Visions of Cambridge in 2065
The purpose of the “Visions of Cambridge in 2065” project is to imagine possible futures of Cambridge; and to open up the possibility of imagining those futures to a broad cross-section of its citizens. The UK Government Future of Cities project funded and catalysed five other UK cities to produce visions of the future of their city.

This volume is the result of the first phase of the Cambridge case study. It gathers together 24 visions from a wide variety of people who live and work in the city; who were all asked to think about the issues they considered critical to the continued and future success of Cambridge. Members of the public and schoolchildren, respectively, were also involved in the process of identifying themes to be reflected on the question of the future of Cambridge.

The authors of each vision identified their priorities for where we will live in Cambridge, how we will live and how we should respond to the changes the city will undergo over the next 50 years and some common themes emerged, including:

Where we live. Visions of the future built environment of Cambridge were overwhelmingly green: both verdant and ecological. With improved green spaces and increased agricultural production outside and inside the city, the environmental heritage will be protected and enhanced. Equally, new forms of public and private transport (such as driverless cars) will drive on or near clean streets lined with ecologically sound new and retrofitted buildings in keeping with Cambridge’s rich architectural heritage (which means we will continue living with tourists!). Multicultural neighbourhoods will provide new living landscapes with welcoming environmental and cultural spaces. In 2065, Cambridge will function as a global leader at the same time as playing a critical role locally as a small, attractive and environmental hub surrounded by smaller settlements.

How we live. Cambridge was overwhelmingly seen as a city that will thrive through improved connections, among diverse communities within the city and also further afield. In addition to being more diverse, Cambridge will be a more equitable place in which to live and learn. As well as building strong community ties in the immediate vicinity, in 2065 Cambridge will be a world leader in sustainable tourism. It will be a healthy city, growing more of its own food and improving the city’s cyclability. It will be a smarter city, developing and using cleaner and collaborative creative and cultural spaces.

How we respond to the future. Perhaps unsurprisingly, technology was the aspect of Cambridge’s future that was most frequently mentioned in these visions. Innovations in technology were foregrounded, along with innovations in cleantech, agriculture, cultural investments, and entrepreneurship. Governance issues were mentioned several times, particularly with regards to improving localism, participation and equity. Whilst the unpredictability of the future was a recurrent theme, so was the importance of planning for this uncertain future and in laying strong foundations for the city to build on and to continue to go from strength to strength.

In summary, these authors see Cambridge in 2065 as a city that is green and connected - inside and out. Cambridge is seen as both a global leader and local hub, for high-tech innovation, culture and also communities. The very high quality of life associated with the city has been maintained and developed, providing a recreational and cultural match to its continuing intellectual and economic growth. Above all, Cambridge is viewed as a beautiful city that attracts people from all over the world and whose citizens can live healthy, happy, and equal lives. Maybe that is a vision we can all sign up to?

What is your vision of Cambridge?
Lara Allen
Centre for Global Equity
Sciences, social scientists, policy makers, city managers and students have cooperated to create better procedures and mechanisms to facilitate access to the benefits of scientific advances for citizens.

David Cleewley
Centre for Science and Policy
Much of the business growth in 2065 will be seen in the Internet of Things (IoT) as the spectacular developments in Life Sciences as well as engineering, cleanroom, agtech, information and communications technology (ICT) and software.

Lara Allen
Centre for Global Equity
Many aspects of local governance have remained the same in the past 50 years and more, but change is needed in councils’ working cultures, to unite the community behind a vision of delivering low carbon lifestyles so threatened if equity concerns are not addressed.

Lewis Herbert
Cambridge City Council
In 2015, Cambridge remains the academic centre of the UK and has become a worldwide centre for research and development resulting in world-leading art and innovation.

Tony Raven
Cambridge University
Cambridge is steeped in history, it is also at the forefront of innovation and science and technology discovery. The beauty of Cambridge is that it is a food-growing city with strong natural environment so that nature and businesses interact with each other, thereby increasing the quality of life, championing equality.

Bob Dennison
Stagecoach East
By 2065 we will be living in my own home with the help of technological innovations developed over the past 20 years.

Dave Bowrey
Bowrey Consultants Ltd.
In 2050, Cambridge has become a hub for world-leading communities that led the way in developing sustainable ways of living.

In 2015, Cambridge was transformed by high-speed trains that bring people and information to transport hubs and the automatic electric vehicles that move them from those hubs during the day. In minutes.

