

Stephen Kelly  
Director of Planning and Economic Development

By email: [REDACTED]

19 April, 2021

## Letter of Support for Cambridge South Planning Representation

Dear Mr. Kelly,

We, the institutions comprising the Cambridge Biomedical Campus (CBC), are delighted to write in support of the Cambridge South proposal submitted to Greater Cambridge Shared Planning. Unlocking the possibility for CBC to host important new healthcare, research, education and commercial facilities, as well as appropriate and sustainable housing and community development, is of fundamental importance to us. These proposals also provide the opportunity to offer the amenity and other support that the campus has not yet been able to provide, with work being done to align with development of the existing campus.

CBC was initially launched by the 2020 Vision and has met many of the objectives set out in that document, some better than others, but with the arrival of 2020 it was time to take stock of CBC's progress and its future opportunities. To do this, the CBC has worked collectively to carefully assess the future of Life Sciences and healthcare and how Cambridge and CBC can secure both global leadership and ensure local relevance. This work has informed our Vision 2050, which is appended to the proposal.

Our Vision seeks to secure the unique position of CBC as a nexus for the four key elements of Life Sciences:

1. Pushing the frontiers of new health research and discovery;
2. Proving how these discoveries can work for better health outcomes;
3. Scaling great ideas into world beating businesses; and,
4. Applying them in real world healthcare settings to benefit our local population and the world beyond.

Only CBC can bring these elements together in a single place in Cambridge; that's what makes the case for expansion exceptional. While we are a part of the quite extraordinary Cambridge Life Sciences 'cluster', which includes West Cambridge, the Wellcome Genome Campus and the Babraham Research Campus, we are the only location in Cambridge—indeed, in the UK or Europe—where all the pieces of the Life Sciences puzzle come together in a single physical location. Our sister campuses acknowledge that we should be the best place for amazing discoveries made in Cambridge to move forward into delivery, but that in fact the physical limitations of the current CBC mean that developments that could stay and flourish in Cambridge often leave our shores.

We have looked at competitive sites around the world that combine research, education, healthcare delivery and commercial opportunity: the competitors are few, but they are

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formidable. Kendall Square in Boston, the collective power of life sciences in the arc of Silicon Valley, and the more recent developments in Shanghai are our competitors; they are pulling away from us rapidly. What we know about these competitors is that they offer more than we do at present in terms of liveability, expansion opportunity and, crucially, the day-to-day opportunity for collaboration and real-world health care delivery.

We talk with Life Science research and development organisations regularly who tell us that Cambridge is a source of inspiring research, but not a place they feel they can develop because Cambridge appears to be ‘full’. Housing is expensive, transport is challenging, and there is no location space that provides what they need to call Cambridge their home. The city centre can no longer offer sufficient amenities for its widening catchment, Cambridge needs to develop local identities beyond its medieval town centre. We know that organisations seek, in particular, the benefits of single site concentration that make CBC unique, but we have reached our physical limit. We cannot accommodate the research capacity, the clinical connectivity or the commercial space required to deliver on our aspirations.

What does it take to fix this problem and deliver what Cambridge is uniquely placed to do for our own citizens, the UK and the world? We think our Vision 2050 addresses that conceptually, but the Cambridge South submission you have before you does so practically.

To ensure that the submission achieves the ambition set out in Vision 2050, we have spent considerable time working collaboratively with the four landowners to understand how life sciences and healthcare environments are organised and operated most successfully and what we believe it will take to fulfil the Vision. We have contributed our experience, knowledge and perspective to the proposal to ground it in purpose. We are prepared to continue to do this to create an environment that meets our own and future occupier needs. We recognise that having a collection of healthcare providers along with research, educational and commercial institutions acting as a single voice in support of proposals is an uncommon approach, but this is an unusual and urgent circumstance—not just for our respective institutions, but for Cambridge, the UK and beyond.

