

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Employment and Skills Board (Skills Advisory Panel) Membership

Briefing for potential applicants

Introduction

This document provides background on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for potential Employment and Skills Board applicants. It should be read in conjunction with the Skills Board Member criteria document, which outlines the criteria used in the appointment of new board members.

Background to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority covering Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is one of 8 Mayoral Combined Authorities. The Business Board formerly the GCGP LEP supports the functions of the LEP of which there are 36 Local Enterprise Partnerships which were established in 2011.

Government requires that they have the support of local authorities, businesses and education and the board must be chaired by a business leader. Business representatives should also be a majority of the members.

On 3rd March 2017, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority was established as a Mayoral Combined Authority for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. (It is a corporate body and can be referred to as the Combined Authority).

It is made up of a directly elected Mayor and the following seven local authorities (referred to as the Constituent Councils) and the Business Board (Local Enterprise Partnership):

- Cambridge City Council;
- Cambridgeshire County Council;
- East Cambridgeshire District Council;
- Fenland District Council;
- Huntingdonshire District Council;
- Peterborough City Council;
- South Cambridgeshire District Council.

The Combined Authority will work with local councils, the Business Board (Local Enterprise Partnership), local public services, Government departments and agencies.



CPCA Skills Priorities

The Skills Strategy provides the evidence and opportunities for the CPCA to understand the unique circumstances of local people, employers, communities and the suppliers of education and training including independent training providers, FE Colleges and local authorities. It will give the CPCA the advantage of being closer to the locality and therefore an ability to be more responsive flexible and agile to meeting local priorities. The CPCA has produced a Local Industrial Strategy and Skills Strategy that set out our skills priorities and their expected impact.

These priorities will look to:

- 1. Achieve a high-quality offer tailored to the needs of the three sub economies (The Fens, Peterborough and South Cambridgeshire)**
- 2. Empower local people to access education and skills to participate fully in society, to raise aspirations and enhance progress into further learning to work**
- 3. Develop a dynamic skills market that responds to the changing needs of local business**

One of the paradoxes of our area, highlighted by the CPIER, is the existence of a low level of skills and educational aspiration in some communities, and mismatches with employer needs in the education system, alongside the high-skilled economy of Cambridge. The Combined Authority will continue to prioritise skills interventions, including supporting the establishment of a new University in Peterborough with a course mix driven by local employer demand for skills in both public and private sectors, encouraging apprenticeships, and through the LIS working to activate employer demand and motivate learners and their families to aspire.

Membership of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Employment and Skills Board

The board will comprise of business leaders, education representatives, local authority leaders, and other government agencies.

It will be established in the Autumn of 2019 and will help to steer the skills agenda in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough plus build on the good work being undertaken by all partners. It will support the implementation of the Local Industrial Strategy and support the recommendations of the Skills Strategy and supporting evidence base.

The Employment and Skills Board will be chaired by a member of the ESB Board representing the private sector and the Chair will report directly to the Chief Officer of the Business Board/ Director Business and Skills.

Please note; this is not recruitment for membership of the Business Board, it is recruitment for membership of the Employment and Skills Board.



Role of private sector board members

Private sector board members will be drawn from across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and ensure a spread of representation of our key sectors and varying sizes of employers.

Members are selected through an open call for nominations and a process agreed by the Board.

The current role and governance of the board is under development so the input of new members is very welcomed.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Skills Priorities;

The focus on skills and evidence of this can be seen in the following strategies, evidence base, and documents:

- CPCA Skills Strategy <https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Employment-and-Skills/Skills-Strategy-Final-Version-5.6.19.pdf>
- Skills Strategy Evidence Base <https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Employment-and-Skills/Cambridgeshire-and-Peterborough-Combined-Authority-FINAL-DEC-2018-Appendix-A.pdf>
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review <http://www.cpier.org.uk/final-report/>
- CPCA Growth Ambition Statement <https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/GROWTH-AMBITION-STATEMENT-.pdf>

Through the implementation of the People pillar of the Local Industrial Strategy and the CPCA Skills Strategy, we will produce clear statements about the skills businesses need now and in the future. Some of those priorities are listed below;

- Develop an integrated skills offer for businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Prioritise capital investment on provision that will deliver the future skills our sectors and workforce need.
- Delivering a new University of Peterborough with a curriculum offer to support local business.
- Using the devolved Adult Education Budget to deliver high quality adult education in the local area.
- Support the implementation of the Skills Talent Apprenticeship & Recruitment (STAR) Hub coordinating all skills activity and initiatives to connect as a one stop shop.
- Promotion of the Health and Care Sector Work Academy to support skills and training in the health and care sectors.
- Step up our efforts to promote and support the delivery of high-quality Apprenticeships.
- Work with Government/ DfE to establish a localised and co-designed National Retraining Scheme for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Grow the number of Enterprise Advisers and schools that are engaged working in partnership with the CEC to further support quality CEIAG and the Careers Strategy.
- Develop new approaches and remove barriers to getting people back into work.
- Prioritise leadership support for our entrepreneurs and those in new high growth businesses

