



29th January 2018

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Dear Prime Minister

This week I was privileged to attend the United States conference of Mayors following an invite from the British Ambassador to Washington DC. There were hundreds of Mayors representing cities across the United States, I was able to engage with many of them, promoting Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and enhancing potential trade opportunities. The new contacts I have made this week in Washington DC will, I have no doubt see the United Kingdom and the United States increase the special relationship between the two countries.

In particular, I was delighted to meet with the Mayor of Boston, Marty Walsh. I am sure you will be aware Cambridge is the number one centre for Life Sciences in Europe, and Boston is the world's number one centre for Life sciences. I was therefore extremely excited that Mayor Walsh suggested the possibility of a sister city agreement linking our two great cities.

As you are aware Mayors in America are a significant part of the political system, whilst here in Great Britain we are in our infancy. The United States already have well established links with Mayors in Canada, South America, Europe and China and are very keen to establish such links with their greatest ally, the United Kingdom. Whilst in Washington DC I met with the President of US Mayors, Tom Cochran who requested that he bring a delegation of the top twenty US Mayors to meet with the seven English Mayors to forge closer ties and trade relationships.

I would like to promote closer ties by inviting Mr Cochran and the top twenty United States Mayors as well as the six other English Mayors to Cambridge to discuss mutual trade and closer association. I feel very strongly that close ties between the United States and United Kingdom Mayors will bring great benefit to our country.

Prime Minister, I believe that your presence at such an event would send a very strong message to the people of both the United States and Great Britain and I cordially invite you to attend. I believe that working closely with government, this event could be a catalyst for a new closer working relationship between the regions of both countries. I will send a copy of this letter to the Secretaries of State for the Foreign Office,




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International Trade, Business and Communities and Local Government and I welcome input from the government as to how we gain the most impact from this event.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. P. Palmer', written in a cursive style.

James Palmer
Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority



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