The University’s single selling point is its links with leading minds in both academia and business. It can attract and retain the world’s leading minds in different disciplines across Greater Cambridge.

Anna McIvor
Cambridgeshire County Council
In 2015, our vision was to create lasting hubs around the city in minutes.

Lynsi Hayward-Smith
Cambridgeshire County Council
In 2015, the University’s unique selling point — its USP — will be its convening power: bringing key individuals to Cambridge to convene personal relationships and chemistry, despite the ever increasing scale of that energy rich environment.

Anne Bailey
The East of England National Trust
The Wicken Fen Vision will expand natural space for wildlife and people through innovative land management and the automatic electric vehicles that move them from those hubs during the day. In minutes.

Bob Dennison
Stagecoach East
Our vision in 2015 was to create lasting hubs around the city in minutes.

Julian Bowrey
Bowrey Consultants Ltd.
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Paul Cliff
Centre for Global Equity
50-year programme to prevent the large carbon cost of international interactions and chemistry, despite the ever increasing scale of that energy rich environment.

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By 2065, Cambridge ideas are being exported around the world and businesses will be taking all new developments in new and imaginative ways, having solved many of today’s challenges of health and climate.

Cambridge will be transformed by high-speed trains that bring people and information to transport hubs and the automatic electric vehicles that move them from those hubs during the day. In minutes.

The very high quality of life poses for the economy, particularly where it is steeped in history, it is also at the forefront of innovation and science and technology discovery. The beauty of Cambridge is that it is a food-growing city with strong natural environment so that nature and businesses interact with each other, thereby increasing the quality of life, championing equality.

John Miles
Cambridge University
Unveiling the city in 2065, a future city whose scale is supported by a high quality of life that is steeped in history, it is also at the forefront of innovation and science and technology discovery. The beauty of Cambridge is that it is a food-growing city with strong natural environment so that nature and businesses interact with each other, thereby increasing the quality of life, championing equality.

Tony Raven
Cambridge Enterprise
Cambridge needs to continue to use an intellectually challenging city with a high quality of life that is steeped in history, it is also at the forefront of innovation and science and technology discovery. The beauty of Cambridge is that it is a food-growing city with strong natural environment so that nature and businesses interact with each other, thereby increasing the quality of life, championing equality.

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In the 2010s, while Cambridge’s scientists were inventing materials and processes we now take for granted, a social movement of equal importance was in formation. This movement grew around the increasing acknowledgement that extreme inequality in all its myriad forms is unsustainable.

Assumptions about the desirability of greater equality that are normal in 2065 were in their infancy then. Examples include sufficiency as the driver of levels of income and consumption; fairness in the utilisation of natural resources; the necessity of avoiding waste and economies in which externalities for people and the planet are factored into all costs and profits.

A number of factors made Cambridge an ideal enabling environment for the emergence of the movement towards greater equality. By 2015, this city was booming as a result of decades of investment in its science and technology entrepreneurial ecosystem. Alongside the University’s global leadership in scientific research, there was a strong, fast-growing high-tech business environment with particular strengths in bio-tech, digital tech and clean-tech. This provided a model and a culture for the evolution of today’s social ecosystem – the mutually supportive web of organisations and individuals working to achieve a new social compact.

These shifts, along with the plural approaches that evolved as different groups worked in their own ways towards the same goals, were central to the globe’s at the time. The 21st century approaches to development that were evolving are now resilient, agile, multi-nodal and emergent, and are undertaken by a myriad of small, innovative, globally-networked, mutually-supporting, often self-funding initiatives.

Cambridge’s particular contribution related to the sharing of knowledge, and the benefits from knowledge, inspired by the lobby against food waste that was gaining traction at the time, a drive to address knowledge waste and knowledge inequality was initiated. Concerned about the potential of new technology to widen the gap between the have and have-nots, scientists, social scientists, policy makers, law makers, civil society and student organisations came together to evolve frameworks and mechanisms to facilitate access to the benefits of scientific advances for the bottom billion.

The early 21st century Cambridge pioneers contributed to understanding and explaining the predicament of the world in 2015, and to starting the evolution of practical, proactive responses to changing the downward spiral towards destruction. While the rich and powerful have clung to their influence and privileges with enduring success, an alternative trail has been blazed. Technological innovations have been rolled out to the benefit of the bottom billion, famines have been prevented, and solar fuels are not exclusively the domain of multinationals.

The movement for greater global equality evolved models now replicated in localised forms in many parts of the world, and Cambridge prevails as a leading node in a network using massive small change to achieve increasing global equality.

