

# CGC Advisory Council Meeting Minutes & Actions

|           |                                          |                                                    |    |
|-----------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| Date      | 08 October 2025                          |                                                    |    |
| Time      | 14:00-16:00                              |                                                    |    |
| Members   | Peter Freeman CBE (Chair)                | Chair, Cambridge Growth Company                    | PF |
|           | Cllr Bridget Smith                       | Leader South Cambridgeshire District Council       | BS |
|           | Cllr Cameron Holloway                    | Leader of Cambridge City Council                   | CH |
|           | Cllr Lucy Nethsingha                     | Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council            | LN |
|           | Dr Paul Leinster CBE                     | Chair, Cambridge Water Scarcity Group              | PL |
|           | Baroness Sally Morgan                    | Baroness Morgan of Huyton                          | SM |
| Apologies | Prof. Sir John Aston                     | Pro-vice-Chancellor Research, Cambridge University |    |
|           | Paul Bristow (online for closed session) | Mayor, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough             |    |

## Minutes

### 1. Previous AC Minutes

- 1.1. The Advisory Council agreed on the minutes of the previous meeting.
- 1.2. **ACTION:** CGC to publish minutes from 9 July AC Meeting.

### 2. CGC / Government Update - Verbal Update

- 2.1. The Advisory Council reflected on Matthew Pennycook's visit to Cambridge East, East Barnwell, Ekin Rd, Ditton Fields, and Arbury and his meetings with local leaders and university representatives. The minister has since reiterated his support for growth in Cambridge.
- 2.2. A brief overview of the New Towns Taskforce report and the government response was provided, focusing on Tempsford given the proximity of that site to Greater Cambridge. Some leaders requested a meeting with the New Towns team to discuss in more detail.
- 2.4. AC members discussed the need to address potential demand that multiple significant developments in the wider region (e.g. Tempsford, Milton Keynes, the Universal UK project, and East West Rail) will place on shared water sources and discharge points was outlined.

### 3. Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) Commission Update

- 3.1. CGC has accepted a commission from MHCLG, HMT and DfT to lead on a strategic outline business case for a Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) to inform transport solutions in support of the growth of Cambridge.
- 3.2. This work will be evidence-led, mode agnostic (all MRT options will be considered and appraised) and will utilise existing studies, supplemented by additional appraisal work, as necessary. It will be delivered in partnership working alongside CPCA, GCSP and other local partners, using existing governance forums such as the Greater Cambridge Transport Authority Senior Officer Group.
- 3.3. The geographic scope of this commission was confirmed to include the whole of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire councils.
- 3.4. The work is due to complete in June 2026 with draft outputs presented to the Advisory Council. This timeline has been deliberately aligned with that of the Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy to allow for alignment of the evidence bases.
- 3.5. The importance of not causing any delay to existing projects such as C2C, East West Rail and CSET, which are in the baseline for this work, was reiterated and agreed.
- 3.6. LN thanked PF for giving evidence at the Cambourne to Cambridge Busway public inquiry and for CGC's role in organising a letter of support for CSET from Homes England.
- 3.7. PF set out a potential approach regarding strategic transport advisor(s) which was met with approval from the Advisory Council. Further details will be confirmed at the next meeting.

#### 4. Greater Cambridge: Wastewater Treatment Capacity and Growth

- 4.1. The cross-government Water Delivery Taskforce chaired by DEFRA has agreed two key actions:
- i) A plan to address immediate capacity constraints at Treatment Plant (due in November)
  - ii) Anglian Water to set out a longer-term strategy relating to the emerging local plan (deadline of January and agreed with regulator by March)
- 4.3. The Advisory Council were informed that the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce has asked Anglian Water to plan for the basis of long-term growth scenarios provided through the CGC emerging evidence base which will extend beyond draft local plan timeframes.

#### 5. CGC Evidence Base - Update on Gap Analysis and the Strategic Narrative

- 5.1. The Evidence Base review has now been completed across 167 pieces of information in the public domain. An executive summary of this has been shared with the Advisory Council. Members were invited to submit any further comments on the review directly to CGC.
- 5.2. At July's meeting the Advisory Council agreed that a public facing Narrative document, setting out core messaging and principles that would guide the work of CGC, would be beneficial. CGC has developed a draft of this document and is working through helpful feedback from Leaders on it.
- 5.3. The key points raised can be broadly categorized as clarifying CGC's:
- corporate statements and priorities,
  - geographic focus,
  - complementary relationship to partner activities, and
  - focus on infrastructure delivery.
- 5.4. Advisory Council members were thanked for their engagement with this document to date, and assured that it would be subject to further refinement prior to recirculation to members.

**ACTION: AC** to review the Executive Summary of the Evidence base and send comments to **All CGC**.

#### 6. CGC Team Updates

- 6.1. As part of the meeting pack CGC have provided the Advisory Council with a profile of all team members. The Advisory Council asked that this be distributed as a separate pdf for ease of sharing.

**ACTION:** CGC to send all members the Team bios as a separate document, with the addition of PF and BD.

**CGC**

#### 7. AOB

- 7.1 It was requested that CGC provide all members with a summation of shareable information following AC meetings to ease distribution of messages.

ACTION: CGC to provide lines to all members following AC meetings. and agreed that CGC's Head of Strategic Communications should attend future meetings to support key messages.

**8. Closed Session**

Reflections on the October Ministerial announcement.

Unapproved