FOREWORD

We are so fortunate to live and work somewhere that is home to successful and distinctive cities, market towns and rural communities. We are surrounded by beautiful natural assets and some of the best agricultural land in the country. Our growth is amongst the fastest in the country, reflecting our economic strengths, the impressive diversity of our jobs and skills base, and the quality of life that attract people here. But several parts of our area are not thriving, economic opportunities and quality of life there are not what they should be, and it is vital that strategic planning focuses on ensuring that all parts play a share of our prosperity, with inclusive growth that is spread and rebalanced across our geography. There is clear evidence here on disadvantage that must be addressed both in strategic planning and in better targeted education and skills spend and “soft infrastructure” investment, so all areas enjoy the same opportunities.

The Devolution Deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which we signed with the Government in March 2017, provides the base for greater sub-regional and local decision making and leadership in how we influence and shape our area’s future growth and prosperity, and meet the expectations of our residents. The publication of Phase One of our Strategic Spatial Framework for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is an important first milestone in achieving that ambition, meshing with our infrastructure investments, robust Local Plans and the pace of investment and development already well underway. We would like to thank the wide range of partners and stakeholders that have helped to develop this with us over recent months. It is central to the Combined Authority to work with and through our constituent councils and partner organisations; to address the opportunities and challenges for our area, to build on our strengths, but to use investment and influence to improve the lives of everyone. It is also key in being clear to Government and national agencies what the gaps are that we need their help to fill and how utilities need to make their contribution too.

This Strategic Spatial Framework Phase One defines our immediate priorities for sustainable growth and includes wider actions we are taking and will take to support the sustainable delivery of over 100,000 quality new homes and more than 90,000 additional jobs in Combined Authority plans and Local Plans.

It signposts how our area might grow in the longer term, including how we can take a more inclusive approach by using strategic planning to rebalance and share growth, create housing that people of all income levels and needs can afford, and promote future development in historically disadvantaged areas. It does many other things too, including planning a comprehensively high bar on the quality of future growth and the recognition that the character of our environment and communities are strengths we cherish as part of our ever-changing area.

The Combined Authority will engage with its partners and other stakeholders over coming months to develop the second half of our Strategic Spatial Framework, Phase Two by December 2018. This will set out a longer-term growth strategy to 2050, beyond current Local Plans and be the opportunity for teamwork taking account of the latest evidence on the future, and engage the contributive key partners will make to meet our areas future needs and ambitions, as well as make full use of Government policy and support and future changes to strategic planning and national investment.

We commend this document to you and look forward to working with our partners and stakeholders to make a real difference to the lives of people living and working in every part of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

If you have any comments on the document, please email contactus@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk
INTRODUCTION

Devolution has brought major new opportunities for the future of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. More responsibility and funding now rests with local leaders and the Mayor - through the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority - to shape and deliver future growth for the benefit of all our communities.

Collectively that means delivering more than 90,000 new jobs and over 100,000 new homes by 2036, and helping establish the area’s future growth needs and ambitions beyond that to 2050.

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH AUTHORITIES HAVE AGREED WITH GOVERNMENT TO CREATE A NON-STATUTORY SPATIAL FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT DELIVERY OF THIS GROWTH.

This is the first phase of the strategic spatial framework. This document has three main functions:

- Setting out how the Combined Authority will support the implementation of development strategies in Local Plans to 2036 - so that the jobs and homes targets are met.
- Defining the Combined Authority’s ambitions and indicating opportunities for the development of the spatial framework, which will look beyond the current Local Plans to help establish the next phase of growth of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to 2050.
- Signalling how Cambridgeshire and Peterborough authorities are working collaboratively and strategically to achieve growth - in line with the direction of Government’s planning reforms to fix our broken housing market.

This is not a traditional planning document but is an opportunity to innovate, to develop a new approach that enhances the planning system to better deliver our future growth and prosperity.

The framework will be developed during 2018 to set out a longer-term growth strategy to 2050. This will take account of the latest evidence to support the area’s needs and ambitions, as well as relevant changes to Government policy. It will be aligned closely with other relevant strategies for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and will provide strategic guidance for the development of future local plans.
BACKGROUND
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has a national and international profile and influence, focused on the knowledge-based economy and a world class university in Greater Cambridge, complemented by research and manufacturing strengths in Peterborough and the market towns.

Its cities and towns include some of the finest historic buildings in the world, while there is ready access to the countryside and high quality landscapes, with strategic transport connections including to London.

Its attractiveness as a place to live and work is reflected by its continued population growth: Cambridge and Peterborough have consistently been in the top five fastest growing cities in the UK in recent years.¹

INEQUALITY
But it is also an area of great diversity and, like many places that are outwardly successful, there are downsides too. There is a clear geographical pattern to deprivation in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which reflects different local economies. More deprived areas cluster to the north and within Cambridge and Peterborough themselves (indeed, Cambridge is ranked as the least equal city in the UK based on income and wealth).² Peterborough and Fenland each contain areas that are among the 10% most deprived nationally.²

BUSINESS
There are 41,650 businesses across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with just under 35,000 of these, or over 80%, being micro businesses with nine or fewer employees. Some 195 businesses qualify as 'large', with 250 or more employees.¹ At the time of the 2011 census, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough had just over 400,000 employed residents.³

Some 70,000 people commute into the area for work while nearly 60,000 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough residents commute outside the area. The majority of jobs are in education; health; professional, scientific and technical; retail and business administration and support services.

However, local economies exist across the area and different sectors have more or less significance within particular places.

