CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY

PAUL BRISTOW MAYOR OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER

UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR

PAUL BRISTOW

As further devolution announcements come out of government, I've been reflecting on how these may impact the Combined Authority and the region.

The new English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act and the Rewiring the State announcement are significant and offer real promise. We are also now, of course, an Established Mayoral Strategic Authority – the top tier of devolution powers.

But my focus remains on ensuring we close the gap between what the Government expects the Combined Authority to deliver and the organisational capacity, powers and funding available to us. I will continue pressing the Government to ensure that this momentum on devolution can turn into real results on the ground.

I welcomed the recent announcement giving mayors greater planning powers, including the ability to 'call in' major planning decisions across the region. Mayors will also have more influence over how national housing funding is allocated.

These powers are vital to our aim of ensuring people can afford to live here, businesses can expand and key projects can proceed without unnecessary delays. I want Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to keep growing, create jobs and be more productive, and these changes will help me deliver that.

And in terms of growth, I've been highlighting projects and businesses that are delivering on our Local Growth Plan ambition, so I made the trip down to 2000 Discovery Drive on Cambridge Biomedical Campus to see the newly completed home of GSK's R&D operations in the UK. Prologis's work to grow and attract investment to the campus supports its role as an ecosystem of research, patient care, academia and industry, supporting the discovery and development of new medicines.

Finally, I recently chaired a meeting with Stagecoach, Peterborough City Council and Cadent to address bus service changes in Bretton. We listened to residents' concerns that buses would not be stopping at the Bretton Centre during the gas works. We agreed on a solution that has allowed buses to still operate, which will continue to be reviewed. This kind of proactive work is central to my role as Mayor. I look forward to hearing from more people about the issues that matter most to them at my next Mayor's Question Time event in Ely on Thursday 17 September. If you have a question for me, submit it here.

UPDATE FROM THE CEO

ROB BRIDGE

The past few weeks have marked an important next step for the Combined Authority, as we begin to turn our Established Mayoral Strategic Authority status into new opportunities for the region.

We are already seeing this in areas including housing, homelessness and planning. New Government funding will support our work with councils to help people move away from rough sleeping ahead of winter, while our Established status gives us a strategic role in the Affordable Homes Programme. New mayoral planning powers are also expected to be introduced earlier than originally planned, alongside additional civil service secondment capacity to support Strategic Authorities as these responsibilities grow.

The work on devolution is now moving into a more detailed phase, with Strategic Authorities and Government working together on the next steps. We expect further announcements ahead of the Autumn Budget and the publication of the White Paper this Autumn and Strategic Authority Chief Executives are working with No10 North jointly on this.

Alongside these wider changes, we continue to make progress on priorities that will have a direct impact on communities across the region. Following the public engagement earlier this year, our updated Bus Network Review proposals have been approved by the Transport Committee and will now go to the Combined Authority Board for consideration. The proposals have been shaped by feedback from residents, councillors, MPs and community groups and aim to improve connectivity and better meet the needs of local communities.

There is a great deal happening across the Combined Authority and the wider region. As our role continues to evolve, we will remain focused on turning these opportunities into tangible benefits for the communities and businesses we serve.

TRANSPORT COMMITTEE APPROVES UPDATED PROPOSALS FOR BUS NETWORK

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Transport Committee (Wednesday 9 September) has approved the updated proposals for changes to the region's bus network, following a six-week public engagement that received 1,182 responses..

Feedback from residents, councillors, MPs and community groups have helped to shape the proposals to improve connectivity and reliability. Responses to the engagement highlighted the need for reliable, frequent and affordable services, suitable operating hours and better access to key destinations including rail and healthcare.

The updated proposals reflect this feedback, with services remaining the same or being revised, replacement links introduced where practical and demand responsive transport used where appropriate.

The updated proposals include:

Fenland – re-designing services to create a clearer local network, with improved links, better weekend service and improved access to key destinations including Manea Rail Station and Doddington Hospital.

St Ives, Earith, Somersham and Ramsey – improving the 301 service to provide a simpler, more frequent core service. Residents would have a simplified service between St Ives, Earith and Somersham, with links to Ramsey.

St Neots, Godmanchester, the Hemingfords and St Ives – revising the 65 service to serve St Neots Rail Station and extend from the Offords to Godmanchester, the Hemingfords and St Ives, creating a stronger link in Huntingdonshire and giving new connections for Hemingford Abbots and Hemingford Grey.

Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire – revising services to improve reliability and provide regular links to Cambridge, alongside improved evening, weekend and peak-time travel. Changes would provide simpler routes, better Cambridge access and more travel options, including links to Addenbrooke's Hospital.

East Cambridgeshire and Suffolk links – replacing low-frequency services with simpler services around Haverhill and Newmarket, including new 119, 120 and 121 routes. Creating a simpler network and providing more comprehensive local links for communities near the Suffolk border.