Outside our own CBC group, we have shared our Vision with senior leaders who understand the uniqueness of CBC and the potential loss if we cannot continue our development, several of whom were moved to provide statements of endorsement themselves, including four Nobel Prize-winning scientists who have worked at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology on the campus, four of the most senior advisors to Government in healthcare and life sciences, and one of the founding fathers of Cambridge as a destination for investors in our talent and discoveries. Their statements are provided at the conclusion of this letter.

The four relevant landowners present you with a high-level outline of what is needed to deliver our Vision, based on models of what we believe is required. We endorse this approach with enthusiasm, recognising there is still work required to refine it to deliver the outcomes we seek. We also recognise that there is more to do to make sure that any development proceeds in a way that it is right for Cambridge – for our communities, our neighbours, our environment and for the generations beyond us. To that end we have already begun engagement in the community to seek input as to how our Vision should develop. This engagement and continuing consultation will inform how the framework shared with you in these proposals evolves.

Once fully articulated, we need to ensure that the Vision is implemented as intended, with respect to types of uses and related allocation of space; commitments to 64 Elsworth House, Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Box 146, Cambridge Biomedical Campus, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 0QQ [www.cuhp.org.uk](http://www.cuhp.org.uk)

sustainability; management of travel/transportation issues; sensitivity and understanding of the environment; and creation of a place where people want to be and that will be globally competitive in life sciences. We feel a strong sense of responsibility to make sure our Vision is executed as we intend and to give you confidence that this will happen.

To succeed, we need a robust and legally sound agreement between ourselves and the landowners behind Cambridge South. To enable that, for the first time on CBC, we have formed ourselves as a corporate entity that allows us to speak with a single voice. We will be able collectively to enter into a contractual relationship with the landowners to provide control in how the development unfolds, ensuring that the scheme delivers what we require over the next decades, and with the involvement of a growing group of stakeholders. Both sides are fully engaged in the work to achieve this objective, and our shared ambition is to complete the necessary detail in June, if not before. Given how important this initiative is, we will keep you fully updated on our progress. Our expectation is that, in due course, we will confirm that this agreement has been completed and we will have the means to ensure that our Vision is delivered.

We stand ready to answer any questions you may have about our Vision 2050 and our commitment to its delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Professor Stephen Toope  
Chair of the CBC Strategy Group  
Vice-Chancellor  
University of Cambridge

On behalf of the organisations of Cambridge Biomedical Campus Ltd:



MRC Laboratory  
of Molecular  
Biology



Royal Papworth Hospital  
NHS Foundation Trust



CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY  
Health Partners



Cambridgeshire and  
Peterborough  
NHS Foundation Trust

Cambridge  
University Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Testimonials of support

Cambridge has made many world-class contributions to medicine through life sciences research and its applications, attracting and spawning bio-industries, and bringing jobs and wealth to the area. But as the economic value of life sciences and clinical research has become better understood, Cambridge faces intense competition from the expansion of such research world-wide. The CBC Vision 2050 faces up to this challenge, and proposes a plan for the creation of critical mass and facilities for a world-class research and clinical ecosystem based at the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. This plan offers a great opportunity to expand, link and accelerate life-sciences research and clinical activities in Cambridge, and to help build the medicines and the bio-industries of the future.

*Joint statement by four scientists who did their prize-winning work at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, which is a founding member of CBC:*

**Richard Henderson,  
CH FRS FMedSci  
HonFRSC**

*Structural biologist,  
joint winner of the 2017  
Nobel Prize for  
Chemistry*

**Venki  
Ramakrishnan,  
FRS**

*Structural biologist,  
joint winner of the  
2009 Nobel Prize  
for Chemistry*

**Sir John Walker,  
FRS FMedSci**

*Molecular biologist,  
joint winner of the  
1997 Nobel Prize  
for Chemistry*

**Professor Sir  
Gregory Winter, CBE  
FRS FMedSci**

*Molecular biologist, joint  
winner of the 2018  
Nobel Prize for  
Chemistry*

Vision 2050 for the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, as set out by its partners, is much to be applauded. It builds on the remarkable success of Vision 2020, developed by a partnership between the NHS Hospitals, the Medical Research Council, the University of Cambridge and others. This new vision, with wider collaboration, describes not only a place for healthcare, research, commerce and innovation, but a place to live, work and visit. It seeks to create a local community whose benefits spread far beyond the campus to the city and the wider world.

