

CONSULTATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRALLY LED URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR GREATER CAMBRIDGE:

To: Leader, for Cabinet, 24 March 2026

Report by: Stephen Kelly, Joint Director, Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service

Wards affected: All

Director Approval: Robert Pollock 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 Cabinet/Cabinet Member for decision.

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

Consider the feedback from the Council meeting on 19th March and advise the Leader on the preparation of the final response to the consultation on the proposal to establish a Centrally Led Urban Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge.

2. Purpose and reason for the report

2.1 On 4th February 2026 the Ministry for Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) launched a public consultation on the establishment of a Centrally Led Urban Development Corporation for the Greater Cambridge area. The consultation runs until 1st April 2026 and contains 13 specific questions. This report follows consideration of the matter by a meeting of the Full Council on 19th March 2026.

3. **Alternative options considered**

- 3.1 Not submitting a response to the consultation. However, given the potential significance of the proposals on the governance and future development of the Cambridge this option is not supported.

4. **Background and key issues**

- 4.1 On 19th March 2026, members of the Council received a report on the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) consultation proposing the establishment of a Centrally Led Urban Development Corporation for Greater Cambridge. The report to the Council meeting, setting out details of the consultation is included at paragraph 15. That report includes background information on Development Corporations and details of the specific proposals contained in the consultation. The report also included details of the 13 questions posed in the consultation and preliminary responses to each question drawn from informal member engagement up to that point.

- 4.2 At the time of publication of this report, the Council meeting has not taken place. Officers are not therefore in a position to add to the report prepared for the Council meeting. A summary of Council's comments in respect of the consultation will therefore be provided to the Cabinet meeting along with any additional information arising from the Council discussion.

5. **Corporate Plan and Council Vision**

- 5.1 The Objectives for the Urban Development Corporation comprise the following:
- Transformational economic growth
 - Infrastructure Led Development
 - Innovative Investment
 - Environment and Climate
 - Inclusion and Equality.

These objectives are broadly consistent with the Corporate Plan and Council Vision objectives. Establishment of an Urban Development Corporation with dedicated resources to realise the objectives listed could have a positive impact upon the delivery

of the Council objectives. The transfer of planning powers from the City Council to the Urban Development Corporation may nevertheless impact upon the ability of the City Council to directly control and influence the delivery of its current Corporate Plan and Vision objectives.

[Corporate plan 2022-27: our priorities for Cambridge - Cambridge City Council](#)

[Our vision - Cambridge City Council](#)

6. **Consultation, engagement and communication**

Officers convened an 'All Member Briefing' on Wednesday 11th March to brief Members on the proposals and answer technical questions about the proposals to inform the Council meeting on 19th March 2026. The Council has used social media and a press statement to inform the public about the consultation and encourage residents to respond to it. The

Anticipated outcomes, benefits or impact

The Council meeting and associated report is expected to improve Member understanding of the proposals and enable them to provide informed insights to help shape the Leader's final submission to MHCLG on behalf of the Council.

7. **Relevant risks**

- 7.1 There is no decision for Cabinet at this stage. Risks to delivery of the Council's objectives will depend upon the Government intended course of action in response to the consultation feedback.

8. **Financial Implications**

- 8.1 No direct impact from this report. The establishment of a Centrally Led Urban Development Corporation with planning powers has the potential to result in significant financial implications. The precise impact will nevertheless depend upon the Government's actions in response to the consultation.

9. **Legal Implications**

9.1 None at this time.

10. **Equalities and socio-economic Implications**

10.1 None at this time. Responsibility for completing an EQIA rests with MHCLG.

11. **Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental implications**

11.1 None.

12. **Procurement Implications**

12.1 None

13. **Community Safety Implications**

13.1 None

14. **Background documents**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

14.1 Consultation Paper (MHCLG)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/establishing-a-development-corporation-in-greater-cambridge>

[Local Government, Planning and Land Act 1980](#)

15. **Appendices**

15.1 Report and Appendices to Full Council meeting 19 March 2026

[Agenda for Council on Thursday, 19th March, 2026, 6.00 pm - Cambridge Council](#)

16. To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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