorough analysis with collaborative input, the Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy is being positioned to deliver effective transport solutions.</p> <p>A member steering group is considering this progress and has oversight of the programme plan and engagement strategy development.</p>
4.4	<p>Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) update</p> <p>The updated business case for the LEVI bid was successfully submitted on 15th November.</p> <p>With this milestone completed, the next phase of the project is now underway. This includes advancing the engagement plan, refining the commercial and procurement strategies, and working through how fund will be equitably distributed across the Combined Authority area to ensure fair access to charge points. Additionally, efforts will focus on maximising private sector leverage to optimise the impact of the funding.</p> <p>As the work progresses, further updates will be provided to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee, including insights from the feedback received on the LEVI bid and ongoing developments in the project.</p>
4.5	<p>Active Travel</p> <p>To enhance safety and accessibility in rural areas, Brampton Road has been selected by Cambridgeshire County Council with support from Sustrans, as the location for a trial of the Quietway initiative.</p> <p>Quietways are designed to reduce vehicle speeds and improve road conditions, creating safer and more pleasant routes for walking, wheeling, and cycling. Sustrans has been spearheading the public engagement process, ensuring community input and support. Two resident meetings were held in late November 2024 to gather feedback, provide information, and discuss the benefits of this project, which aims to foster safer and more sustainable travel options in rural communities. For further information on the pilot study please see: Grafham to Brampton Quietway Pilot Project Cambridgeshire County Council</p> <p>In addition, the County Council has been appointed to lead the development of the Combined Authority's Active Travel Strategy, with valuable input from Peterborough City Council officers, the Combined Authority, and a range of key partners. The inception meeting for this important strategy was held in November 2024, marking the start of a collaborative process aimed at shaping the future of active travel across the region. A draft of the strategy is expected to be presented to the Committee in summer 2025, offering a comprehensive vision that integrates local insights and aligns with regional priorities to promote sustainable, safe, and accessible travel options for all.</p> <p>A walking competition, similar to Love to Ride, is being launched shortly in the region. Street Tag is an online platform that rewards residents for being physically active in their community, parks, and greenspaces. Residents collect virtual tags during an eight-week challenge to earn points. The community or family group with the most points at the end of the challenge receive gift vouchers as a prize.</p>

5. Appendices	
5.1	None

6. Implications	
Financial Implications	
6.1	None other than those contained in the body of the report
Legal Implications	
6.2	None
Public Health Implications	
6.3	None
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
6.4	None
Other Significant Implications	
6.5	None
Background Papers	
6.6	None



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Forward Plan

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2025 TO 4 JUNE 2025

Page 11

The Forward Plan is an indication of future decisions. It is subject to continual review and may be changed in line with any revisions to the priorities and plans of the CPCA.

It is re-published on a monthly basis to reflect such changes.

Purpose

The Forward Plan sets out all of the decisions to be taken by the Combined Authority Board, Thematic Committees or by way of a Mayoral Decision Notice in the coming months. This makes sure that local residents and organisations know what decisions are due to be taken and when.

The Forward Plan is a live document which is updated regularly and published on the [Combined Authority website](#) (click the 'Forward Plans' button to view). At least 28 clear days' notice will be given of any key decisions to be taken.

What is a key decision?

A key decision is one which, in the view of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, is likely to:

- i. result in the Combined Authority spending or saving a significant amount, compared with the budget for the service or function the decision relates to (usually £500,000 or more); or
- ii. have a significant effect on communities living or working in an area made up of two or more wards or electoral divisions in the area.

Non-key decisions and update reports

For transparency, the Forward Plan also includes all non-key decisions and update reports to be considered by the Combined Authority Board, Thematic Committees and the Business Board.

Access to reports

A report will be available to view online one week before a decision is taken. You are entitled to view any documents listed on the Forward Plan after publication, or obtain extracts from any documents listed, subject to any restrictions on disclosure. There is no charge for viewing the documents, although charges may be made for photocopying or postage. Documents listed on this notice can be requested from [Democratic Services](#).

The Forward Plan will state if any reports or appendices are likely to be exempt from publication or confidential and may be discussed in private. If you want to make representations that a decision which it is proposed will be taken in private should instead be taken in public please contact [Matt Gumberbatch, Director Legal and Governance, Monitoring Officer](#) at least five working days before the decision is due to be made.

Substantive changes to the previous month's Forward Plan are indicated in **bold text** for ease of reference.

Notice of decisions

Notice of the Combined Authority Board's decisions and Thematic Committee decisions will be published online within three days of a public meeting taking place.

Standing items at Thematic Committee meetings

The following reports are standing items and will be considered by at each meeting of the relevant committee. The most recently published Forward Plan will also be included on the agenda for each Thematic Committee meeting:

Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee

1. Budget Report
2. Affordable Housing Programme – Update on Implementation
3. Climate Partnership Update
4. CPCA Director's Update

Skills and Employment Committee

1. Budget Report
2. Employment and Skills Board Update
3. CPCA Director's Update

Transport and Infrastructure Committee

1. Budget Report
2. CPCA Director's Update

Business Board

1. Combined Authority Forward Planning
2. Business Board Chair's update
3. CPCA Director's Update
4. Feedback from Thematic Committees
5. Budget and Performance report

Title of Report	Decision Required	Decision Maker	Decision Date	Consultation	Lead Officer	Lead Member	Background documents	Likely Exemption
Investment Committee Concept Paper - Strategic Investment and Innovation Fund	To consider and comment on the concept proposal for the Strategic Investment and Innovation Fund prior to its presentation to the CPCA Board on 5 February 2025.	Investment Committee	13 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Steve Clarke, Senior Responsible Officer, Local Growth Fund, Market Insight and Evaluation,	Mayor	None	Open
Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) change request	To approve the change request for Waterbeach Renewable Energy Network (WREN) project for a change to time and reprofiling.	Investment Committee	13 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Maggie Pratt, Climate Change Programme Manager	Mayor	None	Open
SAF Business Case Approvals - Chief Executive Decisions	To note the Chief Executive business case decisions for projects less than £1m under the single assurance framework	Investment Committee	13 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Janice Gotts, Executive Director - Resources	Mayor	None	Open
Peterborough Station Quarter KD2024/053	Update on progress to develop the full business case	Investment Committee Transport and Infrastructure Committee Combined Authority Board	13 Jan 2025 24 Jan 2025 6 Feb 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Gidon Wieder, Programme Manager Peterborough Station Quarter	Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure	None	Open
Cygnets Bridge Change Request - KD2024/072	To approve the change request for Cygnets Bridge and increased construction funding	Combined Authority Board	22 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Tim Bellamy, Assistant Director Transport	Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure	None	Open

Youth Forum	To brief the committee and seek support on the creation of a Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Youth Forum, which will be formed to seek and capture the voice of young people in the creation of work streams linked to the new Youth Guarantee Trailblazer	Skills and Employment Committee	20 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Andrea Wood, Assistant Director, Skills	Lead Member for Skills	None	Open
FE Cold Spots	To update the Committee on the FE Cold Spots Work, including the pending Grant Application process and to recommend the Combined Authority Board delegate authority to the Assistant Director to allocate and award skills capital funding to successful applicants.	Skills and Employment Committee Combined Authority Board	20 Jan 2025 6 Feb 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Andrea Wood, Assistant Director, Skills	Lead Member for Skills	None	Open
Draft Adults Commissioning Strategy - KD2025/001	To approve the draft Adults Commissioning Strategy	Skills and Employment Committee Combined Authority Board	20 Jan 2025 6 Feb 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Andrea Wood, Assistant Director, Skills	Lead Member for Skills	None	Open
Wider Outcomes Framework	To brief the committee on the continued progress of the Wider Outcomes Framework.	Skills and Employment Committee	20 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Jaki Bradley, Head of Adult Education Budget	Lead Member for Skills	None	Open