¹ Most recently reported by the Centre for Cities in Cities Outlook 2017, Table 1.
² CLG, 2015. Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

¹ Centre for Cities in Cities Outlook 2018, Table 13: Gini coefficient.
² CLG, 2015. Indices of Multiple Deprivation.
³ 406,414 employed residents (Census 2011).
⁴ 69,756 in-commuters and 57,108 out-commuters (Census 2011).
ECONOMY
Peterborough has a diverse economy, including engineering and manufacturing, agriculture, food and drink, digital and creative industries; the energy sector and financial services. The city has a high concentration of companies engaged in environment-related activities, while its locational advantage close to strategic transport routes attracts logistics companies. Cambridge’s economic success is accelerated by the "Cambridge Phenomenon", a cluster of knowledge-based industries with a global profile located in the city and its surrounds. There are now around 1,000 technology and biotechnology companies in the cluster, 1,400 when providers of services and support organizations are included. The establishment of these industries and their development over time is inextricably linked with the education and research capabilities of the University of Cambridge. The strength of this relationship is particularly well illustrated by the fact that Cambridge is the leading UK city for publication of patent applications. Indeed, in 2016 Cambridge-based organisations and individuals published more patents than the total of the next three highest-performing cities. Tourism is an important part of the local economy with an estimated 4.5 million people visiting Cambridge each year.

MARKET TOWNS
A number of the market towns, including Huntingdon, St Neots and Ely, look to the Cambridge economy and services, although they continue to develop and strengthen their own local economies, retail and service offers. To the north there is a stronger relationship between places such as Ramsey and Whittlesey with Peterborough, while Wisbech is closer to King’s Lynn in Norfolk. The market towns have traditionally acted as service centres for nearby smaller settlements, providing retail, health and education as well as employment opportunities.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING
There are significant differences in house prices and rent levels across the area. To the south focused on Cambridge, houses are amongst the least affordable in the UK. Cambridge has an affordability ratio of 12.97, significantly higher than the national average of 7.72. Significant affordability challenges are also prevalent throughout Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Devolution has enabled £170m investment to fund extra affordable rent housing and shared ownership, including council housing in Cambridge.

1 ONS, Ratio of house price to workplace-based earnings (lower quartile and median) 2016. Released 17 March 2017.
2 Centre for Cities in Cities Outlook 2018, Table 5.
TRANSPORT
The area is served to varying degrees by strategic and local transport routes. A number of key routes suffer severe congestion at peak times, particularly those connected to Cambridge, as well as parts of Peterborough and some of the market towns. The long-term capacity challenges of the A14 are being addressed by the current improvements works, due to be completed in 2020. The strategic rail network includes the East Coast Main Line, West Anglia and other lines providing links to London, Birmingham, Ipswich, Liverpool and Norwich. Recent years have seen a significant increase in rail patronage.

LIVING STANDARDS
Parts of the area have amongst the best quality of life in the country based on employment, health and life expectancy, crime rates, and happiness and satisfaction. But there are significant disparities. For example, both Peterborough and Fenland are amongst some of the worst areas nationally for the number of premature deaths.  

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
The area contains a diverse range of natural environments, the potential constraints and limits of which upon growth will need to be properly addressed and managed. The Ouse and Nene Washes are of international importance for wildfowl and migratory birds, whilst low-lying fenland areas provide unique landscapes. Significant new and expanded habitat and greenspace creation includes the award-winning Great Fen and Wicken Fen.

Flood risk is an important issue for parts of the strategic area, particularly low-lying land to the north. Strategic scale flood risk and water management infrastructure directly protect homes, infrastructure, land, businesses and jobs for people afforded protection by them.

Conversely, being located in the East of England, much of the area suffers from severe water stress with longer-term supply implications for homes and businesses.

CONNECTIONS
Many of the surrounding districts outside Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have strong functional links with it. Peterborough has close ties with Lincolnshire and Rutland to the north and Northamptonshire to the west. West Suffolk is part of the Cambridge Housing Market Area, with Newmarket and Haverhill in particular having a strong relationship with Cambridge. The same is true of Royston in Hertfordshire and Saffron Walden in Essex. There are a number of strategic transport corridors that are critical to the area’s economic success and growth, notably the A14 providing strategic links to the east coast ports and the midlands; the M11 forming the spine of the London-Stansted-Cambridge corridor; the A11 and A47 to Norwich; and the A428 to the west of Cambridge, connecting with Bedford and Milton Keynes.

CAMBRIDGE - MK - OXFORD
In addition, the Government has announced its vision for the Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford corridor to stimulate economic growth in the national interest. This includes investment in new and upgraded road and rail infrastructure and a corridor-wide ambition for one million new homes by 2050.  

1 Both East and South Cambridgeshire Districts have featured in the top ten areas with the best quality of life by a range of measures in recent annual surveys by the Halifax Building Society.
2 Peterborough is 249th and Fenland is 250th out of a total of 324 local authority areas. Longer Lives: 2017 Annual Update, Public Health England.
The Mayor and the Combined Authority have established a bold vision for the future of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to be "the leading place in the world to learn, live and work". This will be achieved through five big ambitions:

1. **BECOMING THE UK’S CAPITAL OF INNOVATION AND PRODUCTIVITY.**
2. **HEALTHY, THRIVING AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES.**
3. **ACCESS TO A GOOD JOB WITHIN EASY REACH OF HOME.**
4. **A WORKFORCE FOR THE MODERN WORLD FOUNDED ON INVESTMENT IN SKILLS AND EDUCATION.**
5. **ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE.**

### STRATEGIC SPATIAL ISSUES

The Combined Authority has, therefore, a significant role in addressing issues that are critical for the future of not only Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, but the UK as a whole. A number of the strategic priorities agreed with government through the Devolution Deal, and reflected in the ambitions above, have spatial implications. In particular, there is a need for a clear understanding of the levels and type of development to meet high-level ambitions for substantial economic growth and, critically, how this growth will be delivered.

Some priorities are predicated on the potential for growth beyond the current levels established through adopted and emerging statutory plans – specifically the target to deliver a doubling of economic outputs, which has been given further impetus by government’s announcements on the strategic growth corridor from Cambridge to Oxford. Other priorities focus on more effective delivery of existing plans, particularly planned housing and jobs growth, and supporting infrastructure. A key purpose of this first version of the Combined Authority’s Strategic Spatial Framework is to focus on actions and interventions to address the effective implementation of existing plans to 2036.

