



**GREATER
CAMBRIDGE
PARTNERSHIP**

Growing and sharing prosperity

9 July 2019

Dear Householder,

We need your help to solve a key issue facing Greater Cambridge. We are looking for a group of residents to come together for four days to make recommendations to the Greater Cambridge Partnership on:

How do we reduce congestion, improve air quality, and provide better public transport in Greater Cambridge?

To help us answer this question you are invited to register your interest in attending a Citizens' Assembly in Cambridge, to be held **over two weekends: 7-8 September and 5-6 October**.

The Citizens' Assembly will bring together people from all walks of life to hear evidence, discuss and make recommendations on these important issues. There are no easy answers and this is an opportunity to tell us what you think needs to be done. All we require from you are your views and ideas – you don't need to have any prior knowledge of the issues to take part.

Every person 16 years old and over, at this address, can register his or her interest by visiting www.sortitionfoundation.org/rsvp or by calling Freephone 0800 009 6486 (9am-6pm, Monday-Saturday). The deadline to do so is **midnight Monday 22 July 2019**.

If you are selected to take part we will cover your meals and transport costs and give you **£300** to thank you for your time participating.

More details about the event are available overleaf. We thank you for your interest and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

CLlr Lewis Herbert Leader
of Cambridge City
Council

CLlr Ian Bates
Cambridgeshire
County Council

CLlr Aidan Van de Weyer
South Cambridgeshire
District Council

Claire Ruskin
Cambridge Network

Professor Phil Allmendinger
University of Cambridge

Frequently Asked Questions: The Greater Cambridge Citizens' Assembly on Congestion, Air Quality and Public Transport

What is a Citizens' Assembly?

Citizens' Assemblies are an innovative democratic tool used all over the world. They bring together a randomly selected, broadly representative sample of people to learn about important issues, discuss them with one another, and then make recommendations about what should happen and how things should change.

What will taking part involve?

The focus of this Citizens' Assembly is **How do we reduce congestion, improve air quality, and provide better public transport in Greater Cambridge?**

If you are selected to take part you will have the opportunity to meet with individuals from all walks of life who live and travel regularly within Greater Cambridge, have discussions and hear from engaging expert speakers. You do not need to have any prior knowledge of the topics – all the information you need will be provided over the course of the two weekends.

As a member of the Citizens' Assembly you will hear evidence, work with other participants and come up with recommendations. These will be presented to the Greater Cambridge Partnership's Joint Assembly and Executive Board in November/December 2019. The Executive Board will then use it to inform their future decisions on how to address congestion, air quality and public transport.

Who is commissioning the Citizens' Assembly?

The Greater Cambridge Partnership is commissioning the Citizens' Assembly. The partners of the Greater Cambridge Partnership are **Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, the University of Cambridge** and a **representative of the business community**. They are responsible for

making and implementing some of the decisions around transport in the area.

The Greater Cambridge Partnership is one of three successful local authorities in England to be awarded up to £60,000 and support from the UK Government's **Innovation in Democracy Programme**¹ to run this Citizens' Assembly. The Innovation in Democracy Programme is being managed by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

When and where will the event be held?

The event will be held at a venue in Cambridge, over two weekends: **7-8 September and 5-6 October**. Each day will begin at approximately 10am and finish by 5pm. **You must be able to attend the entire four days.**

How will you ensure that the event is accessible?

If you are selected to take part, all reasonable transport costs will be reimbursed, and meals during the Assembly will be provided. You will also receive £300 to thank you for your time. Half will be paid in the week after the first weekend and the remainder in the week after the completion of the Citizens' Assembly.

We will ensure that the venue is fully wheelchair accessible, and if you require BSL interpretation, hearing loops, or any form of additional support, then every attempt will be made to provide this. Please just let us know about your specific requirements.

How do I get to the event?

All reasonable travel expenses to get to the event will be refunded, such as standard class rail or bus fares, or car mileage (at 25p per mile) and parking costs, but you will need to make your own travel arrangements.

We will give you information on how to claim your travel and other expenses if you are selected to take part. At this point you will also be able to let us know if you have any specific transport needs.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/innovation-in-democracy-programme-launch>

Who can apply?

Any permanent resident or student over 16 years of age, living in a household that has received this invitation, can apply, with a few exceptions set out below. Please note that a maximum of one adult from any single household will be selected to participate.

The following people cannot apply: Elected representatives from any level of government, local authority staff working on transport, environment or planning, paid employees of any political party, or staff or board members of organisations actively campaigning on transport, environment or planning issues.

How was I selected to receive this invitation?

Your household was one of 10,000 addresses randomly selected, from across Greater Cambridge and the wider travel to work area, from Royal Mail's address database. For more information about the selection process please see: <https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/>

How do I register my interest?

You can register your interest in the Citizens' Assembly at www.sortitionfoundation.org/rsvp or by calling Freephone 0800 009 6486 (9am-6pm, Monday-Saturday). The deadline for registering your interest is **midnight Monday 22 July 2019**.

After I register my interest, what happens next?

Once registration has closed, we will select 60 people at random, from those who registered their interest, to take part in the event. This random selection will be weighted to make sure that there are people from all walks of life represented in the group.

If you are selected, we will contact you by phone, email and/or letter on or around **Tuesday 23 July** to let you know. We will then be back in touch to explain transport arrangements and discuss any dietary or accessibility requirements you may have.

What will happen after the event?

As part of the event, your ideas and recommendations will be anonymously recorded. These recommendations will be presented to the public meetings of the Greater Cambridge Partnership's Joint Assembly

and Executive Board in November/December 2019. The Executive Board will use the report to inform their decisions on how to tackle traffic congestion and improve air quality and public transport in Greater Cambridge.

Who is running and funding the event?

Greater Cambridge Partnership has been awarded funds and support from the UK Government's **Innovation in Democracy Programme** to hold this Citizens' Assembly. Two independent organisations are delivering the Assembly:

- The **Sortition Foundation** promotes the use of stratified, random selection in decision-making. It is responsible for recruiting people to take part in the Assembly; its aim is to ensure the Assembly is broadly representative of the Greater Cambridge community. www.sortitionfoundation.org
- The **Involve Foundation** ('Involve') is a UK-wide public participation charity. Involve will run the Citizens' Assembly - facilitating and designing the process by which the Assembly members learn, consider and come to recommendations about the topic. They will also write the report on the outcomes of the Assembly.

Where can I get more information?

If you would like to talk to someone about the event before registering, please call the Freephone number below. Alternatively, information about the event is available on the website:

<https://consultcambs.uk.engagementhq.com/>

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or call Freephone 0800 009 6486
(9am-6pm, Monday-Saturday)
before Monday 22 July**