



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

# **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017**

**Time: 2pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Robin Carter  
Cllr Terry Hayward (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Mike Bradley  
Cllr Alan Sharp  
Cllr Alex Riley  
Cllr John Batchelor (Chair)  
Cllr Fred Yeulett  
Cllr David Mason  
Cllr Dave Baigent  
Cllr Rod Cantrill  
Cllr David Jenkins  
Cllr David Over  
Cllr Ed Murphy

Huntingdonshire District Council  
Huntingdonshire District Council  
East Cambs District Council  
East Cambs District Council  
South Cambs District Council  
South Cambs District Council  
Fenland District Council  
Fenland District Council  
Cambridge City Council  
Cambridge City Council  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Peterborough City Council  
Peterborough City Council

**Officers:**

Kim Sawyer  
Alex Colyer  
Debbie Forde  
Anne Gardiner

Interim Legal Counsel & Monitoring Officer  
Chief Finance Officer  
Governance Advisor  
Scrutiny Officer

**Others in attendance:**

Cllr Robin Howe  
  
Cllr John Clark  
Dan Thorp  
Joanne Lancaster  
  
Pat Carrington  
  
Stephen Rosevear

Deputy Mayor & Portfolio Holder for  
Economic Strategy  
Portfolio Holder for Employment & Skills  
Interim Assistant Director  
Chief Executive Officer – Huntingdonshire  
District Council  
Assistant Director – Peterborough City  
Council  
Interim Skills Director - CPCA

## **1. Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies received from Cllr Nethsingha, substituted by Cllr Jenkins and apologies received from Cllr French.

## **2. Declaration of Interests**

- 2.1 No declaration of interests were made.

## **3. Minutes**

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

## **4. Interview – Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Economic Strategy**

- 4.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Holder for Economic Strategy. (Appendix A)
- 4.2 The following points were made during the discussion:-
- In comparison to other EU countries such as Germany the UK was falling short in terms of economic growth despite there being areas of world class industry that needed to be expanded.
  - The Cambridgeshire economy was one of the fastest growing economies in the country but there was an imbalance within the area that need to be looked at.
  - The Independent Economic Commission had been established which would advise the Combined Authority on possible investments and interventions – these would form part of any business case being put forward for the Combined Authority.
  - The Portfolio Holder stated that he was confident that there would be substantial growth in all areas but that the Combined Authority needed to be clever with its interventions to ensure all areas experienced the growth.
  - The industrial strategy had not yet been completed but work done by the LEP on sector development would be built into the strategy.
  - The strategy put forward by central government for the industrial strategy was a good template that outlined 10 pillars for economic growth
  - Discussions had been held with local business to understand their needs; attracting educated and skilled workers being the main area that businesses needed help with.
  - There was a lot of land including public land that could be utilized in Cambridge; the Combined Authority could play a role in encouraging land owners to release the land.

- There was a commitment from the Combined Authority to improve communications in the area and install a working 5G network to all areas of the Combined Authority.
- There were many feasibility studies being currently being undertaken which included looking at improvements that would have an effect on the agricultural sector and interventions in this area could be very effective.
- The Combined Authority's 100-day plan had been completed and was available to view on the website. The 4-year plan and 20-year plan were being worked on and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be involved in the consultation process. The 20 Year Plan would be a visionary plan for the authority; the 4 Year Plan would be more of a road map.
- There were concerns about Brexit and what could happen but the Combined Authority would be having discussions with central government.

4.3 The Committee members raised many questions regarding the recent situation with the LEP; the Portfolio Holder gave the following responses to the questions:

The Portfolio Holder advised the committee that the funding for the LEP had been put on hold by central government as they had not met the new requirements outlined in the assurance framework of the Combined Authority.

The Combined Authority would want the LEP to remain independent, with an independent Chair and Board but there would be value in looking at shared back offices and management and the use of one economic pot.

This proposal is being considered by the LEP with a study group with four members from the LEP and four from the Combined Authority looking into it.

