CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16 January 2024

Title:	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough State of the Region 2024
Report of:	Jules Ient, Head of Policy, Insight and Performance Lead Member: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Key Principle:
To examine all decision-making through the lens of integrated decision-making, to drive out silo approaches and ensure CPCA strategy is not operating in isolation, considers wider impact across corporate plan priority areas, and considers future devolution opportunities and benefits.

Strategic Objective(s):	
The topics within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
☒	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
☒	Achieving good growth
☒	Increased connectivity
☒	Enabling resilient communities
☒	Achieving Best Value and High Performance
The State of the Region 2024 (SOTR24) covers the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area, providing a core evidence base and interactive dashboard with open data repository to aid future investment decisions, policy and strategy making, and business case development, which are principal activities within the 2023-25 Corporate Strategy. Furthermore, SOTR24 informs CPCA's partners' actions, facilitating local alignment and driving synergy across stakeholders.	

Topic Scoring

	Numerical Score
Public Interest	1
Strategic Value	3
Risk to Combined Authority	1
Alignment to Corporate Priorities	3
Financial Value	2
Issue of concern for partners?	1
Will the CA be able to achieve an effective outcome?	3

Rating Scores
1 = Low
2 = Medium
3 = High

Will there be potential benefits for a significant part of the Combined Authority area/partners/stakeholders?	3
Scrutiny Value Score **[right click on the value and "update field" to total the score]**	**17**

1. Background

1.1 This paper on the State of the Region 2024 (SOTR24) is being brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee due to its high strategic value, alignment to corporate priorities, empirical benefits and underpinning nature to future Combined Authority activity. The Committee has previously requested that the State of Region dashboards be brought to the committee to review at least twice a year. Overview and Scrutiny members will be given an update pertaining to the final version of the SOTR24 report along with a demonstration of the interactive dashboard.

1.2 In October 2024, the Combined Authority Board approved the SOTR24 dashboard as the Combined Authority's core evidence base to inform all investment decisions, policy and strategy making, and business case development. A commitment to strengthen the evidence base on an ongoing basis, including SOTR dashboard updates as new data becomes available (at least quarterly as practical), and an annual report, was agreed. Moreover, future iterations of SOTR will present opportunities to respond to more of the suggestions and questions that could not be included in SOTR24 due to budgetary and resource constraints.

SOTR24 was co-produced with a broad range of partners, who worked together throughout the project in two working groups, to co-design and co-produce the review:

The Technical Working Group met monthly and sometimes fortnightly, with the remit to provide technical advice and expertise to aid the development of the SOTR24 project. The Technical Working Group was comprised of expert data and research leads across partner organisations.

The State of the Region and Shared Ambition Working Group met monthly, with the remit of acting as a sounding board and critical friend to the Technical and Engagement Working Groups, including identifying interdependencies and opportunities between these projects and other work. Working group members comprised of policy, place and economic development leads.

Broader stakeholder engagement has included Members, local government officers, community leaders and academics and has comprised 16 insight interviews, 4 interim report consultation sessions, 5 dashboard testing sessions and 4 final report consultation sessions.

<u>SOTR Partners</u>

- Cambridge Ahead
- Cambridge City Council
- Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service
- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care System
- Cambridgeshire Acre
- Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Centre for Business Research (CBR)
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Fenland District Council
- Greater Cambridge Partnership
- Greater Cambridge Shared Planning
- Huntingdonshire District Council

	• Office for National Statistics • Peterborough City Council • South Cambridgeshire District Council • University of Cambridge • Voluntary Community Action East Cambridgeshire

2. Summary	
2.1	The purpose of SOTR24, the annual report refreshes and ongoing dashboard data updates, is to enable the Combined Authority and its partners to have a better, contextual understanding of the current and potential future economic, socio-economic and environmental state of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region. SOTR informs the development of the long-term ambition for the local region as a place, its positioning with government, the deepening of devolution and inward investment proposals. It gives a clear sense of where we need to prioritise resources and interventions, underpinning co-ordinated policy and strategy development. The primary objective of SOTR24 was to create a relevant, reliable and accessible evidence base. The interactive dashboard enables users to build their own analyses in chart, tabular or map form, as self-serve.
2.2	The SOTR24 report, slides and dashboard present an overview of the present economic, socio-economic and environmental state of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough region, with key findings and a detailed analysis of 140 indicators grouped into eight themes. The report also presents an analysis through the lens of the "stubborn challenges and threats" identified in the Combined Authority's Economic Growth Strategy 2022, and a new holistic model for understanding lived experience across the region, called 'Portraits'. Key findings are presented in a summary slide pack, report chapter summaries and a dashboard guided walkthrough. The interactive dashboard enables users to build their own analyses in chart, tabular or map form. **<u>Themes</u>** 1. Place 2. Business & Enterprise 3. Workforce, Jobs & Skills 4. Health & Wellbeing 5. Wildlife & Nature 6. Net Zero & Climate Resilience 7. Tackling Inequality 8. Connectivity
2.3	The completed project objectives: 1. Create a relevant, reliable and accessible evidence base on the current state of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Region 2. Assess the impact of recent macro-economic factors on how residents live and businesses operate 3. Champion the contribution the region is making regionally, nationally and internationally 4. Ensure the evidence base adds value to what is already being done locally and is aligned with locally established methodologies and reporting measures 5. Ensure that the evidence base is accessible to stakeholders from diverse sectors including local government, business and voluntary and community 6. Gain visibility and buy-in for the evidence base through communications and engagement 7. Achieve best value use of public funding by building on existing work 8. Build local data analysis and interpretation skills and capacity 9. Future proof the evidence bases with an annual refresh and automation interacting with external datasets