I am delighted to see a goal which supports a community of different neighbours to pursue healthy lifestyles, including quality of housing, opportunities to exercise, and attention to air quality and noise level. The pandemic has made us reflect on the quality of our lives, and this development is an opportunity to improve that quality by making health (mental and physical) and wellbeing central to the way we build and care for communities.

**Professor Dame Carol Black**

*Adviser to Government on health, work and wellbeing; currently doing independent review on illicit drugs; chair of the Centre for Ageing Better; former Principal of Newnham College*

Vision 2050 builds on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus Vision 2020 with more facilities, more partners and greater reach into the Community. Coming new to Cambridge, from my previous Chief Medical Officer post I am both impressed and inspired by the energy, the clinical care, the work and the discoveries across the CBC. Cambridge is a world class centre, not only for biomedicine but also in AI, engineering, computing, public health and so much more that will contribute to the economy and broader health of Britain.

Vision 2050 propels Cambridge's Life Sciences pre-eminence into this century, supporting the education of future generations and heading up the UK contribution to Global Health – leading developing the medicines and bio-sciences solutions we all need for a healthy future.

**Professor Dame Sally Davies**

*Former Chief Medical Officer for England and the Chief Scientific Advisor at the UK Department of Health; Current Master of Trinity College, University of Cambridge*

The new CBC Vision for 2050 marks another important step in the development of Cambridge as one of the world's leading biotech and health care clusters. The UK has shown that it leads in biotechnology but we cannot afford to stand still. In 30 years' time we need to have built the capabilities for research, development and implementation which will power the UK through the second half of this century. Now is the time for strategic vision – based on quality of life, and creating a zero carbon, environmentally friendly cluster based on new transport solutions that will enable Cambridge to build on its amazing success.

**Dr. David Clevely OBE**

*Serial Entrepreneur and Co-founder of Cambridge Network & Cambridge Ahead*

Cambridge Biomedical Campus has grown and flowered remarkably over the last 30 years, in large part guided by the inspirational 2020 Vision developed by an innovative tripartite partnership between the NHS/Cambridge University Hospitals, the University of Cambridge and the Medical Research Council. It is exciting to see the blueprint for the next stage in the development of this unique campus so compellingly set out by the partners who have created Vision 2050. As Greater Cambridge grows, the need for sustainable healthcare delivery underpinned by sustainable infrastructure and transport will grow too, so as a former chair of CUH, I'm delighted that the creation of new facilities for clinical care – such as a hospital for children and young people and a new cancer hospital – is an integral part of the strategy.

**Dame Mary Archer**

*Former Chair of Cambridge University Hospital Trust and Architect of the 2020 Vision; Chair of the Science Museum (London)*

The 2020 Vision for the Cambridge Biomedical Campus resulted from a unique partnership between the NHS, MRC, and Cambridge University, and arose from the need to relocate Papworth Hospital, rebuild the LMB, and establish a major cancer institute. The results for the health and wealth of Cambridge and the region are evident. Cambridge provides outstanding medical care, has attracted a thriving biotechnology community and provides world class resources for teaching and research. The campus will soon be home to AstraZeneca, one of UK's only two pharmaceutical companies, whose cancer scientists are currently working in the Cambridge Cancer Institute. We should rejoice in the realisation of the 2020 Vision but its very success has placed a huge responsibility on Cambridge to safeguard the UK's world class role in the biomedical sciences and their translation into benefit for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease. The Vision 2050 will be key to achieving this.

**Sir Keith Peters GBE FRS FMedSci**  
*Emeritus Regius Professor of Physic, University of Cambridge*