The Combined Authority recognises the importance of ensuring that environmental issues are considered fully alongside economic and social priorities, in accordance with the principle of net environmental gain. This includes addressing strategic water issues (flood risk and supply), green infrastructure, open spaces and biodiversity, pollution, clean energy and climate resilience in line with the climate risks outlined in the UK’s Climate Change Risk Assessment. Finally, quality must be built into all growth outcomes, in terms of the built environment and provision of services and infrastructure to serve existing and new communities. For example, this will include reference to Government’s A Green Future: Our 25 year plan to improve the environment highlighting the economic, social and health benefits of investing in natural capital.

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1. Green infrastructure is the sub-regional network of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces and greenway linkages, providing multi-functional uses such as addable habitat, recreation, and flood protection.
Against this background, the strategic spatial issues that have a direct bearing on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s prosperity and growth are set out in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2030 AMBISSIONS</th>
<th>RELATED ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Becoming the UK’s capital of innovation and productivity</td>
<td>Housing – achieving accelerated rates of house building, including working with developers and the construction industry to restore the skills base and supply chains which were affected by the economic downturn; and to ensure an appropriate mix of housing, particularly affordable housing to meet the area’s social and economic needs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy, thriving and prosperous communities</td>
<td>Transport - ensuring that planning for and investment in strategic transport infrastructure is prioritised appropriately so that growth and regeneration is properly serviced and the effects of congestion on productivity are addressed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to a good job within easy reach of home</td>
<td>Broadband – bringing superfast broadband access to 99% of premises across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by the end of 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A workforce for the modern world founded on investment in skills and education</td>
<td>Inclusive growth – recognising the need to build on and enhance the competitiveness and success of existing sectors and places, whilst ensuring all residents can benefit from growth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmentally sustainable.</td>
<td>Quality – maintaining and enhancing the quality of life and natural and built heritage of the area, including the historic environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>Environment – addressing environmental issues that have a key influence on achieving sustainable development and outcomes, including water, biodiversity and green space, and climate resilience.</td>
</tr>
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**SECTION 3**

**SUPPORTING DELIVERY OF THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN LOCAL PLANS TO 2036**
DEVOLUTION DEAL

The Devolution Deal between the Combined Authority and government provides for the transfer of significant resources and powers for infrastructure, housing, economic development, employment and skills, that will impact positively on the lives of residents by helping create more jobs, improving the skills and employment prospects of residents and boosting the productivity of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. These resources and powers include:

- £170 million to deliver new homes over a five-year period, focused on affordable rented and shared ownership housing.
- £20 million a year funding over 30 years for investment to boost growth.
- Strategic highways powers, including preparation of a Local Transport Plan.
- Responsibility for a strategic review of 16+ skills provision in the area.

EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The East Cambridgeshire Local Plan (adopted 2015) seeks to provide 11,500 homes and 9,200 jobs during the plan period 2011-2031.

Through sustainable growth it seeks to take advantage of the economic vitality of the Cambridge sub-region, whilst retaining its distinct identity as a predominantly rural area. Growth is focussed at its three market towns of Ely, Soham and Littleport.

The plan aims to respond to local needs as much as possible, including firm support for 'community led development', especially in the form of Community Land Trust schemes. Other notable policies include its support for the horse racing industry, with East Cambridgeshire being home to the famous Newmarket July Racecourse, as well as policies protecting what’s special about the area, such as the many national and international biodiversity sites. A Review of the plan is well underway, broadly following the principles of the current plan, with adoption due later in 2018.

CAMBRIDGE AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The development strategy set out in the emerging Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans to 2031 follows a sequential approach to development.

This sequence maximises use of land within and on the edge of Cambridge compatible with protecting the Green Belt setting of the historic city and then in new settlements linked to Cambridge by sustainable transport corridors and finally a limited amount of development in the larger and more sustainable villages.

Together the plans provide for 33,500 new homes and 44,000 additional jobs.

All the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough local authorities have adopted Local Plans, with reviews to keep them up to date currently underway in Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, East Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, all of which should be adopted in 2018 or early 2019.

Collectively, the plans include targets for more than 90,000 additional jobs and over 100,000 new homes by 2036.

A brief summary of the current Local Plan for each city and district council is included below.

This provides the context for the actions and objectives that follow, setting out how the Combined Authority will support the implementation of the local plans to help meet Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s 2030 Ambitions.

1 Plans that are adopted or have been submitted for examination.

CURRENT LOCAL PLANS

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1 Plans that are adopted or have been submitted for examination.
The Fenland Local Plan (adopted May 2014) is pro-growth and seeks to provide 11,000 homes and 7,200 jobs during the plan period to 2031.

Through sustainable growth it seeks to tackle and address current health inequalities, community deprivation, lack of affordable housing, infrastructure deficit and low skills and educational attainment.

The focus of development is on the four town markets with March (4,200) and Wisbech (3,550) being the major contributors. Except for very large allocations in the form of urban extensions on the edge of market towns, the plan uses a criteria-based approach to encourage development in a more flexible, case by case way to provide growth.

Cambridge has the highest skilled workforce in the UK mayoral combined authorities with around 25,000 homes (2009-2026) provided for.

The Combined Authority’s aim is that economic output will double over the next 25 years. Underpinned by a strong economic and productivity plan GVA will increase from £22bn to over £40bn.

The Combined Authority will support the local planning authorities in creating the right conditions for current jobs targets to be met. In doing so it will apply the following principles:

- Over the longer term, develop an overarching spatial planning response to the area’s economic needs, with greater collaboration across the area to facilitate complementary and sustainable patterns of strategic employment locations.
- Ensure that investment in strategic infrastructure demonstrably supports economic growth, that the area remains attractive for its quality of life, and therefore as a location for businesses, including affordable housing, to support jobs growth, reduce affordability pressures and tackle affordable housing need.
- Protect and enhance the quality of the natural and built environment to ensure the area remains a desirable place to live and work, and therefore as a location for businesses, supporting a natural capital and ecosystem services approach.

2 Combined Authority Economic Indicators, March 2017.
3 Centre for Cities in Cities Outlook 2018, Table 10.
STRATEGIC EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS

Most of the strategic development locations identified in Local Plans provide for employment as part of a mix of uses. Of these, a number are designated as Enterprise Zones.