2.4	The SOTR24 review has been disseminated as a report, interactive dashboard and slide deck. The approved report and dashboard are presented in Appendix A (report) and Appendix B (interactive dashboard), the summary slides are available in Appendix C. CPCA directorates and other engagement groups have been offered the opportunity to receive a presentation on the findings of the SOTR24 analysis. These presentations will be tailored to the audience, accordingly, delivered both virtually and in person across various locations, and will cover either all SOTR24 themes or specific themes of interest. The roadshow will aim to ensure stakeholders have a clear understanding of the findings and recommendations from the SOTR24 report, fostering ongoing engagement and feedback.
2.5	SOTR24's approach to stakeholder engagement was recognised as leading best practice nationally, with a request to share our learning with the Office for National Statistics. The Combined Authority has also been invited to the inaugural UK Statistics Assembly event in January 2025; an opportunity for users and producers of statistics to come together to discuss and advise the UK Statistics Authority on the priorities, user needs and gaps for the country's statistics. Key findings from the review are presented by theme below (2.6 to 2.15).
2.6	**<u>Tackling Inequality - Key Findings</u>** **Income Inequality:** • Across the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough (C&P) region, the average inequality ratio is 3.1, meaning the top 20% of earners earn at least 3.1 times the amount of the bottom 20%. This is in line with the average for England which has an income inequality ratio of 3.0. • Most local authorities in the C&P region have an income inequality ratio below the average for England (3.0). Cambridge has the highest income inequality ratio at 4.2 and Fenland has the lowest of 2.6. **Gender Pay Gap:** • The average gender pay gap for local authorities within C&P is £6,800, marginally higher than the average in England (£6,100). • Between 2017 and 2023, the average gender pay gap in the C&P region has gradually increased by 11.4%. Over this period, the average pay gap in South Cambridgeshire (£11,100) has been almost twice that of the other local authority districts (£5,800). **Low & Unskilled Employment Rate:** • Across the C&P region, 3.1% of those in employment do not hold a Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF)-regulated qualification and are defined as "low or unskilled". This has decreased from 4.5% in 2014 and is similar to changes observed at a national level. • Low and unskilled work is decreasing across the C&P region, particularly in South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge, where reliance on knowledge economy employment is likely the highest. **Long-Term Conditions:** • Employment rates for those with long-term health conditions or illnesses in comparison to the total employed population is mixed across the C&P region. • In Peterborough, Fenland and Huntingdonshire, the gap has broadly fallen over time, while Cambridge has seen a slight increase. **Employment Access:** • Cambridge is presented as having the highest employment access inequality ratio, with 4 times as many people in Cambridge working within 10km of their home compared to those who need to travel further, indicating that more people in Cambridge live close to their workplace. • High density in urban areas is often related to higher inequality ratio, though this isn't a universal experience. The consist low scores across rural areas highlights the time and cost burdens associated with travel, which is a more common experience for a greater share of the rural population.

Fuel Poverty:

• Across the C&P region, as of 2021, 43,000 households are affected by fuel poverty, accounting for 11.7% of all households. This is below the average for England at 13.1%.

• Households in fuel poverty in C&P is notably lower than the average for several other combined authorities including the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) and West Yorkshire MCA, both at 17%, and the West Midlands MCA at 21%.

• All local authorities except for Fenland have an average fuel poverty rate that is less than the average for England. South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire have the lowest fuel poverty rates in the C&P region at 10.9% and 10.0% respectively.

• Fuel poverty in the region is not evenly experienced in the region. At the Local Super Output Area (LSOA) level, fuel poverty rates vary between 44% and 3% of households.

Food Banks:

• The number of food parcels per Trussell Trust food bank across the C&P region has increased between 2017 and 2023. All local authorities have seen an increase since 2017/18.

• Fenland and Peterborough have the highest number of food parcels delivered per centre at 3,000 each.

Life expectancy:

• Across the C&P region, both males and females in the least deprived areas of the region can expect to live approximately four years more than males and females in the most deprived areas. This is marginally below the average for England which is 5.2 years for males and 4.8 years for females.

• Cambridge has the largest inequality in life expectancy years between the least and most deprived areas with a difference of 10 and 9 years for men and women, respectively. South Cambridgeshire has the least disparity of less than 2 years for both men and women.

Health Deprivation:

• Most LSOAs in the southern areas of the C&P region, including South Cambridgeshire, East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire, and Cambridge, have low levels of deprivation and disability when compared across England.

• However, Fenland and Peterborough have higher levels of deprivation and disability, with one area of Westwood ranking in the highest 1% across England.

Premature Mortality Rule:

• Premature mortality rate for the C&P region has consistently been below that of England by roughly 40 deaths per 100,000 from 2001 to 2022.

• Fenland and Peterborough consistently show the highest levels of premature mortality in the C&P region, whilst Cambridge consistently shows the lowest premature mortality.

Cancer Diagnosis:

• The average percentage of cancer diagnoses at Stage 1 and 2 across the C&P region is 56%, higher (better) than the proportion across England which was 54% in 2021.

• Cancer diagnosis rates have decreased slightly over time since 2013. Most local authorities in C&P experience an average cancer diagnosis rate higher than the average for England.

• Most recently, East Cambridgeshire has the highest percentage of cancer diagnoses at Stage 1 and 2, at 59%, while Peterborough had the lowest at 54%.

Child Inequality:

• The infant mortality rate in the C&P region is 3.4 deaths per 1,000 births, slightly below the rate across England (3.9 deaths per 1,000 births).