Combined Authority Chief Executive Highlights Report	Providing a general update on the key activities of the Combined Authority since the last meeting.	Combined Authority Board	22 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Rob Bridge, Chief Executive	Mayor	None	Open
Mayor's Budget KD2024/004	To agree the Mayor's draft budget for 2025/26	Combined Authority Board	22 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Rob Emery, Assistant Director Finance	Mayor	None	Open
2025/26 Corporate Strategy and Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan KD2024/054	To note the consultation feedback, approve the Corporate Strategy and Budget and MTFP	Combined Authority Board	22 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Janice Gotts, Executive Director - Resources, Kate McFarlane, Director Policy and Engagement	Mayor	None	Open
Review of Investment Concept Papers and Business Cases KD2024/043	To approve concept papers and business cases recommended from the Investment Panel	Combined Authority Board	22 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Janice Gotts, Executive Director - Resources	Mayor	None	Open
Overview of the GSEnz Hub	An overview of the GSEnz Hub operational programmes, governance and finance	Combined Authority Board	22 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Maxine Narburgh, Regional Director, GSEnzH	Lead Member for Communities and Environment	None	Open

Strategic Research & Economic Analysis Framework [KD2024/073]	To request delegated authority from the CA Board to utilise account lines in the Economy & Growth directorate budget to purchase consultancy support through the newly procured Strategic Research & Economic Analysis Framework through the Homes England Framework	Combined Authority Board	22 Jan 2025	Internal and external stakeholders	Louisa Simpson, Strategic Funds Programme Leader	Mayor	None	Open
Committee Calendar 2025/26	To approve the calendar of meetings for the 2025/26 Municipal Year	Combined Authority Board	22 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Alison Marston, Head of Democratic Services	Lead Member for Governance	None	Open
Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) Monitoring and Evaluation Update	To update members on the monitoring and evaluating of the LTCP.	Transport and Infrastructure Committee	24 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders.	Emma White, Acting Transport Strategy and Policy Manager	Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure	None	Open
Community Active Travel Grant KD2024/065	To make the Committee members aware of the criteria for the Active Travel Grant and gain approval to progress to the next stage	Transport and Infrastructure Committee	24 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Yo Higon, Active Travel Lead	Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure	None	Open
Fletton Quays Footbridge (Cygnet Bridge) KD2024/016	To provide an update on the Fletton Quays Footbridge (Cygnet Bridge) Improvement and to seek approval to move to the next stage.	Transport and Infrastructure Committee	24 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Anna Graham, Transport Programme Manager	Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure	None	Open

CPCA response to East West Rail non-statutory consultation KD2024/066	To agree the Combined Authority's position to allow for us to respond in a timely manner to the EWR's consultation.	Transport and Infrastructure Committee	24 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Robert Jones, Transport Programme Manager	Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure	None	Open
The Royston to Granta Park Strategic Growth and Transport study	Update on the Royston to Granta Park Strategic Growth and Transport study and the strategic outline business case (SOBC)	Transport and Infrastructure Committee	24 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders.	Emma White, Acting Transport Strategy and Policy Manager	Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure	None	Open
BP Witchford Roundabout Non Motorised User (NMU) Crossing Feasibility study	Update of progress to date for BP Roundabout NMU crossing feasibility study and planned public consultation in January 2025. The project has been assessing options for a road crossing at this roundabout. The options include at grade signalised crossings and grade separated overbridge options.	Transport and Infrastructure Committee	24 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Robert Jones, Transport Programme Manager	Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure	None	Open

Bus Reform KD2024/067	The Mayor to note and consider the recommendations of the Combined Authority and the content of the Consultation Report and associated documents, including the Bus Reform Assessment, and decide whether or not to make a franchising scheme, comply with all associated statutory requirements or whether to recommend that the Combined Authority should pursue an Enhanced Partnership	Transport and Infrastructure Committee Mayor Combined Authority Board	24 Jan 2025 Not before 6th Feb 2025 6 Feb 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Andrew Highfield, Assistant Director Public Transport Services	Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure	None	Open
Heylo Units with Vistry & Allison Homes Jan 25 KD2024/074	To use the last amount of grant funding to provide “off the shelf accommodation” through Heylo – providers of shared ownership in Peterborough and Hunts, from final grant amount accumulated and clawback.	Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee	29 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Azma Ahmad-Pearce, Programme Manager	Lead Member for Communities and Environment	None	Open
Climate Programme Delivery	To provide an update on three key elements of the Climate Change Programme.	Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee	29 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Maggie Pratt, Climate Change Programme Manager	Lead Member for Communities and Environment	None	Open
Locally Determined Contributions (LDC)	To receive a presentation on LDCs	Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee	29 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Maggie Pratt, Climate Change Programme Manager	Lead Member for Communities and Environment	None	Open

Page 25

Natural Cambridgeshire	A presentation on the work of Natural Cambridgeshire	Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee	29 Jan 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Adrian Cannard, Strategic Planning Manager	Lead Member for Communities and Environment	None	Open
Peterborough Station Quarter Full Business Case KD2024/063	To recommend to the CA Board the approval of the Peterborough Station Quarter Full Business Case	Combined Authority Board	6 Feb 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Gidon Wieder, Programme Manager Peterborough Station Quarter	Mayor	None	Open
Depot for Electric Buses - Interim Feasibility Report	To consider a feasibility study undertaken to assess the viability of providing a bus depot facility in Peterborough.	Transport and Infrastructure Committee	5 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Nick Sweeney, Asset Strategy Manager	Lead Member for Transport and Infrastructure	None	Open
Updates to the Constitution	To present to the Board the sections of the Constitution that have been reviewed/proposed amendments.	Combined Authority Board	19 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Matthew Cumberbatch, Monitoring Officer	Lead Member for Governance	None	Open
Combined Authority Chief Executive Highlights Report	Providing a general update on the key activities of the Combined Authority since the last meeting.	Combined Authority Board	19 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Rob Bridge, Chief Executive	Mayor	None	Open
Budget Monitoring Update KD2024/069	To provide an update on the revenue and capital budgets for the year to date and approving draft carry-forwards, and to approve the annual refresh of the financial strategies.	Combined Authority Board	19 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Rob Emery, Assistant Director Finance	Mayor	None	Open