It is envisaged that the zone at Alconbury Weald will accommodate around 8,000 new jobs by 2036, with an emphasis on technology and innovation, advanced manufacturing and engineering, incubator space for start-up businesses and grow-in space for small and medium-sized businesses.

Alconbury’s location between Cambridge and Peterborough will help to enhance the economic linkages between the complementary business clusters in and around the two cities.

The Cambridge Compass Enterprise Zone comprises a number of existing, new and expanding employment locations: Lancaster Way, Ely; Cambourne Business Park; Cambridge Research Park, Waterbeach; the new town of Northstowe; and Haverhill Research Park in Suffolk.

The Combined Authority supports the successful delivery of strategic employment locations, including the designated Enterprise Zones. The additional jobs provided at these and other locations will make an important contribution to the overall target in Local Plans and the Combined Authority’s economic growth ambitions. The Authority will, therefore, use its investment decisions, influence and practical support to help achieve these outcomes.

MARKET TOWNS

The Market Towns Masterplan for Growth initiative, piloted in St Neots in 2017, is an integrated investment and regeneration programme for education and skills, commercial and industrial development and supporting infrastructure. Its aim is to stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities in market towns.

The initiative will be rolled out to other market towns in the area beginning in 2018.

Strategic Spatial Objective 1: The Combined Authority will work with the local planning authorities and new Business Board to ensure the effective delivery of the strategic employment locations identified in Local Plans and economic strategies, including the designated Alconbury and Cambridge Compass Enterprise Zones.

Strategic Spatial Objective 2: Beginning in 2018 the Combined Towns Masterplan for Growth initiative to other market towns with the support of local authorities.

These will complement proposals set out in Local Plans.

HEALTHY, THRIVING AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can only continue to succeed if our existing, growing and new communities are places that people really want to call home.

A significant percentage of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s growth is projected to consist of migration, a sign of the area’s economic strengths and attractiveness to those seeking work.

As a result, adopted, submitted, or about to be submitted Local Plans include allocations and allowances for over 100,000 new homes to 2036. Cambridge and Peterborough are both in the top ten cities nationally for housing growth.

However, latest figures indicate planning permissions for 28,507 new homes in Cambridgeshire but only 3,236 (11%) under construction1; while for Peterborough there were over 8,188 permitted new homes where construction had not started2.

A major challenge remains, therefore, how to ensure timely construction of these outstanding permissions and meet the overall local plan targets within the expected timescales. The reasons for this degree of challenge are varied and complex, and are not unique to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The structure of the housebuilding industry, its delivery models and degree of competition are national issues that have been raised by government in planning reforms proposed under the White Paper, Fixing our Broken Housing Market.

However, through its Devolution Deal with government the Combined Authority has the opportunity to look at ways to accelerate housing delivery, whether it is through forward-funding of infrastructure, supporting skills in the construction sector or facilitating more effective ways of working between the local planning authorities and other partners.

In tandem with this, the Combined Authority will work with partners to ensure that important policy objectives are met. With regard to housing this includes building more affordable homes as a key element of achieving growth that is economically and socially inclusive.

Working with the local planning authorities the Combined Authority has identified a number of areas where intervention and support will help enable more effective housing delivery and achievement of policy objectives.

1 For example, around 40% of population growth in adopted and emerging places in Cambridgeshire is derived from economic migration rather than natural change through births and deaths (Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, 2015).
2 Centre for Cities in Cities Outlook 2018, Table 14.
3 Research and Monitoring figures, Business Intelligence, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Partnership.
The current development strategy in adopted and emerging Local Plans includes proposals for expansion of the area's cities and towns, as well as an unprecedented number of new settlements. These strategic sites will provide over 74,000 new homes, making a significant contribution to the overall housing target. As such, their successful implementation is critical to meeting the area's growth needs.

In addition to these allocated sites, the Devolution Deal with government refers to a potential new settlement in Fenland based on garden town principles; and a new Community Land Trust Scheme at Kennett in East Cambridgeshire. The Combined Authority will consider, where necessary, how best it can support the delivery of these and other development sites, including addressing systemic or infrastructure challenges and using investment, influencing opportunities and other practical support as necessary.

**STRATEGIC SITES**

The Combined Authority will consider, where necessary, how best it can support the delivery of these and other development sites, including addressing systemic or infrastructure challenges and using investment, influencing opportunities and other practical support as necessary.

**Figure 4 below sets out, in broad terms, the strategic sites. However, it should be noted that the figures in the table are, to the best of the Combined Authority's knowledge, accurate and up to date, though if any discrepancy does arise, the figures below do not in any way override policy set out in Local Plans for the area.**

1 For the purposes of this framework, sites or groups of sites in close proximity which will provide 1,000 or more homes included in adopted plans or draft plans which have been submitted for examination.

2 This is the total indicative figure including, in some cases, anticipated housing completions before and after the end of the current local plan period.
A lack of co-ordination in spatial and statutory planning processes. The fact that different utilities are governed by specific legislative provisions and regulation, with a lack of effective engagement between organisations. In certain areas market failure prevents services being available in a timely manner to meet business and consumer needs.

Strategic Spatial Objective 3: The Combined Authority will work with the local planning authorities, developers, Homes England and other agencies to ensure the effective delivery of the strategic housing sites identified in Local Plans. This will include through its investment decisions, affordable housing investment, the work of the Land Commission and other practical support where the Combined Authority can assist local authorities or facilitate other external inputs. The Commission will work with partners to bring forward land that will contribute to meeting the area's growth needs. One of its key aims will be to identify specific challenges that are holding back the supply of private and public land for key strategic development sites in local plans. The Commission will work with partners to bring forward solutions to overcome these barriers, including for sites where complex multiple ownership issues exist and land assembly solutions are needed. With regard to the potential development locations outlined in the Devolution Deal, the Combined Authority will work with partners on feasibility1, assessing infrastructure needs and deliverability. However, it will be for the local planning authorities to assess these and other sites that might come forward through the relevant statutory planning processes. These challenges have led to delays in some development coming forward at strategic development locations, or uncertainty about the timing of the necessary investment in infrastructure. These include the need for grid reinforcement to provide more capacity to the Cambridge southern cluster, which covers a number of development sites, including expansion of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. In that case the necessary infrastructure upgrades should have been understood and implemented much earlier in the development process. Another example involves the need for a new water recycling facility to serve the new town at Waterbeach. While scoping work has been undertaken and the need for infrastructure identified, the timing of investment is uncertain. These challenges are fundamental to the functioning of new buildings and places. Legislation governs the provision of these essential utilities, while regulators oversee business planning and practices in the interests of consumers. To address these issues the Combined Authority intends to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the Combined Authority, the constituent local planning authorities and the key utilities providers. The MoU will define more effective ways of partnership working between organisations, setting out a commitment to share knowledge and information and engage proactively in the infrastructure planning work undertaken by both local planning authorities and the utilities providers, to ensure the more timely delivery of the infrastructure required to support the development strategy.

