

Date: 7 May 2025 Our Ref: RFI5094 Tel: 0300 1234 500 Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

By Email Only

Dear

RE: Request for Information – RFI5094

Thank you for your request for information which was processed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

You requested the following information:

This is a freedom of information request about the Cambridge Growth Company Advisory Council. Could you please send me:

1) copies of the agendas and minutes of all the meetings of the Advisory Council that have already taken place;

2) the dates and, where available, agendas for any future meetings that have been planned.

Response

We can inform you that we do hold the information that you have requested. However, we rely on section 22, exemption where information is intended for future publication under the FOIA.

The full text of the legislation can be found on the following link and we have quoted section 22 below for ease.

https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/36/section/22

Section 22 - Information intended for future publication.

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(1) Information is exempt information if:

(a) the information is held by the public authority with a view to its publication, by the authority or any other person, at some future date (whether determined or not),

(b) the information was already held with a view to such publication at the time when the request for information was made, and

(c) it is reasonable in all the circumstances that the information should be withheld from disclosure until the date referred to in paragraph (a).

(2) The duty to confirm or deny does not arise if, or to the extent that, compliance with section 1(1)(a) would involve the disclosure of any information (whether or not already recorded) which falls within subsection (1).

Section 22 is a qualified exemption. This means that in order to withhold information under this exemption, we must consider the public interest in disclosure.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of disclosure

• Homes England is compliant with the government agenda of transparency and recognises the benefit of publishing the information, particularly when it concerns how Homes England undertakes its work.

Public Interest Test – Factors in favour of non-disclosure

- It is reasonable that a public authority does not divert resources where the information is readily
 available to the public. To disclose information via FOIA that will be available on a publicly accessible
 website would increase the likelihood of future requests being made under FOIA for similar publicly
 available information. This would divert resources away from requests for information that would not
 otherwise already be in the public domain. This would cause detriment to Homes England's ability to
 promptly deal with requests under FOIA.
- Releasing the information ahead of scheduled publication is not in line with accepted practices and releasing the information ahead of its scheduled publication date may allow third parties to gain an advantage in obtaining the information prior to general publication. As this information is due to be published soon, we consider there is a stronger interest in withholding this information until the intended publication date.

Therefore, after careful consideration we have concluded that at this time, the balance of the public interest favours the non-disclosure.

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Advice and Assistance

In compliance with the Section 45 Code of Practice (Paragraph 14) and to offer advice and assistance under section 16 of the FOIA, we can advise that the new website for the Cambridge Growth Company went live on 6 May 2025. Information relating to meetings of the Advisory Council, including minutes, agendas and future meeting dates will be published on this website in the upcoming weeks. You can access this website here: <u>https://thecgc.org.uk/</u>

Right to Appeal

If you are not happy with the information that has been provided or the way in which your request has been handled, you may request an internal review. You can request an internal review by writing to Homes England via the details below, quoting the reference number at the top of this letter.

Email: infogov@homesengland.gov.uk

Information Governance Team Homes England The Lumen 2nd Floor St James Boulevard Newcastle Helix Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 5BZ United Kingdom

Your request for review must be made in writing, explain why you wish to appeal, and be received within 40 working days of the date of this response. Failure to meet this criteria may lead to your request being refused.

Upon receipt, your request for review will be passed to an independent party not involved in your original request. We aim to issue a response within 20 working days.

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You may also complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) however, the Information Commissioner does usually expect the internal review procedure to be exhausted in the first instance.

The Information Commissioner's details can be found via the following link:

https://ico.org.uk/

Please note that the contents of your request and this response are also subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Homes England may be required to disclose your request and our response accordingly.

Yours sincerely,

The Information Governance Team For Homes England

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