"Assumptions about the desirability of equality that are normal in 2065 were in their infancy in 2015."
Despite the constant tinkering of the past quarter century, schools have actually changed little since Victorian times, with the introduction of state education and the effective outsourcing of learning to schools. It’s time to re-integrate learning with the community.

Academics are split on how far education should act as preparation for work. While many “aim to provide students with fundamental skills, such as problem-solving, analytical techniques, creative thinking and innovation, so that they are adaptable to new work environments” — others see employability as the preserve of the careers service. In Cambridge Form the Future is joining up schools and employers in order to realign aspirations and course choices with where the jobs will be. Is this excessively utilitarian and will classicists become extinct as we teach every child to code? I believe that by intertwining learning with work we can create a richer educational experience.

There are three reasons for blending learning and work:

1. To break the persistent and problematic link between family income and levels of attainment at school. By introducing students to people from a wide range of backgrounds we give them the chance to meet their aspirations.

2. To address skills shortages. Any education system that doesn’t consider employers’ future skills needs – or the flipside, future career opportunities for students – is preventing sustainable growth.

3. To enable students to take ownership of their learning. What we have lost in the current system where exam results rule is intrinsic motivation.

In his recent book ‘Drive’, Dan Pink argues what motivates us is autonomy, mastery and purpose. Applied to education it might look like this. Students choose subjects they’re interested in (autonomy) as well as some we consider essential; they choose when they feel ready to be assessed; and they take the test. If they fail or believe they could do better, they continue to work towards mastery. Students know that their efforts will affect their future employment (purpose). It’s how we prepare for the driving test. Instead of the pressure for all students to pass an exam on one particular day — and all the stress and teaching time devoted to this one attempt — we switch to personalized learning. So while the study of subject content becomes more self-directed, enabled by technology — with teachers providing individual tuition as needed — the rest of the curriculum is project-based, in partnership with local enterprises, tackling real problems and developing sought-after skills such as teamwork, problem solving and communication.

We’ve gone too far in outsourcing education to schools and divorcing learning from work. A future education system would re-integrate them: teaching in real contexts; giving students the chance to learn from and with people from different industries; and cultivating the skills, knowledge and experience that will enable them to tackle the as yet unknown challenges in our future cities.
Dr Alan Blackwell  
Reader in Interdisciplinary Design,  
Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge

Many aspects of modern life are now controlled by multinational corporations and virtual communities rather than national governments. In Cambridge, this future society — with its globalized knowledge economy — seems more imminent than in many parts of the world.

The technology research community of Cambridge has expanded rapidly in the past 30 years, after a few earlier milestones in the University (the Cavendish Laboratory, Computer Laboratory, University of Cambridge Reader in Interdisciplinary Design, and Acorn Computer). Now one of the most prominent European centres of research and development, Cambridge is still a surprisingly small town, with a permanent population of only around 100,000. It has a vigorous commercial environment — multinational corporations and online communities are essential centres for building the knowledge infrastructure of the future; and the future of world business looks rather more imminent than in many parts of the world.

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This continuity of local public administration is because it will always be needed and, in reality, the alternatives are pretty limited. The different levels of local government – city, county and region – are all necessary to meet the needs of the local communities. Although Aldermen, a feature of local government since Anglo-Saxon times, have disappeared, and the issues they tried to address are pretty similar. The different levels of local political management structures, both have lost responsibility for some functions, and have changed their political management structures, reorganised in 1996: both City and County Councils in Cambridge have also changed. The County Council was reformed in 1995 (both City and County Councils have changed their political management structures, both have lost responsibility for some functions, and have changed their political management structures, reorganised in 1996: both City and County Councils in Cambridge have also changed. 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Cambridge has changed dramatically in the 50 years leading up to 2065. Just as Silicon Valley grew between 1980 and 2010, so Cambridge has grown a mature network of businesses and enterprises that rival the best in the world.

The 2005 statistics provide a good first picture: a population now well over 100,000 in a metro area of over 1 million people, and a GDP almost 8 times that of 50 years ago - more than twice the growth experienced in the UK. In my vision, the 150th $1bn company has been crowned (in 2015 there were just 14). More telling is that there are more than 16 home-grown $1bn companies and a second recently founded Director, Cambridge Centre for Science and Policy.