4.4 The Chairman thanked the Portfolio Holder for his presentation and answering the Committee's questions.

## **5. Interview – Portfolio Holder for Employment and Skills**

5.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Portfolio Holder for Employment and Skills. (Appendix B)

5.2 The following points were made during the discussion:-

- The provision of skills was a national issue; there had been confusion since 1945 with many Acts of parliament being passed to attempt to resolve the problem but it remained a complex issue.
- There were three key areas of skills shortages in Cambridgeshire; construction, life sciences and health and social care but there could not be a blanket approach to dealing with all of these.
- It was important that there was one voice that spoke to central government when it came to skills and Combined Authority could play a role here.
- There were currently no plans to work with the LEP on skills.

- The challenge would be to create jobs that were attractive enough to retain those that had moved to the area for training.
- There were projects within Cambridge that had worked well; the AGE Grant had created 500 apprenticeships in SME's.
- Funding for the accommodation of the 2000 students at Peterborough University that were expected by 2020 would be included in the second tranche of bidding, providing temporary accommodation would be looked into.
- The Portfolio Holder would circulate to members documents that outlined the plans for the university.
- The £60m quoted for the University of Peterborough was a headline figure as the Combined Authority was at the beginning of a journey which would look at many different funding options for skills. Phase 1 had been taken forward by the LEP and Phase 2 would be taken forward by the Combined Authority.
- There was an investment subcommittee that sat within the University of Peterborough Steering group which looked at mapping out the financial requirements and suggested where funding might come from.
- The estimated figure of achieving 2000 students at the Peterborough University by 2020 had been revised to 3000 students by 2022.
- The University of Peterborough would fill a lot of the areas of need within skills but it was a key priority that the Combined Authority did not just hand over money; it had to ensure that the schemes invested in were value for money.
- It was important for the Combined Authority to act as a coordinator to all the different skills projects already in existence to bring together the fragmented areas and encourage them to work together.
- A transport review needed to be done to look at the travel subsidies that were available for students.
- Embedding construction apprenticeships into new housing developments would be an idea that would be taken forward.

5.3 The Chairman thanked the Portfolio Holder for his presentation and answering the Committee's questions.

## **6. Review of Combined Authority Agenda**

6.1 The Committee considered the agenda that had been published for the upcoming Combined Authority Board meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and were asked to raise any issues.

6.2 Cllr Hayward raised an issue that level crossings on the A1 were not mentioned in the Priority Transport Schemes report going to the Board meeting.

- 6.3 Cllr Murphy raised a query around the funding being provided on one of the proposals within the Priority Transport Schemes and was advised that the Chief Finance Officer would look into this and provide a written answer.
- 6.4 The Chairperson raised an issue around the report going to the Board about Funding Requests for the LEP and that there was no indication of the risks or how money would be re-paid.

The Committee were advised by the Interim Legal Counsel and Monitoring Officer that the three projects in question were key projects for the Combined Authority and underwriting the funds would allow these important projects to move ahead.

The funding would be paid directly from the Combined Authority to the projects and officers were confident that the money would be repaid.

- 6.5 In response to a question about the timescales for the consultation the committee were informed that this was the first substantive budget for the Combined Authority, the timescales were tight and were dictated by central government but the consultation would only be necessary if the Combined Authority chose to introduce a levy or the Mayor decided to have a precept. There were currently no plans to introduce a levy or a precept.

## **7. Combined Authority Forward Plan**

- 7.1 The Committee had no comments to make at this time regarding the forward plan of the Combined Authority.

## **8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

- 8.1 The Committee received the work programme and were asked to comment or make any amendments.
- 8.2 The Committee members requested that they submit their questions to the Portfolio Holders one day earlier than usual to allow the responses to be sent around by email the Friday before the meeting.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

- 9.1 The next meeting would be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> November at 10am at South Cambs District Council with a training session to follow after the meeting ended.

Meeting Closed: 16:24pm.

## Appendix A



## Economy and Productivity Strategy

Cllr Robin Howe  
Deputy Mayor

23 October 2017



## Economy and Productivity – Our Context



The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has been established with a central purpose and a central target; **enhanced economic growth, as measured by a doubling of our GVA**

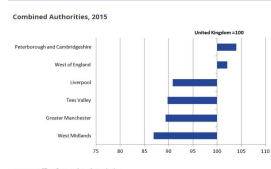
This portfolio therefore has a strategic relevance across the whole Combined Authority programme – skills, housing, spatial planning, new homes and communities, and more

There is some important context to consider our strategy within...