Corporate Risk Report	To present the Corporate Risk Report Q2 2024/25 for Members' scrutiny	Combined Authority Board	19 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Chris Bolton, Head of PMO	Mayor	None	Open
Corporate Performance Report	To present the Corporate Performance Report Q2 2024/25 for Members' scrutiny	Combined Authority Board	19 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Jules Ient, Head of Policy Insight and Performance	Lead Member for Governance	None	Open
Review of Investment Concept Papers and Business Cases KD2024/044	To approve concept papers and business cases recommended from the Investment Panel	Combined Authority Board	19 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Janice Gotts, Executive Director - Resources	Mayor	None	Open
Climate Change Opportunity Fund KD2024/070	To approve Climate Change Opportunity Fund projects	Combined Authority Board	19 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Adrian Cannard, Strategic Planning Manager	Lead Member for Communities and Environment	None	Open
Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	To approve the adoption of a new Monitoring and Evaluation Framework	Combined Authority Board	19 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Jules Ient, Head of Policy Insight and Performance	Lead Member for Governance	None	Open
Strategic Investment & Innovation Fund KD2024/071	To approve the Outline Business Case and funding to deliver the Full Business Case	Combined Authority Board	19 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Louisa Simpson, Strategic Funds Programme Leader	Mayor	None	Open

Constituent Authority Update	To provide Business Board members with an update from one of the Constituent Authorities.	Business Board	31 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	TBC	Chair of Business Board	None	Open
Local Growth Plan and National Industrial Strategy Sector Update	Verbal update on the Local Growth Plan and National Industrial Strategy Sector - including sector strategy update	Business Board	31 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	David Moore, Assistant Director, Business Trade and Investment	Chair of Business Board	None	Open
Market Towns Programme (Phase 2) Final Review	To update Business Board Members on the Market Town Programme	Business Board	31 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Domenico Cirillo, PMO Programme Lead	Chair of Business Board	None	Open
Business Growth and Social Impact Investment Fund Update	To update members following the first meeting of the Steering Group	Business Board	31 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Grace Crawford, Business Programme Support Officer	Chair of Business Board	None	Open
Economy and Growth Concept Papers and Business Cases	To update members on the following papers: - Outline Business Case - Strategic Investment & Innovation Fund - Concept Paper – Creative UK Investment Fund	Business Board	31 Mar 2025	Relevant internal and external stakeholders	Louisa Simpson, Strategic Funds Programme Leader	Chair of Business Board	None	Open

This page is intentionally left blank

Skills and Employment Challenges, Opportunities & Priorities

National

- Cross-government policy priorities (missions-led Government) **(ongoing)**
- English Devolution Bill (Skills: Consolidated funding/greater involvement in LSIPs) **LIVE**
- Skills England/Post 16 Education & Skills Strategy/Lifelong Learning Strategy **(March – June 25)**
- Post 16 Curriculum Review **(May 25)** and Work Experience Statutory Guidance **(2026)**
- DfE review of Employer Investment in Skills **(March 25)**
- Growth & Skills Levy and Apprenticeship Reform – rebalancing between adults and young people (Intro of Foundation Apprenticeships and reduction of L7) **(September 2025)**

Local

- Local Growth Plan (March 25) & LSIP 2 (Sept 25)
- Youth Guarantee Trailblazer (18-21 – tackling NEET)
- Work, Health & Skills Plan (Connect to Work)
- Employer engagement and support – Good Work Charter
- Skills Innovation (Innovation Grants)
- Changes to planning and a greater focus on strategic work around S106 skills and employment plans
- Delivering an infrastructure that enables participation i.e. Transport, Childcare etc. Travel to Learn & Earn

CPCA BAU:

Adult Skills
Fund

Skills
Bootcamps

Regional
Careers Hub

Skills
Brokerage

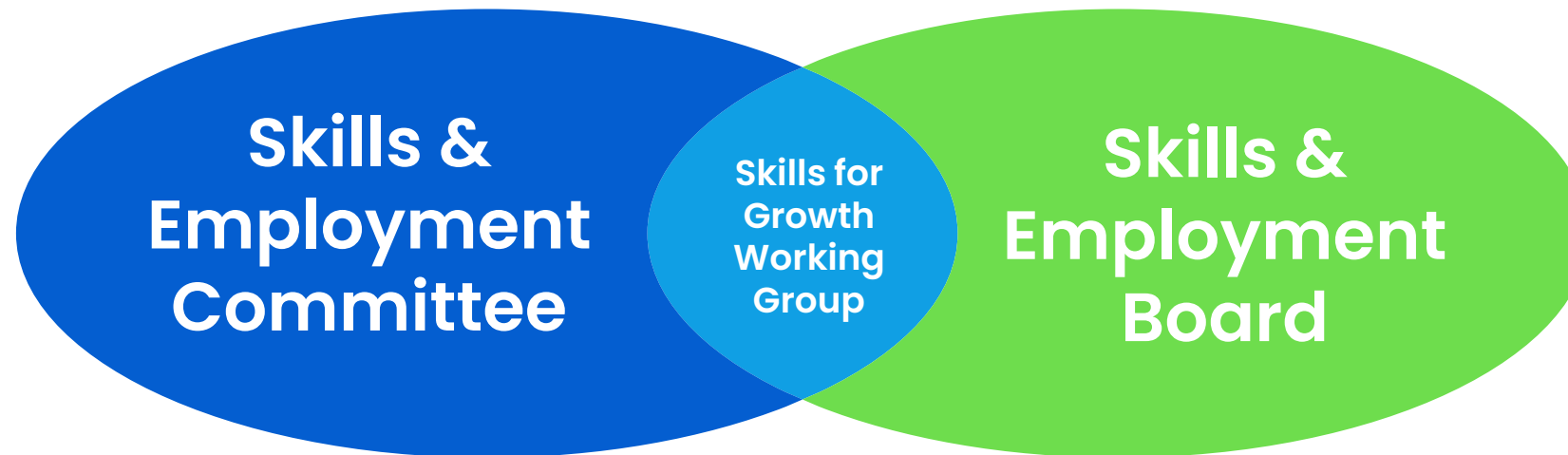
Skills
Innovation

FE Cold Spots
Skills Capital

Skills for Growth Working Group

Skills for Growth Working Group Objectives:

- To work collectively to shape the Skills narrative within the Local Growth Plan, ensuring Skills is a priority throughout and demonstrates the breadth of need on the regional skills system and, therefore, the need for future investment.
- Develop and implement an action plan to gather further insight into key priorities emerging from the current Local Skills Improvement Plan.
- Work collectively in preparation for LSIP 2 (Sept 25) and build emerging developments into relevant plans.