The second development has been partnerships with other UK clusters (such as automotive in Northampton and aerospace in Stevenage) which means that in 2065, Cambridge is leading the UK in a number of critical areas of technology such as robotics and energy systems. Links to London with its media, design, fashion and finance sectors have produced two-way exchanges to the advantage of both (though Cambridge sometimes feels more like a part of London than a separate city).

Thirdly the emergence of smart cities has produced a double win for Cambridge in 2065. Early pilot trials between 2020 meant that Cambridge rapidly developed innovative technology. This has helped propel a new export-led boom as well as enabling the City to accommodate growth.

Finally, pressure to keep up with change and the demand for a better understanding of how people learn has also transformed the education sector. Although Cambridge University has only doubled in size, Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) is now 5 times as big as it was in 2015. With the growth of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) - after a false start - education from Cambridge and many other established universities has become a huge world business.

Much of the business growth has been based on foundations laid down between 1960 and 2010, so Cambridge has grown a mature network of businesses and enterprises that rival the best in the world. The 2005 statistics provide a good first picture: a population now well over 100,000 in a metro area of over 1 million people, and a GDP almost 8 times that of 50 years ago - more than twice the growth experienced in the UK. In my vision, the 150th $1bn company has been crowned (in 2015 there were just 14). More telling is that there are more than 16 home-grown $1bn companies and a second recently founded Director, Cambridge Centre for Science and Policy.

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The improvements in transport infrastructure and the emergence of driverless cars in the 2030s has reduced pressure on residential housing and commercial property, so rents and property values have come down to a premium. With train travel to the mega- station at Cambridge have been £50bn in 2050. The city centre is now below 30 minutes, the area around the station in Cambridge is now effectively part of London. Venture Capital and Private Equity firms who have set up in the Cambridge hinterland and connections to London, provide a premium. With train travel to the mega- station at Cambridge have managed to keep pace with — and even anticipate — economic development. Over £10bn has been spent by government on the city and immediate surroundings, not counting the further spend which was necessary to support transport and other infrastructure for the Cambridge corridor and connections to London, Birmingham, Oxford and the East Coast ports.

In 2065, the wealth and expertise generated by the growth of businesses in Cambridge is being recycled — as it was in Silicon Valley. Together with international Venture Capital and Private Equity firms who have set up in the Centre, enough money has been provided to fuel one of the most extraordinary booms which the UK has seen since the creation of towns like Manchester and Birmingham in the 19th century.

Fortunately, after some hesitation, infrastructure spend has been managed to level with pace with — and even anticipate — economic development. Over £10bn has been spent by government on the city and immediate surroundings, not counting the further spend which was necessary to support transport and other infrastructure for the Cambridge corridor and connections to London, Birmingham, Oxford and the East Coast ports.

*In 2065 much of the business growth has been based on foundations laid down between 2015 and 2025.*
Dr Ben Cowell  
Regional Director, The East of England National Trust

Wicken Fen is one of the few remaining fragments of fenland wilderness in East Anglia. Its biodiversity is exceptional, but it needs to grow larger in scale to support sustainable populations of its special and rare species.

Wicken Fen lies only 15km from the city of Cambridge, which is forecast to grow to a population of over 250,000 by the year 2025. Thus, Wicken is in an area that is experiencing considerable pressure for new housing and other developments. However it is also in a county with very limited biodiversity and few open spaces with public access. In Cambridgeshire there are only 9,250 hectares of habitat notified as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). This represents less than 2.6% of the county’s land area. By comparison Cumbria’s 159,852 hectares of SSSIs cover less than 23% of that county. The average in England is 6.8%.

The National Trust’s Wicken Fen Vision was launched in 1999 with the long-term aim of a massive increase in the reserve’s size, expanding southwards towards the edge of Cambridge. The Trust plans to use ecological restoration techniques to create and restore wildlife habitats on a landscape scale, and to provide visitors with new access to nature and green space. The aim is to create a mosaic of wetland habitats: wet grasslands, reed beds, marsh, fen and shallow ponds and ditches, as well as establishing chalk grassland and woodlands where soil and topography dictate.

This 100-year timescale has been chosen to allow as much flexibility of approach as possible. Conservation priorities, farming practices, and demand for access to public open space will all change over time: this very long-term approach will ensure that the Vision can evolve to meet these changes while holding true to the underlying principles of the project. Although the National Trust has identified 53km$^2$ of land that could form part of the Wicken Fen Vision, there is no necessity for the Trust to acquire all the land in order for the Vision to meet its objectives. In some areas, management agreements with landowners might form a sensible approach.