Utilities

Provision of gas, electricity, digital connectivity and communications, water supply, as well as managing waste water, is fundamental to the functioning of new buildings and places. Legislation governs the provision of these essential utilities, while regulators oversee business planning and practices in the interests of consumers. The MoU will define more effective ways of partnership working between organisations, setting out a commitment to share knowledge and information and engage proactively in the infrastructure planning work undertaken by both local planning authorities and the utilities providers, to ensure the more timely delivery of the infrastructure required to support the development strategy.

Strategic Spatial Objective 4: Working with the local authorities and energy, water and digital utilities providers, the Combined Authority will develop a Memorandum of Understanding that will set out new, agreed ways of working to achieve more timely and effective delivery of utilities infrastructure.
The Combined Authority recognises that pursuing sustainable development requires careful attention to viability. Infrastructure preparation and the delivery of mixed tenure affordable housing is central to the plan-making process and creation of successful new communities. The primary model for delivering affordable housing is through S106 agreements attached to planning permissions. More frequently authorities in the Combined Authority area are seeing viability assessments used to justify the reduction from the Local Authority policy position in the quantum of affordable housing and it is evident that while there are principles in common, the approach to viability can vary across the area.

This presents a real challenge to ensure the delivery of genuinely affordable housing, including affordable rented properties, in our region. In order to tackle the common challenge of delivering both infrastructure and affordable housing, and to ensure a consistent position in the quantum of affordable housing across the area, it is proposed that a single viability approach across the Combined Authority is developed.

The A428, which has seen a 43% increase
in the consideration of land allocations and
is expected and can therefore be reflected
This will also give developers certainty of what
approach is developed.

Area, it is proposed that a single viability
approach across the Combined Authority
affordability problems, and to ensure a consistent
delivery of genuinely affordable housing,
This presents a real challenge to ensure the
delivery of affordable housing is central to the plan-making process
planning and the delivery of mixed tenure
affordability, and it is evident that while there are principles in
cross the area.

The Combined Authority recognises that
affordable housing, and to ensure a consistent
new and growing communities.

Placing the delivery of affordable
through viability. Infrastructure
pursuing sustainable development requires
The Combined Authority recognises that
remodelled forecasts informed by growth and Department
The primary model to deliver affordable
and creation of successful new communities.
communities suffering from poor accessibility
Road and rail challenges facing our area
The levels of planned growth to 2036 provide
to planning permissions. More frequently
authorities, developers and Community Land
The Government has provided £170 million

The levels of planned growth to 2036 provide
delivery of high quality homes and recognition of the
levelling up in 2031, there would be 42,000

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VIABILITY

The A47 is the most important east-west

Strategic Spatial Objective 5: Through the development of this Strategic Spatial Framework the Combined Authority will support Local Planning Authorities in their viability discussions with developers to ensure a consistent and fair approach is adopted.

Strategic Spatial Objective 6: The Combined Authority will work with the local authorities, housing partners and health and care organisations, and other partners to ensure the delivery of health-related infrastructure and services where the need for this arises from planned growth.

Better connecting the whole of
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has the
potential to reduce congestion and journey
times, provide greater travel choice, as well
as providing access to new or expanding
growth locations.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

Travel demand is expected to grow by 28% in
Cambridge and 31% in Peterborough to
2031. Further growth will, therefore, need to
be accompanied by investment in necessary infrastructure improvements.

Some of our main transport corridors are:

- The A14, which is strategically significant in
  connecting the east coast ports to the
  Midlands and beyond, as well as for
  the delivery of strategic developments at
  Northstowe and Alconbury Weald.
- Major improvements to address capacity
  constraints are underway with completion
  expected in 2020.

- The A428, which has seen a 43% increase
  in traffic since 2001. The stretch between
  the A1 and A1198 is the only section of
  the strategic east-west route between
  Cambridge and Milton Keynes that is
  single carriageway. Highways England
  have consulted on dual carriageway
  options; if consented the scheme is
  expected to commence in 2020 and
  provide additional road capacity, reduce
  congestion and delays and facilitate
  more reliable journey times.
- The A47 is the most important east-west
  route in the north of the area, carrying
  up to 42,000 vehicles a day around
  Peterborough and 22,000 vehicles a day
  around Cambridge. The proposed new
  town at Waterbeach and significant
  growth north of Ely and at King’s Lynn.

There has been strong growth in rail travel
in recent years. Consequently, enhanced
frequency of trains and greater track
and carrying capacity is needed, including
enhanced frequency between Cambridge
and Peterborough and London, increased
track capacity at Ely and in the Cambridge
area, and improved frequencies on cross-
country routes.

Road and rail challenges facing our area
are also compounded by issues around
public transport infrastructure, with many
communities suffering from poor accessibility
to public transport. A strategic approach
needs to be taken to address this across the
Combined Authority area.

The lack of high speed fibre-optic broadband
access has been a constraint in recent years
on economic growth, particularly in rural areas.

