

# CGC Advisory Council Meeting

## Minutes

Date	22 November 2024		
Time	1pm-3pm		
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
	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council	LN
	Paul Leinster	Chair Cambridge Water Scarcity Group	PL
Apologies	Baroness Sally Morgan	Baroness Morgan of Huyton	SM

1.

**Welcome and intros**
- 1.1.

The Council introduced themselves.
2.

**Advisory Council Terms of Reference**
- 2.1

The group agreed that agendas and papers would be published except for confidential or commercially sensitive information.
- 2.2

The group discussed additional members of the Advisory Council and agreed they would be brought in as needed for topics such as water and transport.
- 2.3

The group agreed that, at an appropriate time in the future, a regular programme of briefings should be set up for elected members.
- 2.4

Membership of sub-committees was discussed, and the group agreed the need to map out the expertise needed to avoid duplication.

2.5 The issue of sub-committees will be reviewed again in a couple of months.

### 3. **Growth Ambition**

3.1 Discussion of growth ambitions and targets, noting that there was no fixed target at this stage. Recognition that this would be an evidence-led process, with the need to balance ambition and realism.

3.2 The group agreed on the importance of delivering the Local Plan and on the need to make sure that economic growth is supported by the right amount of housing and infrastructure.

3.3 The geography of the Cambridge travel to work area was discussed and it was agreed that using this, rather than smaller, targeted areas, would encourage a more holistic planning approach.

3.4 The group noted that Cambridge has produced more housing and jobs often without the necessary supporting infrastructure. It is important that this pattern is not repeated.

3.5 Environmental issues were discussed and request that Leaders be informed of governmental messaging that they needed to be aware of to ensure that their communications were aligned.

3.6 Discussion on public perceptions of growth in the Greater Cambridge area, and the need for a compelling and joined-up public narrative.

### 4. **Transport Systems**

4.1 Discussion on the importance of transport infrastructure, which it was agreed should be a core focus of the Advisory Council.

4.2 There is an opportunity to learn lessons from other places, for example Edinburgh and the city's tram system.

The group agreed that transport should be discussed at the next Advisory Council meeting.

### 5. **Updates**

Members discussed workstreams on:

- Setting up the CGC
- Unlocking and accelerating sites
- Developing the evidence base
- Funding and strategy
- Cross-government policy

5.1 The group agreed that it was important to build on the momentum from the Autumn Budget, including to engage with central government departments other than MHCLG given the breadth of policy interests.

5.2 The group discussed options for public engagement, for example a collective statement of intent. The Chair referenced the Principles for a Human City, which was published at the start of the King's Cross regeneration and agreed to share the document with the group.

6 **AOB**  
There was no further business, and the meeting was closed at 1:00pm.