Westminster Social Policy Forum conference:

Next steps for the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor

Timing: Morning, Wednesday, 11th February 2026

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30 Registration

9.00 Chair's opening remarks

Lord Lansley, Chair, Cambridgeshire Development Forum

9.05 Assessing developments and next steps for the Oxford to Cambridge Growth Corridor

Senior academic

Questions and comments from the floor

9.25 The strategic potential and restructuring practicalities of unitarisation in Oxfordshire

Senior representative, local authority

9.35 <u>Developing regional capacity and priorities for further devolved powers across Cambridgeshire and the wider Growth Corridor</u>

Rob Bridge, Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

9.45 Priorities for governance, regional leadership, and meeting ambitions in the Growth Corridor plan

assessing national and regional delivery frameworks | cross-regional collaboration and shared objectives | accountability and transparency in governance | priorities for devolution and local government reorganisation | implications of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill | environmental and community duties | considerations for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority | addressing local skills gaps alongside regional objectives | tackling regional inequalities | inclusive growth, including rural areas | transport infrastructure priorities | next steps for devolution in Milton Keynes, Bedfordshire, and the wider region

Naomi Green, Managing Director, England's Economic Heartland

Senior representative, local authority

Senior representative, skills

10.00 Questions and comments from the floor

Water infrastructure delivery and supporting regional development and environmental goals

Senior representative, water

10.35 Advancing community priorities, housing delivery, and environmental resilience across the Growth Corridor

achieving Local Growth Plan targets | delivery and financial implications of Planning and Infrastructure Bill measures | assessing proposals for new towns | insights from Milton Keynes and Peterborough developments | assessing plans for water management and flood protection | infrastructure requirements for development | regional planning, social infrastructure, and placemaking priorities | supporting nature recovery, stewardship, and safeguarding distinctive natural qualities | impact of development on rural communities and housing affordability | community participation, engagement, and buy-in

Dr Edel McGurk, Regional Director, Operations, South East, Natural England

Senior representative, local authority

Senior representative, housing

10.50 Questions and comments from the floor

11.10 Chair's closing remarks

Lord Lansley, Chair, Cambridgeshire Development Forum

11.15 Break

10.25

11.25 **Chair's opening remarks**

Senior Parliamentarian

11.30 Strengthening research and innovation capacity and the role of place-based investment

Senior representative, research

Questions and comments from the floor

11.50 <u>Strategies for accelerating growth and frameworks for collaboration between local partners</u>

Senior representative, growth

12.00 Positioning the Corridor as a global hub for science and technology

developing investment and infrastructure pipelines | Industrial Strategy and the Industrial Strategy Zones Action Plan | key considerations for the Oxford Growth Commission and insights from the Cambridge model | innovation partnerships with other UK hubs | commercial space, laboratory capacity and utility infrastructure | connectivity priorities, including East West Rail and mass transit | support for business growth, trade, and place-based development | harnessing benefits of major transport infrastructure | developing the visitor economy

Alistair Lomax, Director, Arc Universities Group

Senior representative, industry

Senior representative, infrastructure

Senior representative, local authority

12.20 Questions and comments from the floor

12.45 Progress and next steps for Growth Corridor strategy implementation

Senior speaker confirmed from HM Treasury

Questions and comments from the floor

13.10 Chair's and Westminster Social Policy Forum closing remarks

Senior Parliamentarian

Harry Nelson, Westminster Social Policy Forum

