

# Department for Communities and Local Government

Cllr Dr David Bard  
Leader  
South Cambridgeshire District  
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**HENRY CLEARY**  
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Dear Cllr Bard

## GROWTH IN AND AROUND CAMBRIDGE - BUSINESS PLAN AND REVIEW MEETING WITH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS AND PARTNERS

I am writing to invite you to attend a meeting with Yvette Cooper MP, Minister for Housing and Planning, to review progress on housing delivery and sustainable communities in the Cambridgeshire sub-region. The meeting will be held here in Eland House at **4:30pm** on **Wednesday 11 October**. I am writing similarly to Sir David Trippier, the other local authority members of the Horizons board, and to John Lewis from English Partnerships. A full list of invitees for the meeting is attached.

Cambridge and its planning for growth have rightly achieved national recognition in terms of its commitment to sustainability, quality and forward planning for infrastructure such as transport. The scale of the challenge is unprecedented in recent decades - the new community at Northstowe is the largest development scheme since the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation new towns. The principal focus for the Minister's meeting will be to look, taking account of experience so far, at the challenge of the major housing sites such as Northstowe, and to consider whether the delivery arrangements are sufficient to generate confidence that these will be delivered to the planned timetable. There are four key areas that the Minister would like to focus discussion on:

- (i) Resources for growth - making the best use of available resources from public and private funding;
- (ii) Recent progress on delivery in terms of (a) small sites; (b) medium sites - up to 500 dwellings; and (c) the four or five major schemes;
- (iii) Progress in strengthening capacity to deal with major housing applications in the local authorities, as well as Cambridgeshire Horizons;

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- (iv) Projected ability to deal with major planning applications over the next 5 years.

As you may know the Government Office and ourselves have worked with Cambridgeshire Horizons to develop housing trajectories for the major growth locations, we will circulate the latest version to participants ahead of the meeting as background for the discussion.

You will also be aware that we have recently initiated the LDV Review for Cambridgeshire Horizons, undertaken by John Walker. An interim report should be available by mid-October. In common with other LDVs in the growth areas we are reviewing each, on a rolling programme, in terms of performance so far and whether this is the right model for going forward. John Walker has also been invited to attend the meeting to give a short summary of his interim findings, to aid discussion.

Please let me know if there are any other issues you wish to add to the agenda for the Minister's meeting. Please confirm your attendance to Bruce Collinson (Bruce.Collinson@communities.gsi.gov.uk) on 020 7944 8159.

I am copying this to Brian Hackland at GO-East.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JHCleary', with a horizontal line drawn underneath the name.

HENRY CLEARY

GROWTH IN AND AROUND CAMBRIDGE -  
BUSINESS PLAN AND REVIEW MEETING  
WITH CAMBRIDGESHIRE HORIZONS AND PARTNERS

WEDNESDY 11 OCTOBER

4:30 PM - Eland House

Yvette Cooper MP	Minister for Housing and Planning
Andrew Wells	Director of New Housing and Communities
Henry Cleary	Head of Growth Areas Division
Brian Hackland	Regional Director, Government Office for the East of England
Sir David Trippier	Chairman, Cambridgeshire Horizons
Stephen Catchpole	Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire Horizons
Cllr John Reynolds	Deputy Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Ian Nimmo Smith	Leader, Cambridge City Council
Cllr Dr David Bard	Leader, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Valerie Leake	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr Alan Melton	Fenland District Council
Cllr Ian Bates	Leader, Huntingdonshire District Council
John Lewis	Regional Director, Eastern England, English Partnerships
John Walker	