Peterborough – merging services 60 and 61 and changing the timetables for services 60, 61, 62 and 63. Following feedback from the engagement, the current loop around Werrington would be retained as part of the 62 service, helping residents to continue accessing Werrington centre.

Subject to final approval by the Combined Authority Board, the first changes could be introduced from February 2027, with further changes planned for August 2027.

View the full Bus Services Reimagined service change proposals

FROM ZERO TO A 6-PERSON TEAM: HOW CPCA INTERNSHIPS ARE TRANSFORMING LOCAL BUSINESSES

Across Peterborough, over 1,000 young people are currently claiming Universal Credit, a massive pool of untapped potential waiting for the right opportunity. At the same time, local employers face the challenge of expanding their workforce without taking on heavy financial risk. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Internship Programme bridges this exact gap, connecting ambitious young adults with growing businesses.

For nearly three decades, Peterborough catering and events company Chef de la Maison operated without a dedicated digital department. Owner Nathan Higgins wanted to scale operations and expand a youth academy at the Allia Future Business Centre, but needed new skills to drive that growth.

Enter Marco, a law graduate from King's College London. Despite a strong academic background, Marco faced a tough job market, sending out hundreds of applications without landing a role.

Through the DWP's Movement to Work scheme, Marco was introduced to Chef de la Maison. Following a brief two-week pre-placement, he stepped into a fully funded six-week CPCA internship.

The internship gave Marco the opportunity to demonstrate his skills across social media management, content creation, and IT support. The outcome transformed both his career and the business:

- **Permanent Retention:** Marco completed his internship and secured a full-time role as Digital and Technology Assistant.
- **Rapid Expansion:** Chef de la Maison built its digital operation from scratch into a six-person strong team.
- **Peer Leadership:** Marco now leads technical projects and mentors new team members joining through the academy.
- **Long-Term Pipeline:** The success of the scheme inspired five new internal apprenticeship applications across digital and hospitality roles.

To learn more about Marco's story and how we supported Chef de la Maison, watch the full case study here.

TEAM CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH RE-UNITED TO CELEBRATE SUCCESS OF UKREIIF 2026

More than 1,000 investors, developers and public sector partners visited the Team Cambridgeshire and Peterborough pavilion at UKREiiF in May, exploring opportunities across life sciences, advanced manufacturing, defence, regeneration, clean energy and transport infrastructure.

Following the event, on Wednesday 2 September Mayor Paul Bristow and senior Combined Authority officers welcomed councillors, business leaders, developers and sector partners to celebrate the success of the region's presence at UKREiiF. The reception provided an opportunity to thank supporting organisations, strengthen existing partnerships and build new relationships, while discussing how recent government announcements will further support the Combined Authority's ability to drive investment and economic growth.

SOLUTION AGREED TO KEEP BRETTON BUSES RUNNING DURING GAS WORKS

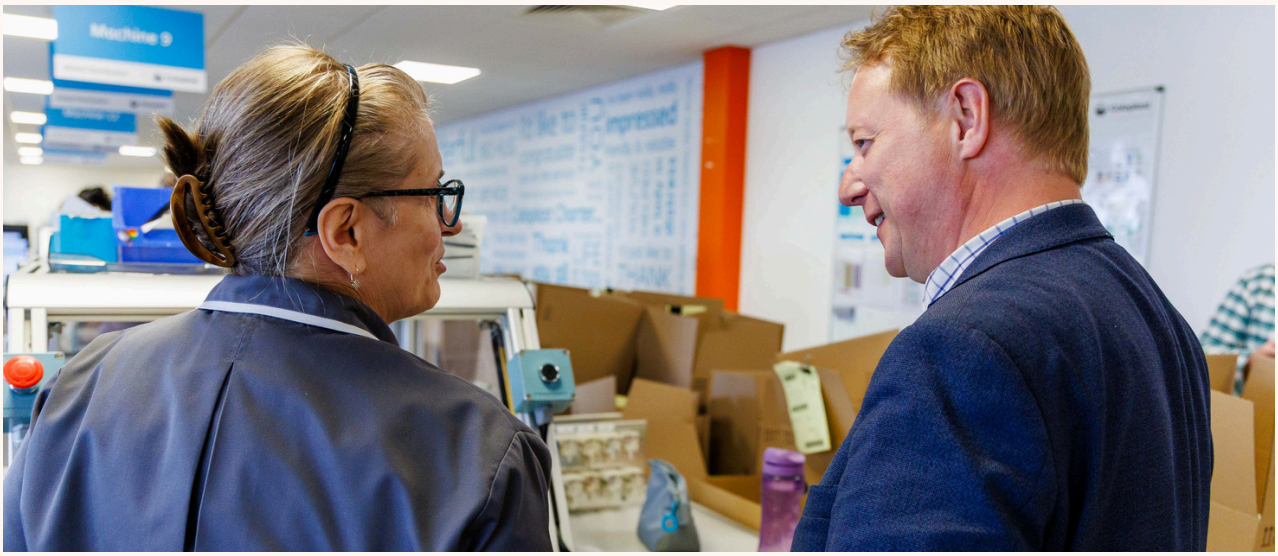
The Combined Authority convened a meeting with Cadent, Stagecoach, and Peterborough City Council to find a solution to the bus service changes in Bretton, due to planned gas works.