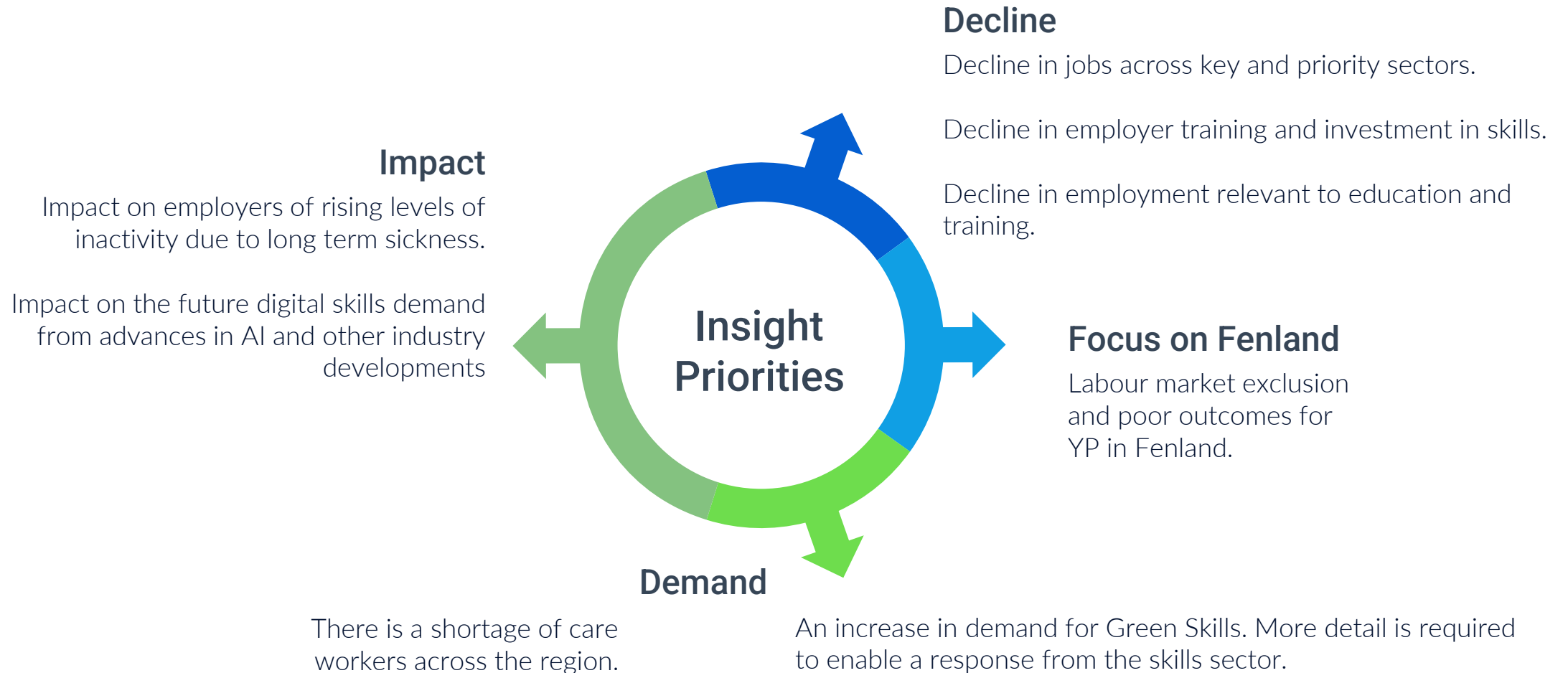


Members of the Skills for Growth Working Group are drawn from the S&B Board: **Charlotte Horobin** – CEX Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce and Chair of S&E Board, **Andrea Wood** – AD Skills & Employment CPCA, **Ross Renton** – Principal ARU Peterborough, **Julia Nix** – District Manager DWP, **Katy Davies** – Employer Rep and member of both S&E Board and Committee, **Mark Robertson** – Principal CRC, **Alexis McLeod** – CPCA Programme Manager, **James Gazzard** – Cambridge University (Institute of Continuing Education), **Sarah Worsley** – Baker Perkins, **Dan Edwards** – Constructive Pathways, **Dan Thorp** – Cambridge Ahead

Skills for Growth Working Group

Emerging priorities for further insight and action from the current Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Skills Improvement Plan

Page 31



This page is intentionally left blank



REPORT TITLE: Cambridge Delivery Company: Update Report

To:

Leader

Strategy and Resources Committee 10th February 2025

Report by:

Stephen Kelly Joint Director of Planning

Tel: Stephen.Kelly@greatercambridgeplanning.org

Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Joint Director of Planning confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Executive Councillor for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	<p>It is recommended that the Leader:</p> <p>1. <i>Notes the update on the progress of the Cambridge Delivery Company implementation</i></p>
2.	<p>Purpose and reason for the report</p> <p>This report seeks to update the Leader and Members of Strategy and Resources Committee on the recent developments with Central Governments project for the growth of Cambridge</p>
2.1	The item is for noting and to update members on the progress of the project.
3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	The report does not require a decision. The purpose of the report is to keep members of the Committee informed on the progression of this national project.
4.	Background and key issues

4.1	In July 2023, the previous government outlined an ambition for significant housing and jobs growth in Cambridge. Michael Gove, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government appointed Peter Freeman, Chair of Homes England to establish the Cambridge Delivery Group with the purpose of exploring and advising the Government on how the ambition could be realised.
4.2	On 6 th March 2024, the “Case for Cambridge” was published, setting out the governments ambitions more fully and the actions being taken to tackle existing constraints – including the exploration of the role of a Development Corporation for Cambridge to deliver the governments ambition. This included, the early establishment (in Autumn 2023), of the Cambridge Water Scarcity Group chaired by the former Chief Executive of the Environment Agency and Chair of Water Resources East Dr. Paul Leinster.
4.3	Also on 6 th March 2024, the Spring Budget announced £10.2m of funding to support the future development of the biomedical campus of which £7.2m was to unlock local transport connections – notably the progression of the Cambridge South East Transport (CSET) Project with a further £3m to support CUHP plans for growth.
4.4	Recognising the issue of water scarcity that the City Council and SCDC had been raising since 2021, and which had resulted in objections to planning applications from the Environment Agency, on the same day in March 2024, the Government published a joint statement on Addressing Water Scarcity in Greater Cambridge and a written ministerial statement that acknowledged that Local Planning Authorities, working with the Environment Agency, could set new standards for water efficiency in specific cases.
4.5	On 15 th May 2024, Homes England registered the Cambridge Growth Company with Companies House with 6 registered Directors, including Peter Freeman and officers from within Homes England and Civil Servants from within the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The establishment of the Cambridge Growth Company effectively replaced the “Cambridge Delivery Group” as the entity overseeing the governments ambitions since the projects inception. Its purpose is to take forward the the Governments ambitions for Cambridge outlined in more detail below, including

	considering longer term delivery options.
4.6	<p>Following the general election in July, on 24th August 2024, Matthew Pennycook, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government wrote to all leaders in Cambridgeshire to advise that Cambridge remained a “key priority” for the new Government and that “...<i>the recent focus on Cambridge and its untapped economic potential are entirely warranted.</i>” Setting out the next steps to the project, the Secretary of State outlined an intention to “reset” the work and relationship between Central Government and local partners.</p>
4.7	<p>In a letter dated 30th October 2024, Matthew Pennycook confirmed Peter Freemans appointment as Chair of the Cambridge Growth Company for an initial period of 18 months and re-affirmed that “...<i>the success of Cambridge is a national priority for this government.</i>” The letter outlined the immediate priorities for the company as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development acceleration: enable and accelerate developments which align with the government’s ambitions for Cambridge and unlock development on stalled sites. • Developing the evidence base to support development of an infrastructure-first growth plan and a long-term delivery vehicle: work with experts to assess infrastructure requirements, including transport, and lay the foundations for a long-term delivery vehicle. • Cross-government engagement: identify solutions to complex constraints and support cross government engagement to unblock existing development and provide the right incentives for successful development in the long-term. • Cambridge Growth Company business plan: responsibility for overseeing the effective delivery of the Cambridge Growth Company’s business plan and other associated documents. <p>The letter also outlined that... “<i>When it comes to the growth strategy, development on a more dispersed geographical footprint is perfectly acceptable, but one or more contiguous urban extensions of the city must be core components of the vision the Growth Company brings forward, in order to maximise the benefits of agglomeration. It</i></p>