• Most local authorities have seen the same broad pattern in relation to changes in the percentage of children in low-income households. The percentage modestly increased between 2015 and 2018, dropped between 2020 and 2021, before reporting a further small rise to 2023.

	• Childhood obesity rates in Year 6 children have been increasing over time (from 16.8% to 19.6%) but rates in the C&P region are still below the average for England (22.7%). • All local authorities in the C&P region have a lower percentage of young carers than the average for England, except Fenland.
2.7	**Place - Key Findings** **Population Forecasts:** • C&P's population is anticipated to grow by 18% between 2021 and 2041, an increase of over 150,000, with the fastest growth (35%) expected in South Cambridgeshire. **Major Settlements:** • Peterborough and Cambridge combined account for over a third of a million people – roughly 38% of C&P's population. **Small Settlements:** • Many small settlements, with populations of ten thousand or less, collectively account for roughly 34% of the C&P region's population. **Ethnicity:** • White ethnic groups comprise 85% of C&P's population. • There are however clusters of ethnic diversity including an area of Peterborough and Millfield where 70% of the population identify as ethnic minorities. **Land Classification:** • 8% of C&P's land is developed and 92% of land is non-developed. **Agricultural Land:** • Agriculture plays a key land use role, accounting for 79% of total land use, compared to the UK average of 63%. • C&P contains 34% of the UK's total Grade 1 (excellent quality) agricultural land, an important regional and national asset. **Non-Agricultural Land:** • Of non-agricultural land, a high share is represented by residential gardens (22% in Cambridge). **Green Belt:** • 8% of land across the C&P region is designated as Green Belt including 26% of the land in South Cambridgeshire and 24% of the land in Cambridge. **Nature:** • Only 6.4% of land across the C&P region is designated for nature, consisting of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) at 2.4%; Ramsar (wetland of international importance) sites at 1.1%; ancient woodland at 0.8%; local nature reserves 0.1%; and national nature reserves at 0.4%.
2.8	**Connectivity - Key Findings** **Access to Education and Healthcare:** • The majority of larger Built-Up Areas have access to education within a 20-minute cycle, most commonly to primary education. However, not all built up areas have access to education, primary or secondary, within a 20-minute walk. • Peterborough and Huntingdon have access to all types of healthcare facilities within a 20-minute cycle. Access to healthcare facilities decreases with distance from city centres with some rural communities with no access to healthcare facilities within a 20-minute cycle. • Access to healthcare is greatly reduced when looking at 20-minute walk, with rural areas and some built up areas lacking access to any healthcare facility.

	Active Travel: • In 2022, 50% of residents in the C&P region used active travel three or more times a week, on average, compared to the average for England of 45%. • There has not been a significant change in the proportion of residents using active travel more than 3 times per week between 2016 and 2022, however there has been a notable decrease in Cambridge and an increase in Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire. **Public Transport:** • Bus stops are most densely located in Cambridge and Peterborough. Fenland and Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire have particularly low levels of bus service coverage. • Cambridge and Peterborough railway stations are generally the busiest train stations in the region. The core movement of rail demand within the C&P region is between Cambridge and Ely, with extensive demand travelling to and from London. **Local Road Safety:** • Between 2016 and 2020, the C&P region had a total of 8,930 total road collisions. The highest number of collisions occurred in Peterborough at 2,370 and the lowest in East Cambridgeshire at 780. **Car Ownership:** • Across the C&P region, the average number of cars per household is 1.4, higher than the average across England of 1.2. • East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire, and Huntingdonshire have car ownership rates between 1.5 and 1.6 per household. Likely due to the rural nature of the authorities as well as car dependent infrastructure. • Rural areas have a higher percentage of households with three or more cars. In some LSOAs the percentage of households with three or more cars is as high as 28%. **Electric Vehicle Ownership:** • The C&P region had a total of 18,000 private and commercial licenced battery Electric Vehicles (EVs) in the final quarter of 2022. • Peterborough has a significantly higher number of registered EVs than the rest of the authorities in the C&P region at 12,000, a 1,400% increase from 2016. However, uptake is not universal across the region with Fenland being in the bottom 12% of authorities for EV counts. **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure:** • In 2024, the C&P region had 52 electric chargepoints per 100,000 residents. While this is the highest in the combined authority peer group, it is a third less than the average for England (82 chargepoints per 100,000 residents). • The prevalence of chargepoints in the C&P region has increased 320% since 2019. This is slightly below the average for England. **Digital Connectivity:** • As of 2023, a total of 269,000 premises have full fibre availability and 330,000 have gigabit availability across the C&P region. This accounts for 66% and 80% of all premises, respectively.
2.9	**<u>Business and Enterprise - Key Findings</u>** **Thriving UK Economy:** • C&P is a thriving and high performing UK economy. In 2022 C&P Gross Value Added (GVA) was £31 billion, representing 1.6% of England's total. Cambridge and Peterborough account for almost half of this. **GVA Growth:**

• In 2022, the C&P region's GVA was 160% greater than it was in 1998, compared to 150% increase over the English economy as a whole.

• The C&P region performs well when compared to other Combined Authority peers, having GVA per head consistently above South Yorkshire MCA, West Yorkshire MCA, and the average for England, but below West of England MCA.

• The GVA growth of Cambridge (230%, over a tripling in size) and South Cambridgeshire (180%), both outperformed the wider English economy, highlighting their regional importance.

• Since 2020, GVA growth in C&P has been above the average for England showing a relatively stronger recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

• By 2045, the C&P GVA is expected to have increased a further 100%.

GVA per Head:

• The GVA per head of population has grown across the C&P region by 98% between 1998 and 2022, compared to the England average of 117% over the same period. Outliers include Cambridge (144%) and Peterborough (59%).