As the Strategic Transport Authority, the goal was to work with partners to find an alternative solution, after residents raised concerns about the Number 3 service, which was due to not stop in Bretton Centre between September 1 and October 25 while Cadent Gas carries out pipe replacement works. Previously, Stagecoach had confirmed that the existing bus stop was set to be closed during this time, with suggested alternative stops being located at Eyrescroft, The City Hospital and Deerleap.

These concerns were heard, and as a result of this, Cadent have offered to put a gate person at either end of the road closure, to help to clear the road where needed to allow the buses to still operate. Due to the nature of this system, passengers may still face some delays, but the company said they try and keep delays to a minimum.

We will also convene a further meeting of stakeholders next week to review how the arrangements are working and address any emerging concerns around disruption.

MAYOR VISITS TWO BUSINESSES WHICH ARE PROVING THAT LIFE SCIENCE IS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE COUNTY



Mayor Paul Bristow visited two Peterborough based innovation businesses, who are advancing in the life sciences sector. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been in the spotlight for the on-going science and technology work taking place in Cambridge, however these visits proved that it isn't the only city making huge steps forward in our medical-tech and agri-tech sectors.

The day started with Coloplast, which is a company that is aiming to make personal care easier for those dealing with related health conditions, such as stoma care, continence, wound care and bowel conditions. They make products that help people manage life-changing conditions and distribute them nationally and globally to healthcare providers.

Peterborough is home to Coloplast's major UK distribution operation, and they process around 6,000 healthcare orders every day. As well as quality products, the business also provides specialist nurses, who deliver direct support to patients in their homes and community settings across the region.

It's not only the life sciences sector that it's boosting, but it's also supporting our local economy through proving jobs. The site employs around 170 people locally, and they are actively supporting T Levels, apprenticeships, Speakers for Schools and local careers initiatives, which the Combined Authority is committed to supporting.

Next on the list was NEPsource Spirulina Farm, which is a business that is aiming to build a new way to produce nutrition, focusing specifically on a blue-green microalgae called Spirulina.

The company was founded in 2024 and moved its Headquarters to Peterborough following a £50,000 grant from the Agri-Food Launchpad. The Innovate UK Agri-Food Launchpad was designed to accelerate growth, research, and commercialisation within regional UK agri-tech and food technology clusters.

Founder, Dhan Ghale, wanted to establish a dependable, localised method for producing high-quality nutrition, focusing on sustainable, indoor microalgae cultivation. During the tour, Mr Ghale showed the mayor how they are practicing Climate Resilient Farming. The company utilizes advanced research and specialized indoor cultivation methods to optimize biomass growth despite the unpredictable UK weather conditions.

Both companies sit within priority sectors of the region's Local Growth Plan, which includes a Mayoral ambition to triple the size of the economy by 2050. World class innovation is happening in our county, and that makes our economy stronger. All contributing to the mayor's goal of creating a healthier, wealthier and happier community.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are our upcoming meetings. You can view the full calendar on our website here.

14 SEPTEMBER
Skills Committee
10:00am

15 SEPTEMBER
Growth Committee
10:00am

17 SEPTEMBER
Mayor's Question Time
10:00am

23 SEPTEMBER
Combined Authority Board
10:00am

12 OCTOBER
Funding Committtee
10:00am

2 NOVEMBER
Funding Committee
10:00am

3 NOVEMBER
Growth Committee
10:00am

4 NOVEMBER
Transport Committee
10:00am

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LATEST NEWS

Here are a few of our latest news stories. You can view all of them on our website here.

PAUL BRISTOW'S RESPONSE TO GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO HELP END ROUGH SLEEPING

Government announced on 19 August that £442 million in funding will be given to help give people a route out of rough sleeping by Christmas. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority's total allocation from this funding is £7,347,983.

ROYAL VISIT MARKS ARU PETERBOROUGH'S FIVE YEARS OF IMPACT

HRH The Duke of Gloucester visited ARU Peterborough yesterday for a special event to mark five years of impact of the city's new university. During the visit, The Duke of Gloucester met students and staff, as well as senior figures from ARU's partners.

PAUL BRISTOW VISITS NEW HOME OF GSK ON CAMBRIDGE BIOMEDICAL CAMPUS

Paul Bristow, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, visited the nearly completed new home of GSK's R&D operations in the UK, on Cambridge Biomedical Campus. He met with the UK Head of Sustainable Investment and Partnerships and the SVP Life Sciences at Prologis.

STILL TIME TO GET YOUR QUESTIONS TO MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW

Mayor's Question Time is back and residents are invited to put their questions directly to the Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, Paul Bristow. The latest event is on Thursday 17 September in Ely.