



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

PAUL BRISTOW MAYOR
OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER



UPDATE FROM THE MAYOR PAUL BRISTOW

February started with National Apprenticeship Week, where we highlighted the growing opportunities the Combined Authority is creating for young people to take the 'earn and learn' route into the workplace.

During this week, I went to North Cambridgeshire Training Centre's (NCTC) 500th apprentice celebration. The centre, in Chatteris, is in an area where skills gaps persist, but there is also real hunger for growth and investment. The NCTC is bringing opportunity right to the heart of Fenland, giving local young people the skills needed to get into careers in advanced manufacturing and engineering.

The Combined Authority funded the NCTC's £3.16million build through our Local Growth Fund, opening in 2023. To see the 500th apprentice now benefitting is a testament to the difference we can make.

Our Local Growth Plan sets out my ambition to triple

the size of our economy. Facilities like NCTC are central to making it happen.

The Mayor's Day Out initiative officially kicked off with Hardwick and Cambourne Primary School's trip to the Museum of Zoology in Cambridge. This scheme will remove the financial barriers that prevent schools from accessing school trips and hopefully inspire the next generation.

I was pleased to report progress at Cambridge South train station when I returned to the site ahead of the opening in June. The station will serve the Biomedical Campus and is expected to support around 27,000 jobs by 2031. This project is critical for our region. It will unlock jobs, cut congestion, support business and attract more investment.

And last month I joined local leaders in Manchester as part of the next phase of the Cambridge X Manchester Innovation Partnership. This city-to-city collaboration is about driving forward a shared ambition to bring economic growth to all our communities.

Momentum continues in my work to get Cambridgeshire and Peterborough moving.



UPDATE FROM THE CEO ROB BRIDGE

As we step into March, February stands out as another productive month for the Combined Authority, with a continued focus on innovation, collaboration and positioning the region for long-term growth.

During National Apprenticeship Week, the Mayor visited The North Cambridgeshire Training Centre in Chatteris to celebrate a significant milestone as the centre welcomed its 500th apprentice. It was a great opportunity to recognise the impact the centre is having locally, connecting young people with high-quality technical training and supporting businesses with the skills they need. The facility, funded by the Combined Authority through our Local Growth Fund, continues to play an important role in strengthening our skills offering and creating new opportunities across the region.

The next phase of the Cambridge x Manchester Innovation Partnership was welcomed this month.

The Mayor and I joined partners in Manchester for the first formal board meeting, bringing together both city Mayors, university leaders and senior business figures. This partnership is an important part of delivering the ambitions set out in our Local Growth Plan. By working more closely with another leading innovation city, we are strengthening our ability to attract investment, make the case for infrastructure and skills funding, and ensure our region remains at the forefront of research and innovation.

We are also now well into preparations for UKREiF, taking place in May in Leeds. As the UK's largest real estate, investment and infrastructure forum, it provides an important opportunity to showcase Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a prime location for investment. Following our strong presence last year as Team Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, we are looking forward to building on that momentum as we focus on how together we deliver the Local Growth Plan and growth for the region.

All of this work is made possible through strong partnerships. By continuing to collaborate locally and nationally, we can ensure the Combined Authority remains focused on delivering meaningful outcomes. With spring around the corner, there's a real sense of momentum for the months to come.

MAYOR HELPS CAMBRIDGESHIRE TRAINING CENTRE CELEBRATE 500TH APPRENTICESHIP LANDMARK



Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Paul Bristow visited The North Cambridgeshire Training Centre (NCTC) in Chatteris to celebrate its landmark 500th apprentice.

The event, which took place during National Apprenticeship Week on 11 February, saw the Mayor present the 500th apprentice, Oliver Newman, with a commemorative certificate.

Oliver is 16 years old and is training to be a machine technician at long-standing engineering firm, Stainless Metalcraft Ltd, which is based next to the training centre in Chatteris.

The NCTC was officially opened in 2023 by Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal who unveiled a plaque at the facility that is run by Eastern Education Group and West Suffolk College.