• The C&P region performs well when compared to other Combined Authority peers, having GVA per head consistently above South Yorkshire MCA, West Yorkshire MCA, and the average for England, but again below West of England MCA.

• However, the C&P region has only seen an 11% increase in GVA per head since 2020, below the most recent growth observed in the other combined authority peers.

GVA per Job:

• As a whole, C&P produced £60,000 GVA per job in 2021, below the average for England (£61,000). There are clear nuances between the region, for instance, productivity in Fenland is substantially lower than the regional average, at £46,000 per job – almost 25% less productive than the average for the C&P region.

Turnover and Key Sectors:

• C&P's turnover was £57 billion during the 2022/23 period.

• The manufacturing sector accounts for £13 billion of total turnover with manufacturing in Peterborough, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire accounting for approximately £2.5 billion to £3.5 billion each of this.

• Life Science & Healthcare and the Wholesale & Retail Distribution Sectors are large contributors to C&Ps economy (representing a third of turnover), £9.9 billion and £8.9 billion, respectively.

• Businesses within the Life Science & Healthcare sector generate the highest turnover per employee at £450,000.

Business Growth:

• There has generally been a steady increase in businesses across the C&P region (14% overall) between 2016/17 to 2022/23, with a slight decrease in overall business numbers in 2022/23, compared to the preceding year.

• Peterborough has the highest levels of business growth in the region, consistently increasing since 2016/17 leading to an overall growth of 30%. Whilst business growth in Cambridge has been weaker than the overall growth across the C&P region.

• C&P's small business growth rate of 24% since 2010, is lower than the 32% value for England.

• Peterborough has seen strong growth in small businesses since 2010 and now has the highest number of small businesses of all C&P LADs.

International Comparators:

• Cambridge leads globally in scientific publication intensity, producing over 37,000 SCIE (Science Citation Index Expanded) articles per million people, accounts for 13.2% of UK patent filings and leads the WIPO rankings for Science and Technology intensity globally.

	• Ranking 2nd in Europe for Venture Capital activity, behind only London, Cambridge is a driver of investment within the UK economy. • New analysis introduces comparison for Cambridge and the C&P region against a set of US peers that have experienced recent strong economic growth. Against these peers, the region appears to compare well in terms of overall jobs and businesses in the knowledge economy however new business growth appears to have been stronger in the comparator group in recent years. • GDP/capita is notably lower within Cambridge and the C&P compared to the US peer group. Median incomes are also markedly lower which may be an important area for further investigation to ensure that the region continues to provide a globally competitive offer to international talent. **Research & Development:** • C&P demonstrates strength as an innovator. For instance, 53% of businesses in the C&P region are classed as innovation active, compared to 46% in England. • The percentage of businesses that are product innovators is also the greatest area of difference between the C&P region and the average for England suggesting this is relative strength of the C&P region. **Visitor Economy:** • On average, there were 26 million tourist trips annually to the C&P region during the 2017-2019 period. Day visitors account for 96% of trips.
2.10	**<u>Health and Wellbeing - Key Findings</u>** **Life Expectancy at Birth:** • The average life expectancy for men (80.3 years) and the average life expectancy for women (83.6 years) in the region, both exceed the national averages for men and women (79.1 years and 83.1 years respectively). • C&P region boasts the highest life expectancy for men and the second highest for women compared to the Combined Authority peer group. • Overall, females within the region have a higher life expectancy compared to males, expecting to live over three years longer. • Fenland has the lowest life expectancy (77.3 years in 2020). **Avoidable Deaths:** • The rate of avoidable deaths is significantly higher in Peterborough and East Cambridgeshire, compared to the rest of the region. They both exceed the national average (234 per 100,000 population) in 2018-2020, at 266 and 258 per 100,000, respectively. • South Cambridgeshire maintains the lowest rates of avoidable mortality within the region, decreasing to 193 per 100,000 population in 2018-2020. • Levels of avoidable mortality in East Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Cambridge have all decreased, remaining below the national average at 184, 180, 193 respectively in 2018-2020. **Healthy Life Expectancy:** • Since 2011, the average health life expectancy for both males (63.9 years) and females (65.5 years) in the region has exceeded the national averages (63.1 years and 63.9 years respectively). • The C&P region has a relatively high life expectancy in comparison to the other combined authority areas. Specifically, the C&P region boasts the highest life expectancy for men and the second highest for women. • Areas in the south, such as Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, had the highest healthy life expectancies for both genders, exceeding 75 years. However, the north of the region had a significantly lower healthy life expectancy compared to the south. Peterborough displayed the lowest healthy life expectancy for both genders within the region with some areas reporting healthy life expectancy of 55 years. • The life expectancy gap (between the lowest and highest healthy life expectancies) is 20 years.