## Our economy is “best in class” and as such strategically important to the UK



Amongst the other devolution areas, our economy has the highest productivity (GVA per hour worked)



Source: Office for National Statistics

Our two core cities are both in the top 5 fastest growing in the UK

| Rank                                    | City         | Growth rate, 2014-2015 (%) | Population, 2014 | Population, 2015 | Change, 2014-2015 |
|---|--------------|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 10 fastest growing cities by population |              |                            |                  |                  |                   |
| 1                                       | Exeter       | 2.4                        | 124,300          | 127,300          | 3,000             |
| 2                                       | Coventry     | 2.4                        | 332,400          | 344,400          | 12,000            |
| 3                                       | Cardiff      | 1.9                        | 128,500          | 130,500          | 2,000             |
| 4                                       | Peterborough | 1.8                        | 191,000          | 194,000          | 3,000             |
| 5                                       | Leeds        | 1.8                        | 771,000          | 774,000          | 3,000             |
| 6                                       | London       | 1.5                        | 8,752,000        | 8,864,000        | 112,000           |
| 7                                       | Reading      | 1.4                        | 241,000          | 243,000          | 2,000             |
| 8                                       | Northampton  | 1.4                        | 219,500          | 222,500          | 3,000             |
| 9                                       | Brighton     | 1.3                        | 244,000          | 246,000          | 2,000             |
| 10                                      | Gloucester   | 1.3                        | 125,000          | 127,000          | 2,000             |

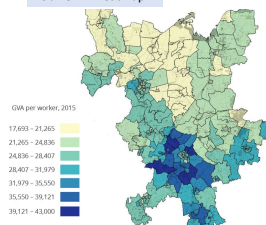
And we lead the way in some specific factors, like innovation...

| 10 cities with the highest number of patent applications published |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1  | Cambridge |
| 2  | Coventry  |
| 3  | Oxford    |
| 4  | Derby     |
| 5  | Sheffield |

## But the headlines mask an imbalance



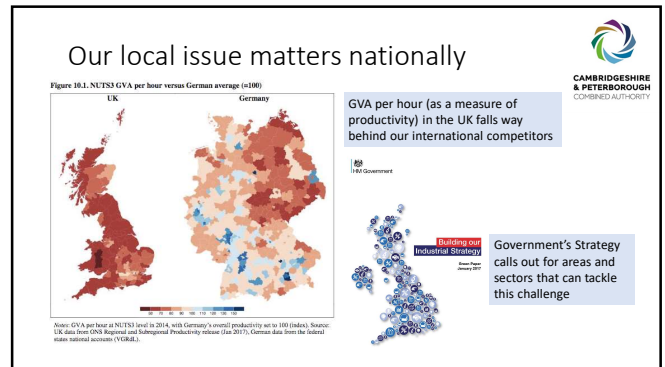
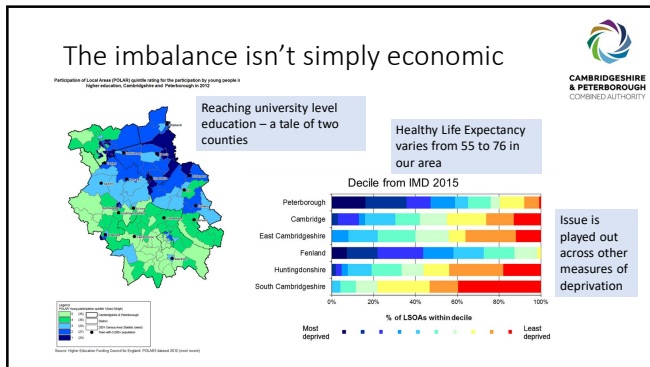
### Our GVA “heatmap”



Combined Authority  
Area Current GVA =  
£20.7bn

£9.4bn, nearly half,  
currently captured in  
Greater Cambridge (and  
£4.9bn in Peterborough)