The A14 connects Cambridge to Peterborough and
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In early recognition of these challenges, the Combined Authority has commissioned a number of possible strategic transport projects which it believes have the potential to deliver significant benefit to the area. These typically cover a large geography and have been identified as:

- A10 upgrade
- Strategic rail study
- M11 extension
- A47 dualing
- A505 corridor study
- Oxford to Cambridge Expressway
- East-West rail
- Huntingdonshire third river crossing
- Wisbech Rail Connectivity and Wisbech Garden Town
- Ely North rail junction improvements
- Mass Rapid Transit

The outputs of these studies will be considered as part of the Authority’s ongoing work to address strategic transport and infrastructure solutions. In tandem with this, the Authority has developed a programme of transport studies and projects.

In September 2017 the Combined Authority adopted the first version of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport Plan (LTP). A more comprehensive, longer-term LTP programme will be produced during 2018 and 2019, alongside the development of the spatial framework. At the core of this relationship will be the need for the LTP to guide the investment in transport infrastructure that is needed to meet the area’s growth ambitions.

**Strategic Spatial Objective 7:**

The Combined Authority will develop and maintain a long-term Investment programme of infrastructure projects, including projects it seeks national support to deliver.

- It will work with the highway authorities and national agencies to ensure timely and effective interventions to deliver strategic transport solutions.
- This includes investment in strategic infrastructure facilitating grant bids; feasibility studies and business case development and working with government for timely delivery of committed infrastructure projects.

**Strategic Spatial Objective 8:**

The Combined Authority will work proactively with government, local authorities, business and other partners in the corridor to ensure these infrastructure projects and related growth are delivered.

**LAND VALUE CAPTURE**

The Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is clear that addressing disparities in wealth and opportunities will only be achieved through bold and imaginative thinking. This includes innovative approaches to funding in support of the infrastructure that existing and new communities need. Land Value Capture is a mechanism that has the potential, if designed in the right way, to unlock major infrastructure schemes of significant public benefit that otherwise would have had a prohibitive cost.

There are a wide range of options and tools under the banner of Land Value Capture and these will be carefully explored by the Combined Authority. Land Value Capture is led by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, BT, the Government’s Broadband Delivery programme (BDUK) and partners in business, health and education to achieve its aim of becoming the best connected area in the country.

**DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY**

Connecting Cambridgeshire is an ambitious programme which is improving Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s broadband, mobile and Wi-Fi coverage, whilst supporting online skills, business and technological innovation to meet future digital challenges.

This is a coordinated approach to drive economic growth, help rural communities to thrive, improve health and well-being, and make it easier for people to get online and access public services. The Connecting Cambridgeshire partnership is led by Cambridgeshire County Council, working with local councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, BT, the Government’s Broadband Delivery programme (BDUK) and partners in business, health and education to achieve its aim of becoming the best connected area in the UK.

The programme has successfully completed the first phase of the superfast fibre broadband rollout and announced follow-on phases to reach as many homes and businesses as possible across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by 2020. The Combined Authority will support this important initiative as a major element of its aim of enhanced digital connectivity.
There is now strong evidence for the benefits that the natural environment creates for people and places. It provides many key services for sustainable growth, including water quality, improved air quality, flood management, pollination, climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The physical characteristics of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough make the area vulnerable to climate change impacts. Water resources are particularly scarce with rainfall only around a third of the UK average. If, as predicted, summers become progressively warmer and drier, the large agricultural sector in the area may see an overall decrease in crop yields.

Of the area are heavily utilised for public infrastructure in the future.

Although much of the area is below sea level, significant flood and drainage infrastructure that has evolved since the 1600s has enabled the area to grow and prosper. The Combined Authority will need to work with all organisations involved in flood risk management to identify the need and ensure the delivery of strategic flood and drainage infrastructure in the future. Heat in the built environment is also a priority for action identified in the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, with hotter summers predicted to lead to an increase in heat related deaths1.

New development should be designed in a way that minimises the impact of our changing climate through the integration of green and blue infrastructure and through ensuring that the risk of overheating is designed out of our buildings in ways that do not increase reliance on energy and carbon intensive means of cooling.


There are significant parts of the area with poor access to high quality greenspace where people can exercise and enjoy the environment thereby improving physical and mental health, which in turn will reduce health expenditure and improve personal well-being and labour productivity.

Existing wildlife sites are also under considerable pressure as a result of greater use by the public for recreational purposes and increased tourism. There is now strong evidence for the benefits of green infrastructure. Green infrastructure is the sub-regional network of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces and greenway linkages, providing multi-functional uses such as wildlife habitat, recreation, and flood protection.

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SECTION 4

INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Doing more to ensure that all our communities are healthy, thriving and prosperous places is at the heart of the Combined Authority’s ambitions.

The Combined Authority will, therefore, promote policies and approaches that positively support inclusion and fairness of opportunity.

‘Inclusive Growth’ seeks to address assumptions that the benefits of growth will ‘trickle down’ to the most deprived communities. The alternative is to take a more proactive approach to identifying opportunities through growth that will benefit lower income households.

This requires a holistic approach that ranges across access to labour markets, social mobility, learning and skills, health and wellbeing, and provision of infrastructure and services.

Addressing these issues often requires long-term solutions that cannot be addressed by spatial planning alone. However, identifying those areas that are in greatest need of intervention and support enables a place-based focus to the issues, including how growth can be used as an effective tool to address some aspects of deprivation and inequality of opportunity.

Current model
Grow now, redistribute later

Our current model assumes a ‘grow now, redistribute later’ approach to tackling inequalities.

This has created a divided society, with many people feeling left behind from our economy.

This compounds the UK’s poor productivity problem, holding down real wages and living standards.

New model
Inclusive growth

Where investment in social infrastructure is an integral driver of growth.

Where as many people as possible can contribute to and benefit from a new kind of growth.

We call this Inclusive Growth.
UNDERSTANDING DEPRIVATION IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

The factors that contribute to disadvantage for local communities are well-documented; these include:

- A narrow and relatively low economic base dominated by declining or slow growth sectors.
- Low economic participation and lower than average incomes.
- An uncompetitive skills base with too few people with entry level qualifications (NVQ2) and too few with higher level qualifications (NVQ4).
- Underperforming market towns or local centres and a lack of quality employment space.
- Relatively poor transport infrastructure.
- High housing costs.