	Inactivity Levels: • In 2022, inactivity levels were highest in Peterborough and Fenland (at 30.2% and 27.7% respectively) with both areas reporting levels of inactivity that are higher than the average for England (22.3%). • Rates of inactivity have increased since 2016 (rising by 5.9 percentage points in Peterborough and 2.2 percentage points in Fenland). • Other districts within the CPCA all report inactivity rates below the average for England, with inactivity levels lowest in Cambridge (at 12.9%). **Participation in Sport:** • Sport participation is highest in Cambridge, with 78% of the population regularly participation in sporting activities (2021/22). • Fenland has the lowest percentage of residents regularly participation in sport, reporting a rate of 51% in 2021/22. • There is a 27-percentage point difference in sport participation within the region. **Life Satisfaction:** • During the 2014 to 2023 period the scores across the region appear to fluctuate slightly within a range of 7.5 and 8 (out of 10), which represent high levels of life satisfaction. • Notably, the data for Cambridge reports a remarkable decline in life satisfaction from 2021, falling to 6.46 in 2023 (below the average for England). **Wellbeing:** • From 2014 to 2023, the wellbeing scores across the region fluctuate within a range of 7.4 and 8.3, representing "high" levels of wellbeing. • Overall, within the C&P region, the percentage of people feeling lonely is 21.4%, compared to the average for England of 22.2%. **Child Poverty:** • Between 2015 and 2023 the overall average percentage of children living in poverty across C&P was 12%, notably less than the average across the UK of 20%. • Peterborough has a significantly higher percentage of children living in child poverty compared to the wider region, reaching 21% in 2022, exceeding the national average. **House Prices:** • House prices diverge significantly across the C&P region with median house prices varying between a low of £105,000, and a high of £1,590,000 (at LSOA level). • A clear spatial pattern is evident, with the south and the east of the region often having higher house prices, whereas LSOAs towards the north and west of the region have considerably lower house prices. • Across C&P, the average house price is 8.6 times greater than the average full-time worker annual earnings. **Housing Delivery:** • Across the region, the number of annual net additions to the housing supply has increased by 29% since 2014. East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire have been clear drivers of this increase, each increasing their annual net addition to housing by 340%, 84% and 106%, respectively. • C&P has seen a higher average annual growth in affordable housing (at 10%), compared to the growth in England (at 5.6%). **Crime Rates:** • Between 2018 to 2023 total crime rate for the region increased marginally, reaching 78.3 per 1,000 population in 2023, less than the national average of 90.2.

	• Violence against a person has gradually increased since 2018 and accounts for 36% of the total crime rate for the region in 2023. • Theft offences account for an equally large proportion of the total crime rate (34%), however this rate has by decreased slightly since 2018. • Peterborough has the highest rates of crime. This is true for all crime categories except for theft and burglary, where Cambridge has the highest rates of crime, (an explanation may be higher rates of bike theft in the city). • South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire have the lowest rates of crime for each offence group. **Positive Outcomes for Violence & Sexual Offences:** • Overall, the rate of positive outcomes for these selected crimes is 12.9% across the C&P region. **Volunteering & Community Groups:** • The region has a strong voluntary and community sector with all local authorities except Fenland reporting a higher percentage of Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations among all businesses than the average for England (3.1%). Cambridge boasts the highest proportion of VCS organisations in the region, representing 10.1% of all businesses in the area as of 2023.
2.11	**<u>Workforce, Jobs and Skills - Key Findings</u>** **Total Employees:** • The number of total employees has grown by just 2.2% in C&P since 2017, which is below the 5.1% England average. • Employment growth in C&P can be almost entirely attributed to the 6.8% growth in total employees observed in Cambridge. **Employment Rate:** • The Employment rate in C&P in 2022/23 was 79.1% compared to 75.7% in England. • The overall employment rate across the C&P region has remained relatively stable and since 2017/18 has been consistently greater than the national average. • On average, the employment rate in Fenland is the regions lowest, with a rate of 72%. In contrast, East Cambridgeshire has the highest five-year average employment rate at 84%. **Sectoral Employment:** • Total C&P employment across all sectors was 256,000. • The largest employment sector is Manufacturing with 40,500 employees. Other Business Services (which includes management consultancy, professional business services, employment agencies and marketing) is the second largest, employing 30,400 people. **Employment Growth by Sector:** • Total employment within C&P grew by 23% between 2016/17 to 2022/23. The strongest growth was in the Life Science and Healthcare sector at 84%, increasing from 11,900 employees in 2016/17 to 22,000 in 2022/23. **Travel to Work Disparities:** • 79% of working age residents in employment in Cambridge worked within 5km of home or at home, however, in East Cambridge this figure is 47%, and in Fenland 44%. This suggests that many residents within East Cambridge and Fenland need to travel further to find work, often commuting out of district. It should be noted that the travel to work data was collected in 2021 where working patterns saw significant changes as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Median Worker Pay:** • Median earnings for full-time workers varies significantly throughout the region. Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire enjoy median incomes that are 14-15% higher than the average for England,

respectively in 2023, while Fenland's median income of just £31,400 is 10% below the average for England.

Disposable Income:

• There are clear differences in disposable income (after tax and benefits received) across the region.

• South Cambridgeshire had the highest disposable income (at £27,000), or 22% greater than the average for England (at £22,000).

• Despite residents in Cambridge having similar median earnings to those in South Cambridgeshire, residents in Cambridge have a far lower disposable income (at £22,800 on average), 16% below the average in South Cambridgeshire.

• In Peterborough and Fenland disposable incomes are 20% and 15% below the average for England respectively. Median earnings in Fenland are 24% lower than the average for England, implying that lower wages are largely offset by lower living cost.

In-Work Universal Credit:

• Overall, the proportion of employees receiving in-work Universal Credit is in line with the average for England (7%).

• Peterborough has the highest proportion of employees receiving in-work Universal Credit (at 13%), almost double the proportion across the whole of England. Fenland (at 9%) also has a higher proportion of workers claiming Universal Credit than the average for England. The percentage of claimants in the remaining four authorities is below the average for England. For instance, in South Cambridgeshire only 4% of employees receive Universal Credit.

Workforce Working Long Hours (>45 hours):

• Overall, the percentage of the workforce working long hours is higher in C&P (22.9%) compared to the average for England (20.6%).

• Fenland has the highest average percentage of workforce working long hours (at 27%). This is significantly higher than the average across England which is 23%.

Young Person Attainment (Age 16 to 19):

• Attainment across C&P is broadly in line with the England average, with the exception of Fenland.

