



## Linking London to Cambridge – the UK’s leading sci-tech region

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning  
By email

UK Innovation Corridor  
West Suffolk House,  
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Bury St Edmunds  
Suffolk  
IP33 3YU



29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Sir or Madam,

### **Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan – Consultation Response**

I am writing on behalf of the Board of the UK Innovation Corridor to express our strong support for the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Greater Cambridge sits at the heart of the UK Innovation Corridor and plays a critical role in the UK’s national economic performance, productivity and global competitiveness. The Greater Cambridge economy is internationally recognised as one of the world’s leading centres for science, technology and innovation, with particular strengths in life sciences, data and digital technologies, advanced manufacturing and research-intensive industries.

The UK Innovation Corridor currently supports an economy valued at approximately £284 billion in gross value added, with the potential to grow to over £350 billion over the next 15 years. Structurally and sectorally, the Corridor is comparable to leading global innovation regions such as Silicon Valley, Boston Route 128 and the North Carolina Research Triangle. However, despite these exceptional fundamentals, the Corridor continues to underperform relative to these international comparators, particularly in productivity and overall economic output. Silicon Valley, for example, generates in excess of \$800 billion in GVA from a broadly comparable geographic footprint.

This performance gap is not the result of weak demand or limited innovation capacity, but of constraints on the scale, pace and integration of growth. Addressing these constraints is therefore of national importance, and the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan has a pivotal role to play in unlocking the next phase of growth.

**We welcome the Local Plan's underlying vision of good growth**, which seeks to balance the needs of an internationally significant innovation economy with the quality of everyday life for local communities. This balance is essential if Greater Cambridge is to function both as a globally competitive innovation hub and as an inclusive, liveable place.

In particular, we strongly support the Plan's:

- Commitment to planning positively for **innovation-led economic growth**, informed by **robust local data** and an understanding of the clustered nature of the Cambridge economy.
- Recognition of the need to plan for a **diverse range of housing types and tenures**, ensuring that housing delivery keeps pace with job growth and supports workforce retention at all stages of life.
- Support for **flexibility and headroom in employment space and housing** provision, enabling the Plan to respond to higher-than-anticipated economic performance.
- Emphasis on **innovation infrastructure**, including the intensification and evolution of existing clusters, campuses and science parks.
- **Integrated approach to infrastructure planning**, including transport, utilities, digital connectivity and energy, and the recognition that delivery depends on strong system-wide alignment across multiple strategies and delivery bodies.
- Support for **appropriate densification** to high design and environmental standards, particularly in locations well served by transport and services.
- Balanced provision for "**whole economy**" needs, including mid-tech, industrial and logistics space.
- Commitment to climate change mitigation, biodiversity net gain and high-quality placemaking, which are essential to long-term competitiveness.

We also support the Plan's recognition of Greater Cambridge as the intellectual and innovation engine of the Corridor. The success of Greater Cambridge underpins growth across the wider Corridor, including in Stevenage, Harlow, London and Peterborough, supporting high-value jobs, skills pipelines and resilient supply chains.

Given the scale of ambition and the level of interdependence between the Local Plan, wider growth strategies and major infrastructure delivery, we emphasise the importance of flexibility, deliverability and infrastructure-first planning. Continued alignment between

local authorities, the Combined Authority, Cambridge Growth Company, Government and delivery partners will be critical to success.

**Conclusion**

We believe the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan provides a strong and credible framework for managing growth in one of the UK's most strategically important economic regions. It is well aligned with the ambitions of the UK Innovation Corridor and with national objectives to drive productivity, investment and sustainable development.

We strongly support the direction of the Plan and would welcome continued engagement as it progresses toward adoption and delivery.

Yours faithfully,