	<i>must also build on and go further than local plans, in terms of scale, ambition and timescale...</i>
4.8	<p>Budget November 2024</p> <p>The Autumn 2024 budget on 1st November announced £10m of funding to unlock future economic growth in the area through the Cambridge Growth Company. It is understood that this funding will be used to commission new studies and to employ dedicated staff to deliver the Company's objectives.</p>
4.9	<p>Cambridge Growth Company: Advisory Council</p> <p>Through engagement between Local Leaders and Peter Freeman, the Cambridge Growth Company has established an Advisory Council. The terms of reference for the Council indicate that the objectives of the Council are; <i>"... to provide views and perspective to the growth company board¹ on a range of issues relevant to the activities of the Growth Company, for example, transport, finance, community, business, innovation, and design/sustainability;"</i></p> <p>The Leaders of the City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council and the County Council together with the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority are members of the Council. There are two other members of the Council at this time, Dr Paul Leinster (see above) and Baroness Sally Morgan. The Advisory Council has so far met once, on 11 November 2024. The Terms of reference (Appendix 1) provide an opportunity for other invited members to attend its meetings as appropriate. Officers from the Council and Government Departments will also attend as required. The first meeting in November sought only to agree the terms of reference and discuss future arrangements and organisation of the Council meetings.</p>
4.10	<p>In December 2024, the Cambridge Growth Company published an invitation to tender (ITT) for specialist consultancies to assist it in the development of the evidence base to underpin its work. It is anticipated that an appointment of a consultancy team will take place early in 2025, with work on the development of the evidence base taking some 12-14 months to complete.</p>

4.11	<p>Officer engagement</p> <p>Beginning in Autumn 2023, officers from the City Council, including the Chief Executive and officers from the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service have been meeting frequently with representatives from Government and the Cambridge Growth Company. There has been extensive and ongoing engagement between Council officers and Civil Servants. Building on the letter from Matthew Pennycook in August, and allowing for a settling in period post-election, officers have now begun closer working on the development of complementary evidence base studies that the Councils and Combined Authority and the Cambridge Growth Company will then be able to use to underpin their respective programmes. This has seen increasing sharing of information on the Councils programmes and objectives, as well as the sharing of information from Peter Freeman and his team. The Leader has also met with Michael Gove and Matthew Pennycook and the officials involved with the project.</p>
4.12	<p>Water Scarcity Group</p> <p>Established in Autumn 2023, the Water Scarcity Group meets approximately monthly and comprises representatives from Government, including DEFRA, DHCLG and the Environment Agency, the water regulator (Ofwat), Water Companies (Anglian Water and Cambridge Water), Water Resources East and Greater Cambridge Shared Planning. Formed through the initial Ministerial interventions in Autumn 2023, the group is sponsored by DHCLG but is also expected to report into the Cambridge Growth Company. The Group oversees a programme of work that includes tracking the progression of the Water Company Water Resources Management Plans (WRMP), specific projects such as the Fen Reservoir and the Grafham Transfer, nature based solutions being developed by WRE, the development of a water credits scheme, development of a water retrofit programme and the ongoing investigation/planning surrounding water demand and supply positions across the area.</p>
4.13	<p>Next steps</p> <p>A detailed work programme for the Cambridge Growth Company (CGC) is currently being developed, along with its plans for full establishment on the back of the funding announced in the Autumn 2024 budget. The Council's officers alongside colleagues from the County Council and CPCA meanwhile are working with officers from the CGC to explore how critical work programmes, including the Joint Local Plan, Greater Cambridge Transport</p>

	Strategy, CPCA Growth Plan and Local Nature Recovery Strategy will interact with the work being undertaken by the CGC to identify further long term growth opportunities consistent with its current priorities. Further reports will therefore be provided to the Council in due course, once this programme work has concluded.
5.	Corporate plan
5.1	<p>The Cambridge Growth Company project is a government sponsored programme and does not directly relate to delivery of the City Councils corporate plan. As they become more defined, the growth proposals (and means of implementation) of the Cambridge Growth Company nevertheless have the potential to support, complement or otherwise impact the delivery of the four Council priorities.</p> <p>The development of a growth strategy has the potential to impact on the Joint Local Plan being prepared with South Cambridgeshire District Council and articulating the growth strategy for the Greater Cambridge area over the next decade. Clarity on how the two projects will interact is expected through 2025 as the programme for the Cambridge Growth Company emerges.</p>
6.	Consultation, engagement and communication
6.1	The Cambridge Growth Company is not a Council project, and no consultation has been carried out by the Council to date in connection with the initiative.
7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact
7.1	That members will be informed and up to date on the Councils ongoing engagement with the Cambridge Growth Company.
8.	Implications
	None: The report is for information.

8.1	Relevant risks
	There are no new risks to the Council arising from this report.
	Financial Implications
8.2	The report has no financial impact. The Cambridge Growth Company has advised the Council that it is aware of the potential for its activities to have a resource impact upon the services of the Council and is seeking to engage with Council officers to identify and mitigate such impacts.
	Legal Implications
8.3	None. The report is for information.
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications
8.4	The report does not result in any actions or decisions from the Council that would give rise to the need for an EQIA. This report is for information.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.5	None: Whilst clearly having the potential to impact upon the Councils objectives, this report is for information only and contains no decision or policy recommendations.
	Procurement Implications
8.6	None:
	Community Safety Implications
8.7	None
9.	Background documents Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to

	Information) Act 1985
9.1	Homes England Chair's letter - GOV.UK The Case for Cambridge - GOV.UK Realising the full potential of Greater Cambridge - GOV.UK
10.	Appendices
10.1	<i>Appendix 1: Terms of Reference: Cambridge Advisory Group</i>
	<p>To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact</p> <p>Stephen Kelly Joint Director of Planning stephen.kelly@greatercambridgeplanning.org</p>

Appendix 1: Cambridge Growth Company: Advisory Council – Terms of reference

Advisory Council - Cambridge Growth Company - Terms of Reference

- i. As a member of the Advisory Council you will be asked to provide views and perspective to the growth company board on a range of issues relevant to the activities of the Growth Company for example transport, water, housing, business and innovation, finance and viability and community/wellbeing;
- ii. Peter Freeman will Chair the Advisory Council and meetings will take place every six weeks;
- iii. The Chair may invite additional members to join the Advisory Council to address gaps in skills and representation;
- iv. Locally elected leaders will be invited to join the Advisory Council ex-officio;
- v. Membership of the Advisory Council will be for two years or, if sooner, until the formation of a development corporation. Should you wish to stand down I would ask only that you notify me as Chair in writing;
- vi. Members will take on no liabilities and will not be accountable for decisions of the growth company;
- vii. Agendas and papers will be prepared for each meeting of the Advisory Council and minutes taken, these minutes will be [to be agreed];
- viii. Agendas and papers will be prepared for each meeting of the Advisory Council. Noting that some information will be commercially sensitive, and balancing that requirement with the need for transparency where possible, the following will be published:
 - a. The parts of the agenda which are not confidential (to provide stakeholders with an overview of the Advisory Council's priorities and activities)
 - b. Minutes of the meetings which are not confidential including decisions, actions, general updates (to keep stakeholders informed about the Advisory Council's direction, priorities and activities)Informational content such as presentations/reports which are not confidential (to provide background information to stakeholders).
- ix. Members will be reminded that the Cambridge Growth Company will be a subsidiary of Homes England and therefore subject to Homes England's internal policies including our approach to Freedom of Information;
- x. The Growth Company will develop a strategy to ensure a proactive and holistic approach to public engagement, and this will be an early item for the Advisory Council to consider.
- xi. Members will be able to request the inclusion of items on the Advisory Council's agenda and make suggestions as to studies or research the growth company could undertake. Members of the Councils reasonable expenses will be reimbursed but no salary / fee will be paid for attendance;
- xii. The Advisory Council may choose to create sub-groups of the Council to focus on specific issues. In addition to members of the Council other people with specific expertise may be invited to sit on such sub-groups;

Noting that Members will not be asked to commit to any confidentiality or non-disclosure agreement, however the Chair would ask that no announcements or communications are made on behalf of the Advisory Council without the written agreement of the Chair.