• Fenland has the lowest proportion of Level 3 attainment at 48.7% and also has low levels of Level 2 attainment at 72.2%. These outcomes are notably lower than the averages for England of 60.7% and 81.7% respectively.

Education Participation Rates (Post 18):

• The overall participation in Education and Training in C&P is 1,492 per 100,000 below the average for England of 1,922 per 100,000. Peterborough is the only authority with a post-18 education rate surpassing the average for England.

• Peterborough also has the greatest participation rate for further education and skills, at 4,390 per 100,000.

Residents Educated to NVQ3+:

• Across the C&P region, the percentage of residents educated to NVQ3+ is marginally below the average in England (66.0% compared to 66.4% respectively).

• Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire have high percentages of residents educated to NVQ3+ compared to the England average (81.8% and 71.1% respectively, compared to 66.4%).

• Peterborough, Huntingdonshire and Fenland have lower than average percentages of residents educated to NVQ3+ (57.4%, 61.3% and 62.6% respectively).

Young People not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET):

• The NEET rate in C&P was respectively 2.5% and 4.4%. This is substantially lower than the England rate of 5.2%.

	• The NEET rate of Peterborough, although less than England, is almost double that of Cambridgeshire. • Across the region the NEET rate for males is higher than for females. **Apprenticeships:** • Apprenticeship start and participation rates are lower in the C&P region than the average for England. The C&P region has the lowest start and participation rates within the Combined Authority peer group. • Apprenticeship participation rates per 100,000 have consistently declined in the region since 2017/18. The region has seen declining rates since 2020/21, a worrying trend given the average for England and other Combined Authorities have increased year on year. • Apprenticeship start rates in Fenland, Peterborough, Huntingdonshire and East Cambridgeshire are close or fairly close to the average for England. However, Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire consistently show a lower start rate than the national average.
2.12	**<u>Wildlife and Nature - Key Findings</u>** **Access to Green Spaces:** • There is a high median distance to formal green space reported in the majority of local authority areas within the region, with all areas but Cambridge having a greater distance to formal green space than the average for England (612m). **Access to Blue & Green Infrastructure:** • The average area of publicly accessible green and blue infrastructure within the C&P region is 22 hectares per 1,000 population. This is lower than the value across England which is 32 hectares per 1,000 population. • East Cambridgeshire has the highest average area of publicly available green and blue infrastructure. • The urban nature of Cambridge means that, while it has the lowest average green and blue infrastructure by area, it is easier for the population to access. **Nature Rich Land:** • 8.6% of the C&P region's total land area is classified as nature rich. • The vast majority of nature rich land in C&P is Semi-natural Grassland or Broadleaf Woodland. **Tree Cover:** • The average canopy cover per ward in the C&P region is 10%. • Rural areas have a lower canopy cover compared to urban areas. Low density buildings with high levels of agricultural land use are not associated with higher levels of canopy cover without intervention. **Local Sites:** • The total number of sites across the C&P region that have significant geological or biodiversity conservation value has increased from 517 in 2008/09 to 552 in 2022/23. • Overall, the percentage of sites in positive conservation management within the C&P region reached a peak of 65% in 2013/14 and has subsequently declined to 48% in the latest data (2022/23) which is higher than the average for England at 43%. **Number of Species:** • The C&P region is home to 19,000 unique species, of which 1,000 are invasive. • Cambridge has the highest proportion of species that are invasive at 8% while Fenland has the lowest at 0.2%.
2.13	**<u>Net Zero and Climate Resilience - Key Findings</u>** **Carbon Dioxide Equivalent Emissions:** • Emissions per square kilometre have declined throughout the C&P region since 2005 falling to 2.34kt CO_2e/km^2 by 2021 (compared to the average for England of 2.32 kt CO_2e/km^2).

	• C&P has the lowest emissions per square kilometre in comparison to the Combined Authority peer group with peers having emissions per square kilometre that are between 1.6 (West of England MCA) and 2.3 (West Yorkshire MCA) times higher than the C&P region. • However, C&P has reduced emissions by just 8% from 2015 to 2021 while other combined authorities have all reduced by 15-17%. • Under a 'Do Nothing' scenario, by 2045 all Local Authority Districts would experience an increase in emissions. **Emissions Intensity Ratio:** • All areas across the C&P region have seen a decrease in their emissions intensity ratios in the past 15 years. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Capita:** • Emissions per capita in C&P are 8.9 tCO_2e per person compared to the average for England of 5.5 tCO_2e per person. • C&P has the highest emissions per capita and lowest relative reduction in emissions per capita when compared to other combined authority peers. C&P has seen a decrease in emissions per capita of 13% while other combined authorities have seen reductions ranging from 16% (South Yorkshire MCA) to 21% (West of England MCA). • Urban areas in C&P have lower emissions per capita compared to more rural areas. • This is potentially caused by variables including better access to public transport, shorter average journey distances, a higher share of energy-efficient buildings, and differences in agricultural land-use and economic sectors. **Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Sector:** • Agricultural activity, the drying of peatland, and low levels of tree cover have caused notable emissions across the C&P region. Most other Local Authorities see net negative emissions in the land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector. • Emissions from all sectors have dropped since 2005. The largest decrease has been in the commercial sector (79%). **Energy Efficiency:** • Energy consumption per square kilometre has not decreased since 2011 in the C&P region. The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions across the region are therefore not linked to decreasing energy use. **Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) Registrations:** • Across the C&P region, the proportion of EPCs above a C is 69% which is notably higher than the average across England which is 59%. • The percentage of EPC registrations rated C or higher has been increasing across C&P. **Renewable (Solar Photovoltaic (PV)) Capacity:** • Solar PV capacity has more than doubled in the C&P region since 2014, marking a 156.8% increase. Solar PV Capacity in the region represents 4.9% of the total in England. **Renewable Energy Generation:** • Total renewable generation across the C&P region is 1,608,000 MWh as of 2022. This accounts for 2% of total generation across England. • 75% of solar energy generation comes from East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire, and Fenland. **Recycling Rate:**

