

# LETTER from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Youth Voice Representatives



CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP



CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

**Dear Delegates,**

We are grateful for the opportunity to represent the young people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and communicate our views on what steps need to be taken to protect the environment for us and future generations at the CPCA Summit.

Whilst there is an array of topics we could discuss, to best utilise this opportunity we have taken a focus on public transport. The development of sustainable transport affects our daily lives crucially, with public transport being for many of us the only way to get to and from school, work and other commitments. It is essential to establish good practice and lead by example to our peers by continuing to choose more environmentally beneficial routes, however our dependence on public and active transport makes us well placed to identify the issues that could make this unattractive. Factors such as safety, reliability, availability and affordability all have scope to prevent us from making these positive decisions, in the context of trains, buses and cycling.

Public transportation, including trains and buses, is becoming an increasingly unattractive mode of transport; previously used out of convenience, it is now used as an only choice or last resort. Not only is there the factor of reliability, but other major problems such as lack of funding, efficiency, and even unpleasant encounters with other users- however, the solutions to these issues are often easier for users themselves to perceive.

If changes are not made, young people will continue to avoid using public transport, resulting in a major decrease in its usage. This will harm efforts to reduce carbon emissions and make roads safer for cyclists; reducing the number of cars on the road is essential to achieve these goals. Moreover, according to the Climate Crisis Strategy Manager at CCC, a bus must be filled almost to its capacity to be the most efficient and beneficial for the environment.

Consequently, we would like to collaborate with politicians to bring about significant changes through small steps, employing the expertise of our lived experience. With your aid we could gather opinions from the public, particularly young people, on what changes they would like to see in the public transport system, explore ways to provide support to public transport systems - such as funding which may lower the cost of fares, - and suggest how the issue of antisocial behaviour can be tackled by providing security on buses or a system to report incidents of bad behaviour.

Thank you again for providing a platform for youth voice in this conversation. We look forward to continuing our partnership and engaging our community in co-productive solutions to protect the region we inherit.

**Yours Faithfully,**

*Cambridgeshire and Peterborough  
Youth Voice Representatives*