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT TITLE: GREATER CAMBRIDGE IMPACT AND CAMBRIDGE PLEDGE

To:

Cllr Simon Smith Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources

Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee, 10th February 2025

Report by:

Jemma Little, Economic Development Manager

Tel: 07720 145018 Email: Jemma.little@cambridge.gov.uk

Wards affected:

All

Director Approval: Lynne Miles, Director of Economy and Place, confirms that the report author has sought the advice of all appropriate colleagues and given due regard to that advice; that the equalities impacts and other implications of the recommended decisions have been assessed and accurately presented in the report; and that they are content for the report to be put to the Executive Councillor for decision.

1.	Recommendations
1.1	<p>It is recommended that the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Notes progress made with securing equity and loan finance and developing the pipeline of projects for first investment during the second half of 2025. ii. Requests that a single investment of £0.8m to the Greater Cambridge Impact is included in the 2025/26 General Fund iii. Budget to be recommended to Full Council (noting these funds were agreed 'in principle' by full Council on 20th July 2023 subject to progress towards funding commitments of £5m from other parties) iv. Requests that drawdown is delegated to the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources, following reassurance from the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer that governance arrangements are in place and due diligence is completed. v. Requests approval of the nomination of the Chief Executive as the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Impact Company Board.

2.	Purpose and reason for the report
2.1	This report provides an update on progress to establish Greater Cambridge Impact (GCI) and makes recommendations to the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources to enable the Council's investment in GCI to be included in 25/26 General Fund Budget.
2.2	In 2023, the Council recognised that a £1m a one-off investment from reserves could leverage significant additional investment to create a social impact investment vehicle (working title Greater Cambridge Impact) to tackle systemic inequality and contribute to inclusive growth in Cambridge and the wider area. Of the Council's £1m, £0.2m was ringfenced for development, and the balance (£0.8m) was ringfenced for investment, on the condition that a further £5m was raised. The Council now needs to consider the allocation of the remaining £0.8m to the 25/26 budget. This would help secure commitments from other interested investors and enable the first social impact investments to be made in 2025.
3.	Alternative options considered
3.1	The alternative option considered was for the Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources to request the £0.8m from reserves, once the £5m from other investors had been secured. This is not practical because the Council's commitment as a cornerstone investor is required before other investors will commit their funds.
4.	Background and key issues
4.1	<p>At its meeting of 20th July 2023, the Council unanimously resolved to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vi. Approve the allocation of £200,000 development funding to support the establishment of Greater Cambridge Impact and enable fundraising over the next year. vii. Agree 'in principle' a further £800,000 investment once it is established, subject to progress made to secure funding commitments of £5m from other parties, and that officers should provide advice in relation to this decision at a later date.

	<p>viii. Note that a) and ii) are one-off financial contributions from Reserves, with the objective of leaving a legacy from additional business rates collected due to the growth of the Cambridge economy.</p> <p>ix. Note that activity to establish the impact investment vehicle will be overseen by a Development Board; that the £200,000 development funding will be managed by Jemma Little, Economic Development Manager, Cambridge City Council, in line with council policies; and that progress will be reported by the Development Board on a regular basis to the Executive Cllr for Finance and Resources and may be brought back to the Strategy & Resources Committee to provide updates at key stages over the next year. Agenda Document for Council, 20/07/2023 18:00.</p>
4.2	<p>Considerable progress has been made to establish Greater Cambridge Impact (GCI) with the continued support and oversight of the Development Board, chaired by Antony Ross OBE. Anthony is a Cambridge resident and pioneer of social investment in the UK and internationally. He has offered his time, energy, and commitment to get this initiative off the ground. The Council should take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his leadership and contribution to tackling inequality in Cambridge and the wider region.</p>
4.3	<p>Fundraising Progress and Dependencies</p>
4.3.1	<p>The Council's decision recognised that a £1m investment could attract third party funding for a social impact investment vehicle to tackle systemic inequality and contribute to inclusive growth in Cambridge and the wider area. So further to the Council's £0.2m of seed funding, Sara Allen was appointed as Executive Director of Greater Cambridge Impact in January 2024 to progress fundraising and build an investment pipeline. Sara has now also been appointed as Executive Director of the Cambridge Pledge (see 4.3.3).</p>
4.3.2	<p>Fundraising is a matter of building confidence with each new commitment dependent on confirmation of previous commitments. Given the considerable progress towards the £5m target, it is timely to draw down the £0.8m balance of the Council's investment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. match the CPCA's commitment of £1m, approved in December 2024, of which £0.2m will be allocated for fundraising and developing projects for investment. ii. match a £1m investment by a local financial institution which is to be announced in Spring 2025.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. give confidence to Better Society Capital and the Church of England Social Investment Fund whose investment due diligence is at an advanced stage. iv. support discussions with other interested parties including the Crown Estate and Friends Provident. v. enable the first round of investments to be made in the second half of 2025 and to underpin continued fundraising to reach the final close in 2026, which is capped at £10m.
4.3.3	<p>The Cambridge Pledge will be an equity investor in the impact investment vehicle. It will be a registered charity vehicle for entrepreneurs to make donations and pledges of future value which are realised on the sale of their businesses. As it grows, it could provide capital for a second round of impact investment to scale projects that have worked and support further social innovation. The Cambridge Pledge could raise multiple millions in the first ten years and seven pledges and donations have already been made.</p>
4.4	<p>Investment Project Pipeline</p>
4.4.1	<p>The impact investments will take a long-term approach to improving life chances. The initial focus is on supporting five groups: people who are homeless and rough sleepers; families in crisis and poverty (including those at risk of homelessness); disadvantaged children and young people (school/ skills); children in care and care-experienced young people (a third of whom go on to become homeless). The investments will also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – power transformational approaches to delivering public services through collaboration between voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs), local government and other public services, – provide long-term financial support to allow VCSEs to scale, and increase capacity and collaboration between organisations, as well as enabling greater financial resilience and income generation to support charitable and social objectives.
4.4.2	<p>The current pipeline includes a group of charities working with pupils who have been excluded or at risk of exclusion; a VCSE delivering children's homes for Cambridgeshire's most vulnerable young people; and a charity delivering support including around employment for those at risk of homelessness.</p>