	• Recycling rates in the C&P region are above the average for England, at 47% and 41%, respectively. Cambridge, East Cambridgeshire, and Huntingdon exceed the national average significantly, while Peterborough and Fenland are slightly behind. • All C&P areas produce similar amounts of waste per person in a range of 0.38 (East Cambridgeshire) to 0.44 (Fenland) tonnes. **Extreme Weather Days:** • Across the C&P region, there have been an annual average of 12.2 days with over 10mm of rainfall and 0.4 extreme summer days where the maximum temperature exceeds 35°C. • The areas with the highest average annual extreme rainfall days tend to be associated with elevation. Areas with the lowest average annual extreme rainfall days are in more central areas of the region, particularly in Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire. **Flood Risk:** • Across the C&P region, 37% of land is at risk of flooding from rivers and the sea. • Most land at risk of flooding is designated as medium risk due to the low topography of the land. Waterways constitute the main risk of flooding to Cambridge and South Cambridge.
2.14	**Stubborn Challenges** A set of “stubborn challenges and threats” for C&P region was previously identified within the CPCA Economic Growth Strategy 2022. To help provide a summary of the data explored within this report, it is useful to consider whether any of those known policy challenges have seen improvement, deterioration or no change in the latest readings. The CPCA Economic Growth Strategy 2022 presented the following issues within the C&P region as being “stubborn challenges”: • Persistent inequalities in health, income and access to opportunities • Retail decline and lack of investment in town and city centres • Climate change adaption and carbon reduction • Pressures on biodiversity, environmental assets and natural capital, including access to green space • Concentrations of low skill levels and areas of low provision • High vacancy levels and recruitment challenges in key sectors • Barriers to competitiveness and good growth, including pressure on supporting infrastructure including digital, transport, water and affordable housing. While it is important to note that not all of these issues are addressed or monitored by the SOTR24 in this edition, there are important datasets and data time series that do help provide a data-driven update on progress against these known challenges.
2.15	**A New Model to Aid Regional Understanding** SOTR data indicates that the region is very diverse with different communities having very different lived experiences across a wide range of data domains. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER) 2018 suggested a “three economies” model to help explain these differences. SOTR24 has prompted an exploration of alternative models that can provide a more holistic view of the region, that considers economic factors alongside environmental and social factors. In developing a simplified representation to help understand the region, the following factors have been taken into account: • Making best use of consolidated data • Responding to key changes since the COVID-19 pandemic • Interpreting the region beyond traditional boundaries.

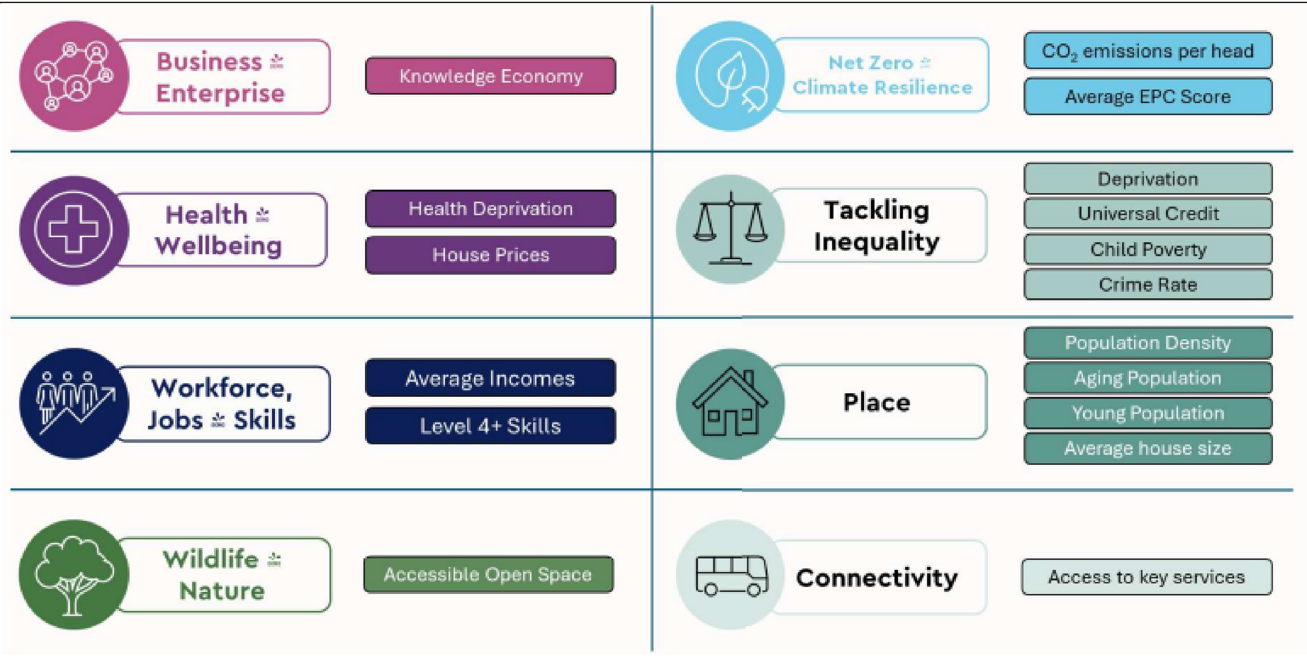
To provide an example of how the model could be evolved a "clustering" approach has been tested. This is based on data for Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which allows the data to link across multiple domains. There are currently 516 LSOAs within C&P. Clustering is a tool that groups those LSOA based on the data and draw out the most pertinent data-driven similarities and differences. A model based on the 7 "Portraits" has been developed. The "Portraits" provide a narrative to help interpret the different types of lived experience across the region.

