

CGC Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date 12th February 2025

Time 9am-11am

Attendees	Peter Freeman (Chair)	Chair of Cambridge Growth Company	PF
	Mayor Nik Johnson	Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	NJ
	Bridget Smith	Leader South Cambridgeshire District Council	BS
	Cllr Mike Davey	Leader of Cambridge City Council	MD
	Baroness Sally Morgan	Baroness Morgan of Huyton	SM
	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council	LN
	Paul Leinster	Chair Cambridge Water Scarcity Group	PL

1. Intros and minutes from previous meeting

1.1. The Council agreed on the minutes of the previous meeting.

2. Introduction to CGC Board and CGC Governance

- 2.1. The Advisory Council considered the Growth Company’s Board membership and Governance. They discussed the governance structure of the Company, noting that it was currently a wholly owned subsidiary of Homes England. They asked for further information explaining the role of the CEO of Homes England as Accounting Officer.
- 2.2. Members expressed the need to clarify in due course the governance between the future delivery vehicle and devolved authorities, noting national policy was still evolving in this space.
- 2.3. Dr Diarmuid O’Brien, Vice Chancellor of Innovation, was proposed as a member of the Advisory Council and this was agreed

- 2.4. The Advisory Council discussed whether additional roles should be added to the team, with a particular focus on transport and the benefit of attracting a professional with experience of delivering at a similar scale, including overseas. This will be discussed at a future Advisory Council meeting.

3. **Programme Updates**

- 3.1 The Advisory Council discussed the overall programme in the context of the government announcements on the OxCam Corridor. They sought further clarity over the government's vision and various organisations' respective roles in achieving it and emphasized the importance of ensuring strong links across the different parts of government. The Council stated that a visit by Lord Vallance would be welcome.
- 3.2 The procurement update was noted but not discussed and a more detailed update on the evidence-based consultant programme of work will be tabled at a future meeting.
- 3.3 Resources:
The Advisory Council considered the proposed staffing structure and priority recruitment and asked for further detail in a standardized organogram. They expressed a preference for Cambridge-based staff.
- 3.4 The Council discussed priority recruitment roles. Transport resources were discussed, and it was noted that similar recruitment was taking place in the Combined Authority. It was noted that it was important to avoid replication with staffing structures elsewhere, and the need to work collaboratively to avoid duplication of work being undertaken by existing/future planning/transport authorities.
- 3.5 The Council discussed the resources available across the organisations they represent, and expressed a desire to acknowledge the best practice approaches underway. The Council equally noted that there was a need for the CGC to have skills/expertise in place to be able to act as an intelligent client for both the longer-term growth plan but also to enable collaborative working.
- 3.6 Members wanted to ensure that existing transport priorities were not lost in the pressure for new initiatives.
- 3.7 The group discussed water treatment, and the current capacity of existing water works in the Greater Cambridge area. It was agreed that measures need to be put in place to reduce water demand, monitor the delivery of new supply infrastructure and support national efforts to improve building efficiency standards and allow for water re-use in developments.
- 3.8 Members noted that Anglian Water are now raising objections (with the Environment Agency also raising concerns) to planning applications and expressed a desire to work with these agencies to assess the capacity of treatment plants and discharge points in Cambridge and determine what would be required under various new growth scenarios

- 3.9 They asked for a briefing to be produced on a good practice example, to illustrate the various pinch points facing a new development in the Cambridge growth area.

4. Updates

- 4.1 The updates were not formally discussed but were noted by those present

5 Advisory Council / CGC MoU

- 5.1 All Advisory Council members present were satisfied with the Memorandum of Understanding, and it was agreed that the MoU will be a public document and will be published on the Cambridge Growth Company website as soon as that is live.

6. AOB, inc. Communications Protocol

The Council discussed the timing for any announcements regarding joint working between the Cambridge Growth Company and its partners. They noted that public communication will need to comply with local election period guidance including the Mayoral election. It was agreed that the Chair should offer to meet with all the Mayoral candidates once they are officially declared. In the interests of transparency, following the elections and the establishment of the CGC webpage there should be regular communications to the public.

- 6.1 There was no further business, and the meeting was closed at 11.00am.