Therefore a significant  
role for our market  
towns to play as a  
collective

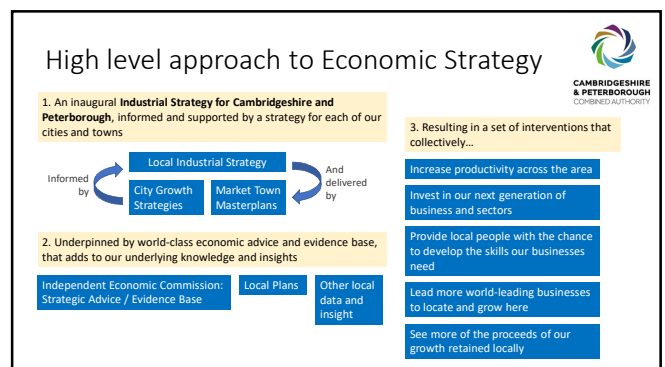


### So we have an opportunity and we need a new approach

Which I believe should be based upon the following principles:

- **Greater than the sum of our parts** – each city, town and village should be a prosperous and vibrant place in its own right, but also have a role in an overall strategy for a thriving county
- **Globally competitive** – enhancing our position as a world-leading economy to bring more opportunity to more of our communities. Being proactive in our leading role for the UK economy in a post-Brexit international market
- **Vanguard of devolution** – as a net contributor to the country's finances we should become a model of locally-led economic growth, supported by further devolution of budgets and powers

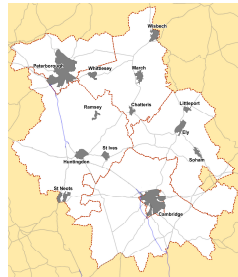
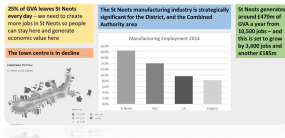
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority



## Progress to date (1/3)

Commissioned and published a **Masterplan for St Neots** – a prototype for Market Town Masterplans

Commitment to work with local partners to develop business case for £5.8m of investment to support growth of St Neots



## Progress to date (2/3)

Established the **Independent Economic Commission** and engaged with the Technical Group to build the economic model

Engaged heavily with Government around the **Cambridge – MK – Oxford corridor**, as a key strategic opportunity

Brought forward **investment proposals for infrastructure** linked to strategic growth sites

Preparatory work to develop the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Industrial Strategy

Submission of evidence to inform NIC funding recommendations due this Autumn

- £9m invested in feasibility studies / business cases for major infrastructure
- £193m proposal to Government for funding of infrastructure to unlock Cambridge Fringe North East, to unlock 7,600 new homes and support new jobs in Cambridge Science Park and Greater Cambridge
- Further £4.5m of investment in infrastructure pipeline, to unlock growth across the area



## Progress to date (3/3)

Work with partners, businesses and Government to develop plans for **inward investment responding to leaving the EU**

Development of an Inward Investment Strategy with the GCGP Local Enterprise Partnership – to fully harness the investment and growth potential of the region an renewed inward investment programme is needed

Working with the Department for International Trade (DIT) to actively pursue inward investment opportunities aligned to Combined Authority growth priorities.

Engaging with businesses to understand their priorities and needs entering a post-Brexit context. For example, supporting manufacturing sector within St Neots







**CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

**Councillor John Clark**  
**CPCA Portfolio Holder for Employment  
and Skills**

Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017



# Introduction: The Skills Landscape in Cambridgeshire

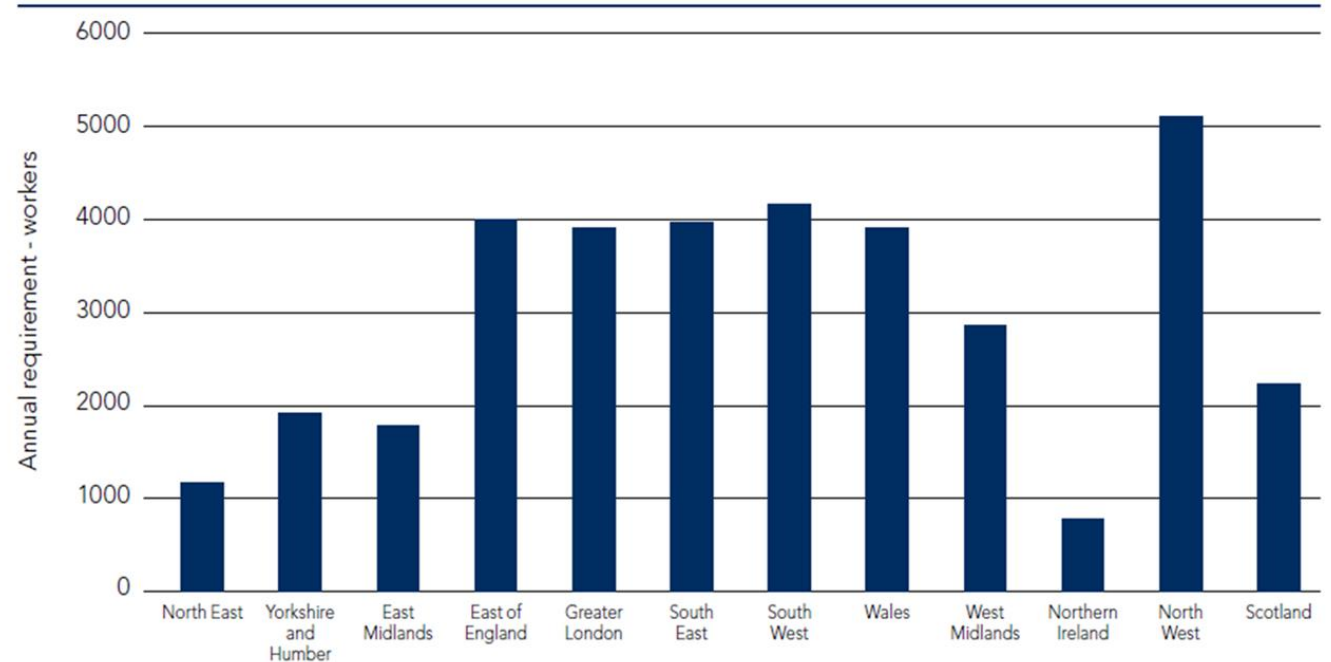
- Some context
- What we have done
- What we are going to do
- Some context:
  - At the national level, responsibility for skills has flipped between departments or been shared with multiple departments at least 11 times since the 1980s
  - Over 30 years, we have had over 13 major Acts of Parliament affecting vocational skills provision
  - There have been 61 Secretaries of State responsible for skills policy over the same period

# Some Context

- UK wide we need to recruit someone into construction sector every 7 seconds to meet the upcoming demand that we know of for the next 20 years
- In the national science-based economy (pharma, biotech, med biotech, materials and chemicals) up to 2025:
  - Up to 142,000 professional jobs
  - 73,000 technical jobs
  - Most are for replacement demand
- Health and social care sector has the highest level of vacancies of any local sector. In 2016, the sector had 13,871 jobs advertised. This sector includes 'nursing, care worker and home carers', and 'medical practitioners', citing the top employer for advertised vacancies as the NHS. These local figures highlight the large ongoing recruitment needs of the target sector of the Innovation Pilot.

## Construction Sector

ANNUAL RECRUITMENT REQUIREMENT (ARR) BY REGION 2017-2021



Source: CSN, Experian.

# What has been done:

- Effective locally targeted projects and programmes, making a real difference:
  - Devolution Deal One offers us some specific opportunities – so far we have progressed:
    - Peterborough University,
    - Secured an additional £5.3m through a business case for the Innovation Pilot test a new intervention that addresses the skills shortage in the Health and Care sector
    - Targeted criteria for the AGE grant securing over 500 apprentices in SME's and a committeeman to investing further in this We have drafted the Skills Blue Print which is being soft market tested with businesses
    - Skills blue print being soft-tested with mayoral engagement and business leaders
- But sticking plasters over a inadequate national system

# What We Are Going to Do:

- A root and branch review of the entire skills system in Cambridgeshire
- A prioritised action plan and structure designed to serve learners and businesses
- A regional end-to-end skills system – from schools, to apprentices, to workplace learning, to under and postgraduate
- Time limited and focused:
  - New Interim Skills Director
  - Background: 25 years in skills analysis and policy. Resident of Cambridgeshire, but coming fresh to the regional skills arena. Developed solutions for Milton Keynes, the Marches, the Nuclear sector, Manchester New Economy, the Science Industry Partnership, the NHS, the LSCC and others. Former Government Economist and Strategy Director of Cogent Skills.

# What are we Going to Do

Access to devolved budgets and the development of a unifying strategy/blueprint that all interested parties can put their weight behind could be transformational for Cambridgeshire

This will provide a single voice to government and a simplified system