The clustering algorithm identified seven portraits as follows:

Place Density	Portrait Name	Broad Portrait Characteristics
Urban	**Prosperous Urban**	These areas are characterised by having the highest levels of knowledge economy jobs, highest average incomes, highest levels of skills and best access to services.
	Disadvantaged Urban	These areas are characterised by having the lowest incomes, highest levels of deprivation, high universal credit claims and child poverty and broad support needs.
Lower Density Urban or Suburban	**Younger Communities**	These less dense city areas have the highest proportions of young people but compared to the Growing Communities portrait have higher incomes and better access to services.
	Ageing Suburban	These areas have the lowest levels of young (0-16) populations, high aging populations, low incomes, lower skills and low knowledge economy jobs.
Peri-Urban	**Growing Communities**	These urban fringe areas are more likely to be city extensions or settlements further away from the cities. They have high proportions of young people but modest incomes and poorer access to services.
Rural	**Prosperous Rural**	These areas are characterised by being the least deprived of all areas. These areas are often associated with the highest house prices. These areas also often have an older demographic with low proportions of young people (0 to 16).
	Disadvantaged Rural	These rural areas are characterised by low incomes, lower levels of skills and poor access to services. Again, more likely to be associated with an older demographic, but with some younger families.

The statistical process used a sub-set of data from the 140 datasets, aligned to the core themes. A sub-set of data and factoring methods were used to remove biases from any particular theme, and to address issues of multicollinearity within the data. Multicollinearity is a model issue of when explanatory variables are correlated, skewing or otherwise causing spurious results.

The input data used is shown thematically.



Limitations

• The approach takes rich data from across 516 LSOAs and presents a simplified view of the commonalities and differences. The simplification is useful in helping to understand the aggregate, but specific localised data should also be considered where policies are being developed.

• It is important to note that this is a simplification and that each cluster will have variability within it cross all the data domains. Even with each LSOA there will also be variability.

• Some LSOAs may be very close to being included in a different cluster. The “strength” of membership to a specific portrait is not discernible without presenting more detailed data.

• The categorisation uses multiple factors. An individual LSOA may score very differently to the group on one factor, but still appear within the group due to wider scores.

Benefits

• It helps simplify the understanding of complex data across multiple domains

• It enables a more nuanced approach regarding places and lived experiences across the region

• It enables the ability to draw out commonalities between places that go across traditional local authority boundaries helping to identify common policy challenges.

2.16 **Next steps: SOTR25**

Obtained from the SOTR24 stakeholder engagement, chiefly through the working groups, suggestions for SOTR25 were collated to help inform the 2025 iteration of the report and dashboard. In total, 99 recommendations were received for the report, whilst 25 suggestions were received for the dashboard. Both lists of suggestions have been codified, ranging from simpler design improvements to more complex ideas of data analysis and improved use of benchmarking. Stakeholders deemed the suitability of the recommendations as appropriate for SOTR25 rather than SOTR24 due to budget and resource constraints, data unavailability and alike. The classified possibilities are to be sounded back to the wide array of stakeholder partners to further test their suitability. Doing so will form the core of the stakeholder engagement for SOTR25.

In addition, a lessons learnt survey was sent to SOTR24 working group members and, broadly, SOTR users. Whereas the suggestions for SOTR25 are anchored to specific recommendations pertaining to data, structure, and themes, the lessons learnt survey is broader to capture lessons regarding SOTR24 as a large-sized project. For example, the strengths and weaknesses of the project, how well the objectives were met, levels of individual satisfaction and suggestions for improving project praxis.

	A combined Shared Ambition/SOTR lessons learnt session was also held on 3rd December, an open discussion amongst both CPCA staff and partner organisations who were involved in SOTR24. Together, these quality improvement mechanisms, already undertaken or planned, and those yet to emerge as ongoing practice will ensure that SOTR continues to proffer a robust and quality resource for policy-and-strategy formulation. It is anticipated that the SOTR25 report will be launched in June/July of 2025.

3.	**Appendices**
3.1	Appendix A – State of the Region 2024 Report (Final approved version)
3.2	Appendix B – (link only) to State of the Region 2024 Dashboard State of the Region 2024
3.3	Appendix C – State of the Region 2024 Summary Slides
3.4	Appendix D – State of the Region 2024 Dashboard User Guide (Brief Getting Started)
3.5	Appendix E – State of the Region 2024 Dashboard Demo Video (circulated separately to members)

4. Implications	
Have the following been taken into account?	
Financial Implications	
Yes ☒ No☐	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal Implications	
Yes ☒ No☐	The importance of the state of the region assessment and the requirement to keep the Combined Authority updated on this information is set out in the Combined Authority's Constitution as it relates to the Single Assurance Framework, see Section 20, sections on the strategic framework and performance reporting.
Public Health Implications	
Yes ☒ No☐	SOTR24 presents public health insights that will inform future policy and investment decisions.
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
Yes ☒ No☐	SOTR24 presents environmental and climate change insights that will inform future policy and investment decisions.
Other Significant Implications	
Yes ☒ No☐	SOTR24 presents insights that will inform future policy and investment decisions.