



CAMBRIDGE TO CAMBOURNE BUSWAY AND ACTIVE TRAVEL CORRIDOR

The continued dynamic and sustainable growth of the Cambridge city region's economy must be matched by the delivery of infrastructure that will ensure that growth is sustainable for our environment, is inclusive of more people, and improves quality of life across the wider region. The most recent Government census showed that between 2001-21 the population of Cambridge grew by 33.8%, and South Cambridgeshire by 24.5%. This huge population growth is, in no small part, driven by the creation of new jobs. The latest data shows that job creation continues apace since the census, with employment growth in Greater Cambridge between 2021 and 2022 at 3.7%.

The City Deal that Greater Cambridge negotiated with Government in 2014 has unlocked up to £500m of investment into Greater Cambridge. This was by far the highest value per capita of any City Deal and the level of investment provided was in recognition of that fact that systemic investment in infrastructure in Greater Cambridge had not kept pace with the growth of the local economy and population in the years preceding the City Deal. In fact, since the creation of the City Deal, corporate employment has grown by 5.2% per year on average and is showing no signs of abating.

The £500m investment has been translated into a delivery programme by the GCP in collaboration with Local Authorities, Businesses, Academia, and wider stakeholders. However, much of that programme is yet to be delivered whilst the need to deliver it keeps rising. This is a major concern for the business community on the economic sustainability of the region. We believe it a considerable risk that there are not the appropriate improvements in public transport, in and across our city, to ensure Cambridge is and becomes a more compelling offer for all communities it serves.

Therefore, Cambridge Ahead believes it is vital for sustainable and inclusive growth and quality of life that our region is able to deliver, not defer, major schemes such as the C2C busway when these are brought forward through appropriate and recognised mechanisms.

We urge decision-makers to:

- a) Consider the acute and ever-increasing need to deliver sustainable travel options for our growing city region,
- b) Recognise that the Cambridge to Cambourne busway and active travel scheme has been developed through public consultation as well as independent audits, and so:
- c) Enable this essential scheme to move forward now, rather than allow a further delay that we cannot afford and would significantly harm the interests of the environment, residents, employees, and employers across the city.