Understanding and tackling deprivation relies upon an understanding of each and every place that makes up Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The characteristics of local communities which are significant in understanding deprivation are poverty thresholds, income and benefits levels, and the extent of multiple deprivation. The spatial implications of different levels of household incomes across the area can be seen in the map below, with the darker green reflecting those on the lowest incomes.

Other characteristics can also highlight the nature of inclusivity or exclusion, for example the map to the right shows the differences in participation of young people in higher education across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

1 Indices of Multiple Deprivation or IMD 2015. The Indices are based on 37 separate indicators which are combined (using appropriate weighting) to form a general picture of the spread of multiple deprivation at a small area level.

HOUSING COSTS

Of particular resonance for certain parts of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is the impact that housing costs places on the levels of deprivation that are experienced. Nationally this impact is significant, which is played out in particular around Cambridge.

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Percentage of households in poverty (earning <60% of median income) before housing costs in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough MSOAs, in 2013/14.

Legend

% of households in poverty - quintiles

- Town with 5,000+ population

Source: ONS Households in poverty estimates for middle layer super output areas in England and Wales, FYE 2014.
Participation of Local Areas (POLAR) quintile rating for the participation by young people in higher education, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough in 2012.

Legend
POLAR Young participation quintile 1(low) - 5(high)

- 5 (35)
- 4 (38)
- 3 (24)
- 2 (27)
- 1 (24)

Town with 5,000+ population

Source: Higher Education Funding Council for England: POLAR3 dataset 2012 (most recent)

The figure below visualises the district outcomes from the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015. Fenland and Peterborough have a similar spread of deprived areas (coloured dark blue), followed by Cambridge and to a lesser extent, Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire. South Cambridgeshire is the least deprived district.

Taking these measures collectively the main areas (by size of population) of deprivation and disadvantage in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are:
- Central and north-east areas of Peterborough.
- North and eastern areas of Cambridge.
- Northern Fenland (centred on Wisbech).
- The Oxmoor area of Huntingdon.

A DNA chart depicting the percentage of LSOAs per district. This allows a comparison of the spread of multiple deprivation between districts.

1 Based on the top 15 most deprived MSOA populations are 79,496 in Peterborough, 35,999 in Cambridge, 24,350 in Fenland and 8,877 in the Oxmoor area of Huntingdon.
ADDRESSING DEPRIVATION

For the purposes of this framework, it is important to understand where the Combined Authority’s and its partners’ actions can have a direct or indirect influence on addressing deprivation. The most obvious issues in this regard relate to improvements in education, skills and training; provision of good quality, affordable housing; provision of employment space and opportunities through regeneration and growth; and connectivity through transport infrastructure, public transport services and high-speed broadband.

It is important to recognise the significance that ‘soft infrastructure’ also plays – the delivery of high quality schools at all age levels through to 16 to 19 year education, community services also play a key role in tackling deprivation and particularly in communities with a high level of deprivation. The work of the Independent Economic Commission during 2017 and 2018 will address a number of these issues, for example investment in affordable housing across the area and the work of the Connecting Cambridgeshire broadband programme.

The Combined Authority will, however, ensure that its investment decisions are informed by the need to address inequalities and tackle disadvantage. It has signalled this intent through recent strategic investment decisions, including:

- Developing the funding and business cases for bringing forward a new university for Peterborough.
- Providing £6.5m funding for further feasibility work on the Wisbech Garden Town project.
- Funding studies to look into the feasibility of reopening the Wisbech to March rail line.
- Undertaking a strategic bus review across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- Establishing a £7.2m “Health and Care Sector Progression Academy” in areas of deprivation.

Furthermore, the quality of local environments and particularly provision of greenspace can have positive benefits for physical and mental health and wellbeing. Initiatives set out elsewhere in this framework will address a number of these issues, for example investment in affordable housing across the area and the work of the Connecting Cambridgeshire broadband programme.

Strategic Spatial Objective 11: With regard to the spatial priorities identified in this plan, the Combined Authority will take a positive view of any increase in investment that tackles deprivation and which increases sustainable, inclusive growth in disadvantaged areas of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Strategic Spatial Objective 12: The Combined Authority fully endorses these core principles of good development, not least because they reflect its own vision and spatial priorities for growth.

The Combined Authority wishes, therefore, to ensure that the Quality Charter principles are embedded in new development across the area; and that there is a more explicit recognition of the need for growth to be inclusive.

Accordingly, the Authority is committed to reviewing the Charter in tandem with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The revised Charter will include a fifth ‘C’, Cohesion, to demonstrate how the existing principles will encompass inclusive growth.

QUALITY CHARTER FOR GROWTH

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Strategic Spatial Objective 12: The Combined Authority will undertake a review of the Cambridgeshire Quality Charter for Growth so that it covers the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and addresses fully the principles of cohesion and inclusive growth. It will seek the support of the local planning authorities to adopt the charter as guidance to inform current development and as an integral part of future local plans.

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The issues and measures set out in this section will be reviewed as part of the development of this framework. In particular, further consideration will be given to how spatial planning can best address deprivation as part of a comprehensive strategy for inclusive growth.

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Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is bounded by county, district and unitary areas, each with its own unique characteristics. These include authorities in Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire.

More specifically, Peterborough has functional links with Lincolnshire and Rutland to the north, while a number of the market towns to the south and east, including Haverhill, Saffron Walden and Royston, have functional connections with Cambridge.

Strategic corridors are of particular importance in terms of connectivity and economic growth. Many of these corridors are experiencing high growth and capacity constraints; but they also provide opportunities for establishing and growing economic connections between areas, including complementary approaches to growth sectors and clusters.

For example, the London Stansted Cambridge corridor is a strategic economic area with strong inter-connections through clusters of industries, supply chains and commuting patterns. Industries range from high-tech digital and biomedical to logistical, resource recovery and food manufacturing. The area of over two million people is linked by the West Anglia rail line, the M11 and A10.

Other examples include the A11 corridor with opportunities for greater interaction between the agri-tech research at Norwich Research Park and the Cambridge biotech cluster. Government support for the economic growth of the Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford corridor through investment in strategic infrastructure and a collaborative approach provides significant opportunities for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and its surrounding areas.
The functional relationship between Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and its neighbouring areas is also recognised through Housing Market Areas (HMA).