In addition to promoting biodiversity in Cambridgeshire, a principal aim of the project is to provide opportunities for the area to benefit from access to the Vision area. The Trust is keen to promote sustainable transport, growing in scope with the Vision; and to encourage public transport to, from and within the Vision area. The extensive nature reserve will provide access routes from Cambridge and surrounding towns and villages by foot, cycle, horseback and boat as well as on horseback, and will create recreational opportunities across a unique and developing area of countryside. The Vision area will also provide extensive opportunities for volunteering, education and interpretation. We want to ensure that the National Trust engages with local communities and that local people can develop a sense of ownership of the Vision.

"The extensive nature reserve will provide access routes from Cambridge and surrounding towns and villages by foot, cycle, horseback and boat."

The area covered by the Wicken Fen Vision (National Trust 1999)
Three facts jump out as one looks across the energy, carbon and environmental landscape of Cambridge over the next several decades. 80% of the buildings that we will be on the ground in 2065 already exist.

1. Two-thirds of carbon emissions in 2065 already exist.
2. Energy use in buildings accounts for more than a third of a country’s carbon emissions.
3. The existing stock of buildings is the last energy efficient retrofitting, and of delivering low carbon cleantech.

Building in Cambridge today contribute about 40% of the carbon footprint of the population. However, even a small block of buildings can be built with a system that encourages low carbon footprint both in its early life and as it ages. Building in Cambridge today contribute about 40% of the carbon footprint of the population. However, even a small block of buildings can be built with a system that encourages low carbon footprint both in its early life and as it ages.

The Cambridge area has been home to two large cleantech: One is the potential of solar energy – solar and wind especially – will only be viable right back out having served no purpose. It is also clear that the buildings of Cambridge Retrofit will be of the scale of Cambridge Retrofit and the cleantech revolution will make deep energy efficiency improvements in buildings - as well as a myriad of other environment and energy innovations. We are now into a third revolution, that of innovation for cleantech. Such innovation is essential to meet environmental and energy ambitions for 2065. It will provide a significant contribution to the national and global targets for reducing the risks of climate change, improving energy security and reducing fuel poverty.

Moving innovations forward to the scale of application needed for ambitious programmes such as the retrofit of 60,000 buildings in Cambridge is deceptively difficult, and requires community-wide support. Producing initial ideas is enhanced by the presence of one supporter, Cambridge Cleantech. Without this community support, the most cost-effective solutions at the best times will not be available for building owners. Where are these innovations most pressing? The buildings of 2065 will consume a third to half of the energy they do today through a combination of wall, loft and floor insulation, window replacement, draught proofing, high efficiency heating systems for goods, electronics and lighting, and a smart local grid.

Cambridge Retrofit is not simply a project. It is a network of supply and demand organisations that work together to deliver an ambitious programme of energy efficiency retrofits needed if our building stock of 2065 is to contribute to the (80%) carbon footprint reductions needed by both the national and the region's ambition for 2065. It will provide a significant contribution to the national and global targets for reducing the risks of climate change, improving energy security and reducing fuel poverty.

Cambridge Retrofit was created to stimulate a community-wide movement towards the (80%) carbon footprint reductions needed, which in Cambridge would encourage low carbon movement such as by bike. The Cambridge area has been home to two large cleantech: One is the potential of solar energy – solar and wind especially – will only be viable right back out having served no purpose. It is also clear that the buildings of Cambridge Retrofit will be of the scale of Cambridge Retrofit and the cleantech revolution will make deep energy efficiency improvements in buildings - as well as a myriad of other environment and energy innovations. We are now into a third revolution, that of innovation for cleantech. Such innovation is essential to meet environmental and energy ambitions for 2065. It will provide a significant contribution to the national and global targets for reducing the risks of climate change, improving energy security and reducing fuel poverty.
In 2031, the people of Cambridgeshire will benefit from an integrated transport network that enables efficient and reliable travel between key destinations. The economy of the county is vital to the national economy, and an effective, sustainable transport network is essential to the economy of Cambridge.

The Long Term Transport Strategy was developed as part of the Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2031. This strategy identifies the key barriers and capacity constraints that are needed to address existing problems and support the growth of Cambridgeshire’s transport network, and the further infrastructure that is required to cater for the transport demand associated with planned growth.

Improved information technology will better inform travel choices and reduce the need to travel. More people will be encouraged to travel online and travelling by sustainable alternative methods will access rural hubs or Park & Ride sites for efficient, reliable onward travel to key destinations.

