

CGC Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Date	9 July 2025		
Time	1pm-3pm		
Attendees	Peter Freeman CBE, (Chair)	Chair of Cambridge Growth Company	PF
	Dr Diarmuid O'Brien	University of Cambridge	DOB
	Cllr Bridget Smith	Leader South Cambridgeshire District Council	BS
	Cllr Cameron Holloway	Cambridge City Council	CH
	Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council	LN
	Mayor Paul Bristow	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	PB
	Paul Leinster	Chair Cambridge Water Scarcity Group	
	Prof. Sir John Aston FRS	University of Cambridge	JA
	Baroness Sally Morgan	Baroness Morgan of Huyton	SM
Apologies	N/A		

1.

Welcome and intros
- 1.1.

The Chair welcomed new members to the Council.
2.

Previous Minutes
- 2.1

Chair asked if there were any questions regarding the previous minutes. A minor amendment to refer to the “Council” as “Advisory Council or AC” was subsequently recommended and will be used in future minutes.

3. **Spending Review**

- 3.1 Members were provided with an update on SR25 announcements. CGC is continuing to work with MHCLG on follow-up to the SR. In the meantime, the Chair updated member on the work CGC is continuing to progress, including ongoing work on recruitment to further build-up the CGC resources.

4. **Evidence Base Update**

- 4.1 CGC presented an update on the Evidence Base workstream. This item provided an overview of the stages of work programme completed to date, including the brand and identity work for the CGC and the launch of the CGC website.

Action: confirm publication materials with CEO's

4.2 **Item 4 discussion**

- 4.3 Members discussed the programme of work set out, particularly focusing on the next stage of work to establish a strategic narrative and continue to build the evidence base.

4.4 Strategic Narrative:

- a) Members discussed the purpose of the strategic narrative, the required content and the benefit of having a clear narrative that all partners can use. The group reflected Cambridge is a well-established city, with imbalance across the wider region and the deprivation in certain wards. There was a desire for a clear case, setting out what change is needed, including recognition of the range of infrastructure (physical and social) that will be required to support good growth.
- b) The narrative will need to provide clarity around the functions and purpose of the CGC, how it relates to existing administrations in the area, and consider how delivery/outcomes will be measured.
- c) Members noted that the development of this narrative would be a useful basis upon which to broaden engagement beyond the AC, for example with local Councillors. Members noted that the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is missing from the list of stakeholders presented to the group.

4.5 Evidence base:

- d) Members reinforced the need to avoid any duplication of work across the evidence base given the vast amount of existing work undertaken in support of the Local Plan, Local Growth Plan and Greater Cambridge Transport Strategy.
- e) Members advised on the need to ensure that all aspects of water infrastructure are considered in the evidence base, covering supply, demand, quality, waste, flood risks and regulation etc. It was suggested that the Water Scarcity group (WSG) and Water Resources East (WRE) should be engaged in this space.

- 4.6 Members noted a positive reflection on the Chair's public engagement and role for CGC and that work needs to be an iterative process which builds trust.

- 4.7 Members reinforced the need to work collaboratively as the local plan progresses, with MHCLG noting the support that has been provided to-date to ensure delivery of the local plan remains a key priority for all.
- 4.8 **ACTION – CGC / MHCLG to draft a note to be shared with members setting out the strategic narrative for the CGC to help provide a narrative which partners can share to explain the CGCs role and what will happen next.**

Environmental Principles

5. Members were given a summary of the approach and the background of the development of the Pan Regional Partnership’s principles and discussion about whether the CGC should be looking to adopt a set of principles.
- 5.1 Members reflected that the principles were written with the whole of the (OxCam) corridor in mind. Cambridge City and Cambridgeshire County have already adopted these, and they are already part of local policy.
- 5.2 It was noted that the principles have been developed, evaluated and endorsed by local leaders recently (2024) and as such are seen as very relevant and fit for purpose for the CGC work. Members recognised the role of the CPCA and requested that CGC ensure alignment with local policies as part of their adoption. CGC will progress the actions and will also ensure alignment with the wider evidence base work.
- 5.3 Reflection that this may present a positive opportunity to get information out to the public to show what the CGC is looking to do in this space.
- 5.4 **Action - CGC / MHCLG – to progress work on the potential environmental principles that CGC may look to adopt, and ensure alignment with the wider evidence base work, and to consider potential next steps to take this work forward.**

6 AOB and Conclusion

The Chair thanked Dr Diarmuid O'Brien for his support and for being part of the AC.

The Chair thanked members and the meeting was closed.