Peterborough’s HMA stretches north to encompass parts of Lincolnshire, whilst Cambridge’s looks to the east and includes West Suffolk.

The Combined Authority, working with partners, will consider how these existing relationships can be developed, including better defining functional economic areas to inform the development of this framework.
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Strategic partnerships between local authorities and joint planning arrangements are being developed in neighbouring areas to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough in response to national objectives for additional homes, jobs and enhanced infrastructure.

The Norfolk local authorities have published a Strategic Planning Framework for the county. This includes recognition of the relationships with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, particularly through strategic corridors.

As well as referring to the A11 corridor, the framework notes that the A47, directly or indirectly, affects all Norfolk’s districts, parts of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The current limitations of the A47 act as a brake on economic growth, hindering investment, and adding to business and commuter costs.

Improvements to the road will unlock jobs, increase GVA and attract additional private investment along its full length. The Combined Authority will work actively with neighbouring authorities to achieve these objectives.

In 2013 the Suffolk authorities and partners published the Suffolk Growth Strategy, and this has been updated through the recent publication of the new Economic Strategy for Norfolk & Suffolk. These documents set out economic growth opportunities for the county and the need for supporting infrastructure.

The Suffolk authorities and partners are now considering their strategic approach to delivering these opportunities and securing the investment required to provide for their long-term growth and infrastructure needs.

To the south of Cambridgeshire, the North Essex authorities have prepared a joint strategic section of their Local Plans in order to plan comprehensively for the future of area.

This includes a commitment to meet the sub-region’s housing, jobs and infrastructure requirements, including through the planning and delivery of three new Garden Communities at Colchester Braintree Borders, Tendring Colchester Borders and West of Braintree.

As part of its vision for the Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford corridor the government has asked the local authorities in the corridor and the Combined Authority to propose how they will work together to ensure that planning for business and housing is coordinated with the delivery of strategic and local infrastructure.

These and other strategic initiatives provide an important opportunity for the Combined Authority and its constituent local authorities to work proactively with neighbouring areas.

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Building Blocks

The Combined Authority wishes to engage with its key partners and stakeholders in developing the strategic spatial framework to provide a longer term development strategy to 2050. It is particularly important that the spatial framework is developed alongside these plans and strategies to ensure a coherent and well-evidenced approach to future growth.

Working in partnership to secure sustainable growth outcomes will be critical to meeting the Combined Authority’s ambitions. The framework is developed through national initiatives such as the Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford growth corridor and other strategic initiatives with neighbouring authorities.

This Phase 1 Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Strategic Spatial Framework provides a strong basis for delivering planned growth and moving to a longer-term development strategy for the area.

Set out below are some of the key principles for the area's future growth which could provide the building blocks for a spatial vision to 2050. These have been developed based upon engagement with stakeholders on the opportunities for the development of the framework to 2050, and will be subject to further engagement and discussion in the next phase of work.

- Embrace positively the need to build new homes, create jobs, and improve infrastructure – offering attractive homes, jobs and a high quality of life in a range of distinctive communities. The benefits of the Combined Authority’s ambitious economic growth target over this period will be apparent across the whole area, with a particular focus on improvements for the most deprived communities.
- Accommodate growth by providing new homes in sustainable locations, such as close to main centres of employment and potentially along key dedicated public transport routes. This will result in the development of more balanced and mixed communities with new homes of different sizes, types and affordability, as well as provision for specific groups, including older people and people with disabilities. All development will reflect high quality architectural and urban design. The necessary infrastructure and community facilities and services will be provided as an integral element of new development.
- Be acknowledged as a world-leader in innovation, new technologies, and knowledge-based business and research yet more diverse in its economy across the area. Areas of growth such as clean-tech, agri-food, space and advanced manufacturing networks, including being served by Enterprise Zones.
- Support the educational attainment and skills needed to realise the area’s economic potential. In particular, the established and new universities in Cambridge and Peterborough will have maintained and enhanced their reputations at national and international level as providers of high quality education, research and training.
- Benefit from integrated transport networks, including being served by frequent high quality public transport. There will be improved accessibility from homes to jobs and services by sustainable means, including new high quality routes for cycling and walking and good links to the countryside.
- Be an exemplar of low carbon living. This will result in the efficient use of resources, sustainable development and provision for specific groups, including older people and people with disabilities. All development will reflect high quality architectural and urban design. The necessary infrastructure and community facilities and services will be provided as an integral element of new development.
- Work with neighbouring authorities, Government, and other partners to develop strategic connections between areas. Through complementary economic and industrial strategies and approaches, and provision of new strategic infrastructure and improvements to existing strategic transport corridors.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is that economic output will double over the next 25 years, with an upturn in GVA from £22bn to over £40bn.

This is an ambitious target that will require a clear strategy, significant investment and an effective market response to ensure it is met. It will also require testing against the ability of the natural environment to accommodate this degree of growth. The Combined Authority has established an Independent Economic Commission, chaired by Dame Kate Barker, to advise on the baseline conditions and necessary measures to drive forward the achievement of this level of economic output.

Working through the Commission and with the new Business Board, government and other partners, during 2018 the Authority will develop a Local Industrial Strategy that will set out a comprehensive approach to how it would be possible to realise the agreed economic growth levels. This will be an important part of the evidence to inform the next version of this spatial framework, which will be developed during 2018.

Alongside this economic evidence, it is equally important to understand the demographic implications of future growth. Government proposals for a standard methodology for assessing housing need2 are expected to be finalised and included in national guidance during 2018. This, together with the necessary economic and environmental evidence, will be central to understanding the area's future growth needs and ambitions in terms of additional jobs, infrastructure and homes.

The Combined Authority is developing a range of other strategies which have a bearing on future growth outcomes. These include Housing and Investment strategies and a long-term Local Transport Plan.

It is particularly important that the spatial framework is developed alongside these plans and strategies to ensure a coherent and well-evidenced approach to future growth.


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