NCTC is housed on land owned by Stainless Metalcraft Ltd, which recognised the need for high quality training in the region. Building the centre was funded by the Combined Authority with £3.16million through its Local Growth Fund. Alongside apprenticeships, the facility also offers leisure learning options, maths and English qualifications, management programmes, science pathways and commercial courses.

The Combined Authority is working to drive up the number of apprentices in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to create more opportunities than ever before. Over the last 12 months, CPCA has reported a 171% increase in apprenticeship starts, nearly tripling the number of opportunities created for local people compared to the previous year.



The Tiger Pass has now received more than 75,000 applications from young people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

YOUNG PEOPLE GET DIGITAL BADGES PROVING SKILLS TO EMPLOYERS

Young people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are now better able to prove their skills to employers thanks to a rollout of new digital badges.

Many young people, particularly those not in employment, education or training (NEET), struggle to show what they're capable of on a traditional paper CVs.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is working with the Region of Learning to change that, giving young people a way to build a trusted digital portfolio of their skills that will help them into work.

The scheme is being built into Combined Authority programmes like the Youth Guarantee and regional internships. For example, instead of just doing a placement, interns leave with badges showing they've gained skills like communication, problem-solving and resilience – the kinds of things employers value but are hard to show on paper.

Last week, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Paul Bristow joined local business leaders, educators, and community partners in Huntingdon for an event showcasing how the new system works.

The digital badges can be shared on platforms like LinkedIn and attached to digital CVs. They are already being used across the region with more than 2,300 badges issued to 1,200 young people.



A FLYING START TO THE MAYOR'S DAY OUT PROGRAMME

The Mayor's Day Out funding programme for 2025/26 has begun with strong early momentum, giving more than 4,000 young people the chance to experience the region's heritage through real-life, curriculum-linked learning. The scheme is designed to remove barriers to cultural access by supporting schools to visit museums and historic sites to help young people understand the stories, landscapes, and communities that shape where they live. Teachers have highlighted how these visits enrich classroom learning, spark curiosity, and build confidence by allowing pupils to explore new environments.

Since launching, the programme has attracted participation from 73 schools, representing a wide mix of settings across the region. Together, we have arranged 158 visits to 21 destinations, ranging from heritage attractions and archives to outdoor learning sites and creative spaces. For many schools, the funding has made trips possible that would otherwise have been financially challenging, ensuring that pupils from all backgrounds can benefit from high-quality cultural experiences. Venues have also welcomed the opportunity to connect with new audiences, strengthen community engagement, and support young people's learning in meaningful ways.

Planning is now underway for the 2026/27 scheme, and the programme is looking to broaden its network of both participating schools and host venues. Heritage sites, museums, galleries, environmental organisations, and cultural institutions interested in welcoming school groups are encouraged to [get in touch](#).



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are our upcoming meetings. You can view the full calendar [on our website here](#).



3 MARCH

Overview and Scrutiny Committee
10:00am

9 MARCH

Skills Committee
10:00am

4 MARCH

Transport Committee
10:00am

11 MARCH

Growth Committee
10:00am

5 MARCH

Audit and Governance Committee
10:00am

18 MARCH

Combined Authority Board
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](#).



MAYOR BACKS BUDDING CAMBRIDGE X MANCHESTER PARTNERSHIP TO DRIVE LOCAL AND NATIONAL GROWTH

Paul Bristow joined partners in Manchester last week as part of the next phase of the Cambridge x Manchester Innovation Partnership, a city-to-city collaboration fostering innovation and growth.



HUNTINGDON RENEWABLE ENERGY FIRM BACKS NEW £5,000 GRANT BOOST TO TACKLE YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Huntingdon-based renewable energy specialists Brimstone Energy are urging local businesses to invest in the next generation, backed by a significant increase in government and local funding.



MAYOR WELCOMES £6.25M MILESTONE FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMME SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

Paul Bristow has welcomed the £6.25 million first close of a new innovative investment vehicle designed to offer lasting, locally-led action to improve life chances and strengthen communities.



MAYOR BACKS CAMBRIDGE SOUTH STATION AS INFRASTRUCTURE THAT POWERS GROWTH

Paul Bristow has said the opening of Cambridge South rail station is vital in supporting local growth and jobs, as he returned to the site ahead of its planned opening in June.