4.4.3	<p>Whilst investments will be required to benefit the Cambridge area, they may be in and/or have impacts across a wider geography. Following the CPCA's investment, it is possible that other local authorities will invest as the fundraising work continues. Although the specific impacts will be determined by the investments made, as determined by the GCI Board, the case study examples below help to illustrate the investment approach.</p>
4.4.4	<p>Case Study examples:</p> <p>Investment relating to housing and homelessness prevention, for example to enable a specialist charity to purchase property that will provide safe accommodation for people and families escaping from domestic abuse, combined with comprehensive wrap around services or exploring how to build on the Homes for Good social lettings model in Glasgow.</p>
4.4.5	<p>A VCSE investment in <i>local</i> children's homes would seek to prevent the impact of poor outcomes for looked-after children on the children themselves, wider society, and the public services. This preventive approach would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide capital for the pre-revenue period and acquisition of properties (through purchase or lease) in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (noting more than half of the region's looked-after children live in homes miles away) • Focus on improving life-chances of looked-after children– leading to better personal development in relationships and mental health, educational attainment and post care housing and employment prospects and critically a marked reduction in homelessness, exploitation, and offending. • Be informed by collaboration between the VCSE and the Corporate Parenting Team, so that the design of the children's homes matches the strategic aims of the County Council.
4.5	<p>Team, Governance and Next Steps</p>
4.5.1	<p>In addition to Sara Allen, a part-time Investment Director for is being recruited to oversee the budget and structure investments with charities. Other additional appointments will be made as part of the development. However, the team will remain small with provision for management costs at an average of 2.8% for a £10m budget, over the investment cycle.</p>
4.5.2	<p>Legal advisors, Mishcon De Reya, have recommended investments are made through a</p>

4.5.3	<p>'joint venture' company. This ensures that overheads are kept in proportion to the size of the impact investment budget and does not require Financial Conduct Authority regulation.</p> <p>As a result:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equity investors nominate a representative to the Board, the Council as an equity investor is required to make a senior Council officer appointment. Social loan investors will not join the Board but need confidence that the Board has the requisite experience and seniority to make sound investment decisions. • all investment decisions will be signed off by the Board following recommendations from an Investment Committee of unpaid expert advisors with a strong professional background in social and equity investment, and innovative service delivery. • all investors will receive an annual report on investments made, impacts and financial performance, with informal updates from the Executive Director as needed and regular performance reports to be brought to the Council. <p>Before investments can begin, the following legal and governance arrangements are needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appointment of Board members, with the Chief Executive being proposed as the Council's nominated representative, given the strategic importance of the project and his professional background in social investment. • Greater Cambridge Impact investment company incorporation: open bank account, Anti-Money Laundering policy development and registration. • legal framework for investments – a terms sheet for the equity investment and negotiating its contents with the initial seed equity investors. • Cambridge Pledge charity registration.
5.	Corporate plan
5.1	Investment in Greater Cambridge Impact aligns with the Council's "One Cambridge Fair for All" vision. It can attract finance to enable projects that will achieve greater equality in health, housing and educational outcomes and is an example of true partnership between academic, business, and civic communities to enhance residents' prosperity.
5.2	It also aligns with the Corporate Plan priorities of tackling poverty and inequality and

5.3	<p>helping people in greatest need, reducing homelessness and modernising the council.</p> <p>It is key to our Community Wealth Building Strategy and is an example of how the Council can use its investment powers to support activity which tackles poverty and inequality and promotes a more inclusive and sustainable economy.</p>
6.	Consultation, engagement, and communication
6.1	As part of the development of the business case for the establishment of Greater Cambridge Impact, extensive research was undertaken. This included an open call for evidence on the council's website and direct engagement with the Community, Further consultation with Voluntary and Social Enterprise organisations was carried out to help identify how the project could best support the sector and to identify a pipeline of investable projects which will attract investor interest.
6.2	A press release promoted the results of the Feasibility Report and was widely covered in local media and further publicity is planned as part of the next phase to promote key milestones in the next stage of development. Since then, the Executive Director has continued engagement with investors, partners and community and voluntary sector organisation to fundraise and develop the investment pipeline.
6.3	Both Greater Cambridge Impact and the Cambridge Pledge now have websites and key milestones such as the recent launch of the Cambridge Pledge and the CPCA's decision to invest have also been promoted with partners via press and social media. There are no further direct consultation and communication implications associated with this report.
7.	Anticipated outcomes, benefits, or impact
7.1	<p>The Council's investment in Greater Cambridge Impact will unlock wider investment as shown in 4.3. and bring significant funding to benefit residents. In terms of the social and system benefits the impact investments made by GCI will take a long-term approach to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reversing inequality and improving people's life chances and community cohesion and resilience.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• improving the long-term outcomes of the most disadvantaged groups supported by the interventions in terms of employment and social mobility.• increasing the likelihood of local people supported by the interventions being able to take up job opportunities.• increasing capacity and collaboration in the VCSE sector.• making space for – and enabling – innovation in public service delivery which is focused on impact by stimulating new approaches via social impact investment.• ensure impact reporting is consistently deployed.• helping commissioners and VCSE organisations to move towards outcomes-based commissioning.• contributing to a blueprint for using government resources more creatively – and the role of impact investing in tackling national challenges (in a place-specific way). <p>The Greater Cambridge Impact Board, which includes the Council – will decide which investments are made. Therefore, it is not possible to specify impacts in any more detail at this stage. However financial ROI and Social Impact reporting will be provided to all investors.</p>						
8.	Implications						
8.1	Relevant risks						
8.1.1	<p>The project has a more detailed risk register with mitigation measures; however, the key known risks are as follows:</p> <table><tr><th>Risk</th><th>Probability and Impact</th><th>Mitigation</th></tr><tr><td>Insufficient investment is raised.</td><td>Low Probability / High Impact.</td><td><p>The first round of investment will not start until the Board decide there is sufficient funding secured and, in the pipeline, for the investment portfolio to be viable.</p><p>Funds will be returned to Council if insufficient investment is raised,</p></td></tr></table>	Risk	Probability and Impact	Mitigation	Insufficient investment is raised.	Low Probability / High Impact.	<p>The first round of investment will not start until the Board decide there is sufficient funding secured and, in the pipeline, for the investment portfolio to be viable.</p> <p>Funds will be returned to Council if insufficient investment is raised,</p>
Risk	Probability and Impact	Mitigation					
Insufficient investment is raised.	Low Probability / High Impact.	<p>The first round of investment will not start until the Board decide there is sufficient funding secured and, in the pipeline, for the investment portfolio to be viable.</p> <p>Funds will be returned to Council if insufficient investment is raised,</p>					

			and this will be covered in the investor terms.
	The financial return for the Council as an equity investor is lower than our original investment. This may be caused for example by loan repayment defaults or property value fluctuations.	Low Probability / High Impact.	<p>Due diligence on investments to ensure loans can be repaid and supporting access to other funding streams such as public/outcomes commissioning partnerships.</p> <p>Taking a 10-year investment approach and building in future rounds over generations via the Cambridge Pledge.</p> <p>Expertise of the Board, Investment Committee and Team and ensuring a mix of investment types across the portfolio.</p>
	Lack of take up of loans or blended funding by local Social Sector Organisations.	Low Probability / High Impact.	<p>Ongoing investment pipeline development by the Team.</p> <p>Continued work to facilitate collaboration and innovation across the system and build capacity of Community and Voluntary Sector organisations.</p>
	Investments do not generate the social impacts anticipated or take longer to achieve due to innovative nature of projects or complex needs of beneficiary groups.	Medium Probability / Medium Impact.	<p>Taking a 10-year investment approach and building in future rounds over generations via the Cambridge Pledge.</p> <p>Expertise of the Board, Investment Committee and Team in understanding how social impact can be created and</p>

