

**Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority
Independent Improvement Board Assessment July 2024**

The Independent Improvement Board (IIB) met on 1st July and reviewed the Combined Authority's progress against its Improvement Plan, together with the evidence collated to illustrate impact. For part of the meeting, the IIB was joined by the Corporate Management Team who provided their perspectives on the organisation's improvement journey.

Once again, the IIB is assured and encouraged by the continued momentum of the Combined Authority's improvement journey. The IIB concurs with the RAG rating of each of the Improvement Plan's workstreams, all of which are assessed as Green.

In addition, the IIB considers the evidence pack that has been compiled by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to be compelling. It also chimes with the positivity, enthusiasm and commitment to continuous improvement displayed by the Corporate Management Team. These attributes are apparent too from the social media coverage of the Combined Authority's recent CIVILS staff event and the experience of those IIB Board members who visited the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's stand at UKREiiF.

Building on the preparations for UKREiiF, the continued development of the region's strategic ambitions and a delivery plan flowing from these remains an important area of work and a key expectation set out in the Best Value Notice. The IIB is encouraged by the increasing engagement of the constituent authorities and partners in this work, which should be continued. With the General Election behind us, there is an important opportunity for the Combined Authority to position the region with the new Government. In this context, it is important that the Board does not allow itself to be unduly distracted by debates about area governance.

In summary, building on the momentum and increasing collaboration to date, it is important that the Combined Authority continues to focus on the refinement of its strategic ambitions for the region and how these can be delivered. Understandably, parties will want to position themselves in the lead up to the mayoral elections in May 2025, but the Combined Authority should now look to display sufficient maturity to accommodate this.

Richard Carr, Chair, Independent Improvement Board