			<p>ensuring a mix of investment types across the portfolio.</p> <p>Working with investees to enable access to other partnerships and enabling stronger systems collaboration.</p>
	<p>Local Government Reform (LGR) could unsettle investors due to uncertainty and may pose a risk to investments.</p>	<p>Medium Probability / Low Impact.</p>	<p>Investors will be reassured that the transfer of responsibilities linked to Investments and assets will be part of the LGR process.</p> <p>The direction of travel of LGR will be factored into investment decisions the majority of which will likely be taken before LGR implementation.</p>
	Financial Implications		
8.2	<p>The financial implications are included covered in the report. Advice from the Chief Financial Officer will be required as part of the due diligence process to sign off the legal framework for investment between Greater Cambridge Impact and the Council.</p>		
	Legal Implications		
8.3	<p>Legal advice will be required as part of the due diligence process to sign off the legal framework for investment between Greater Cambridge Impact and the Council.</p>		
	Equalities and socio-economic Implications		
8.4	<p>This is an update report and there are no new direct equalities and socio-economic implications associated. The report highlights again the purpose of the Council's investment in Greater Cambridge Impact to support investment projects that tackle systemic inequality and contribute to inclusive growth in Cambridge and the wider region and will focus on the needs of five groups in initial investment rounds: disadvantaged children and young people (school/ skills); children in care; care-experienced young</p>		

	people; families in crisis and poverty (including being at risk of homelessness); people who are homeless.
	Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications
8.5	There are no direct impacts that can be quantified at this stage because these will depend on the investments made by Greater Cambridge Impact. However, investment decisions will consider net zero, climate change and environmental impacts and support positive measures where possible, for example to reduce carbon emissions and enhance biodiversity as part of property investments or promoting access to local sustainably produced food.
	Procurement Implications
8.6	None
	Community Safety Implications
8.7	None
9.	Background documents Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 .
9.1	No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.
10.	Appendices
10.1	None
	To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact: Jemma Little, Economic Development Manger Tel: 07720 145018 Email: Jemma.little@cambridge.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Cambridge City Council

Record of Executive Decision

East Barnwell Regeneration Scheme - Urgent Decision Briefing Paper

Decision of: Councillor Simon Smith, Executive Councillor for Strategy and Resources

Reference: 24/URGENCYS&R/15

Date of decision: 18/11/2024

Date Published on website: 19/11/24

Decision Type: Key

Matter for Decision: To approve a lease for the new East Barnwell Community Centre to Abbey People for a 25-year lease term at a nil rent.

Why the Decision had to be made (and any alternative options):

This decision is required in advance of this date and out of cycle due to:

1. The complexity and urgency of legal agreements that must be finalised for the scheme to be able to proceed without causing contracting delays
2. Delays to the programme and the risk and potential for increased costs for construction arising from this
3. Delays to the programme causing potential further risk to obtaining Homes England grant funding.

The complexity arises because the lease of the community centre must be compatible with the parallel lease to the County Council for the pre-school and the library which sits in the same building as the community centre, and shares communal areas.

The terms of the lease and a land transfer are required to fall under one agreement for construction to commence, which is currently anticipated for early December 2024, to facilitate a 'start on site' in January 2025.

The Executive Councillor's decision:

Approved a lease for the new East Barnwell Community Centre to Abbey People for a 25-year lease term at a nil rent.

Reason for the decision: As detailed in [Document 241118 Out of Cycle Decision: Approval of lease for the new East Barnwell Community Centre to Abbey People - Cambridge Council](#)

Scrutiny Consideration: The Chair and Spokesperson of Strategy and Resources Scrutiny Committee were consulted prior to the action being authorised.

Report: [Document 241118 Out of Cycle Decision: Approval of lease for the new East Barnwell Community Centre to Abbey People - Cambridge Council](#)

Conflict of interest: None.

Comments: The Chair and Opposition Spokespersons were supportive of this urgent decision.

East Barnwell Regeneration Scheme - Urgent Decision Briefing Paper

Recommendation

To approve a lease for the new East Barnwell Community Centre to Abbey People for a 25-year lease term at a nil rent.

Background

At a meeting of the Housing Scrutiny Committee (HSC) on 21st November 2023 a scheme was approved to regenerate sites at East Barnwell (**Reference: 23/50/HSC**).

As part of regenerating the local centre, the scheme includes the reprovision of a range of community facilities, as well as 120 affordable homes, and reprovision of sports facilities onto the Abbey Leisure site.

The library will transfer to the County Council to operate on a long lease at a peppercorn rent, as indicated in the HSC November report.

The community centre will be retained in the ownership of the City Council. Abbey People (AP) are an established community charity who deliver targeted community projects, volunteering opportunities and anti-poverty and crisis support services, such as the food hub. They operate the existing community centre which is intended for redevelopment in a later phase of the construction programme, and has consistently expressed a wish to become the operator for the new community centre.

Taking on the operation of a community building by small local charitable organisations is quite a commitment and undertaking, and it is not without some risks.

To ensure the risks and opportunities for the council of entering such an arrangement with AP had been explored, an options appraisal exercise was undertaken to assess several possible operating models:

1. Direct Management by the City Council
2. Tender to a private Operator
3. Lease to Abbey People as operator

In March 2023, the council agreed and confirmed with AP that they were to be the preferred operator for the new community centre, thus enabling them to participate

fully in the community consultation and design work and to develop a business plan to ensure that this could be a sustainable partnership for the longer term. AP have experience of managing and operating the current community centre and, as a community organisation, they will have access to grant funding opportunities which are not open to local authorities or to private operators.

AP are now developing a business plan for the new centre which indicates that they will be able to generate sufficient income from hire and other funding to be able to meet running and operational costs (e.g. soft and hard FM). Their business case, however, is predicated on the assumption of a nil rent over a 25 year lease term.

Why an out of cycle decision is required

It is acknowledged that there is a Strategy & Resources Committee taking place on 21st November 2024, but this decision is required in advance of this date and out of cycle due to:

1. The complexity and urgency of legal agreements that must be finalised for the scheme to be able to proceed without causing contracting delays
2. Delays to the programme and the risk and potential for increased costs for construction arising from this
3. Delays to the programme causing potential further risk to obtaining Homes England grant funding.

This urgent decision will enable draft Heads of Terms to be issued to Abbey People and their appointed solicitors, before negotiating and completing the agreements for lease.

The complexity arises because the lease of the community centre must be compatible with the parallel lease to the County Council for the pre-school and the library which sits in the same building as the community centre and shares communal areas.

The HSC report confirmed that the County has agreed to transfer the land of the current East Barnwell Community Centre and pay £500,000 to the City Council in exchange for a long lease of the library and pre-school within the new development.

The terms of the lease and the land transfer are required to fall under one agreement with the County, prior to the City Council then entering into contract with Hill for construction to commence, which is currently anticipated for early December 2024 to facilitate a 'start on site' in January 2025.