The “eco-friendly” bus is set to come with the advent of driverless technology in the future. The single biggest advances in design from the internal combustion engine.

As technology moves on, so does the speed of development. Over the next fifty years, I believe that the bus, as we currently know it, will have evolved to its design. What we can expect with a degree of certainty is that they are most likely to be autonomous in their operation, and not powered by an internal combustion engine.
Innovation thrives in environments that encourage curiosity, challenge people to think differently, and provide space and freedom for experimentation. These notions sit at the heart of arts and cultural practice so by 2065, to ensure Cambridge remains at the forefront of innovation, the city has become a worldwide centre for cross-disciplinary research and development, resulting in world-leading art and innovation. Innovation economy of the city makes creativity the most highly valued skill amongst employees. As a result, collaboration and knowledge transfer between the arts/culture and science/technology sectors become common place, creating a new ideas/society centred approach and ethical discourse that leads the city to become a global leader for responsible research and innovation. This discourse leads the city to make better investment decisions, saving millions.

The city’s infrastructure is strategically conserved to support large-scale public cultural events, by providing access to free, green electricity; an integrated network of speakers; programmable screens and lights; and high speed internet services, all via the physical web. The replacement of cars, buses and taxis with clean, driverless cars decongests the city, opening it up to large scale outdoor events, such as major artist-led installations and performances. Regular festivals in the city centre integrate cultural activity, with the more experiential approach to shopping developed in response to the ubiquity of home delivery. Street festivals and outdoor events flourish as, across the city, communities take back the streets and create smaller scale celebrations that enhance community cohesion.

Rachel Drury
What Next? for the arts group, Cambridge

"Cambridge declares itself a "Creative Innovation District" and the city’s international business sector invests in a cultural investment fund that brings millions of pounds of sustainable funding to transform and sustain the cultural infrastructure and activities of the growing city."

World-class education moves beyond the walls of the universities and schools making the whole city an integrated, cross-disciplinary learning environment. Cultural institutions alongside specialist learning sites (real and virtual) and businesses provide learning opportunities at all levels.
In 2015, there are two skills gaps in Cambridge. Firstly, in general, young people do not have the knowledge and skills required for the employment opportunities available nor how to take advantage of them, and they are not prepared for the many different careers they will have. Secondly, there is a critical gap in the skills required by employers and what is available to them, including high levels of literacy, numeracy and digital literacy. In addition, employees need to have the skills to understand and apply learning and the correct attitude and behaviour to secure employment, coupled with the flexibility to be able to learn new skills throughout their lives. In environment that all of these are still relevant in 2053 and readily available.

In the future, Cambridge will still be a centre for scientific and technical innovation. There will be a need for highly skilled software developers and medical innovators who will develop technologies for the remote care of individuals by the medibots that will have replaced home carers and the technologies that predict care of individuals by the medibots that will have replaced home carers and the technologies that predict the way we communicate (particularly using social media) will help make the city resilient.

Developments such as an interactive wall display connect me to family and friends, and give me access to exercise classes and continuous learning courses. I use the display for most of my check ups with my specialist nurse and the elderly care unit at Addenbrooke’s Hospital. My vital signs are connected via my mobile to the health system so my condition can be monitored and will trigger alerts. My specialist nurse gives me regular anti-viral jabs as there are more and more flu strains developing.

By 2051, I will be 95. I will hopefully still be living in Cambridge with the help of technological innovations developed over the next 50 years.

Dr Rachel Jones
Director, Instrata Ltd

“Developments such as an interactive wall display connect me to family and friends, and give me access to exercise classes and continuous learning courses.”

To maximise the potential of Cambridge, our vision in 2051 creates a locally responsive skills system that maximises the impact of public investment; forges stronger links between employers and the education system; and drives growth across Greater Cambridge.

Skills in 2051 are influenced by many factors including:
• the way people communicate particularly using social media
• the way we travel and the types of transport we use
• the ageing population
• the growth in scientific and technical innovation
• the need to help people to keep as healthy as possible
• the ways in which we want to spend our leisure time
• the development of supply chain and systems integration

Hayball (2010 Urban Design Competition winner) could have been describing the Cambridge of the future in his vision... “The same skills identified in 2015...”

Lynsey Hayward-Smith
Head of Adult Learning and Skills, Cambridgeshire County Council

In 2051, there are two skills gaps in Cambridge. Firstly, in general, young people do not have the knowledge and skills required for the employment opportunities available nor how to take advantage of them, and they are not prepared for the many different careers they will have. Secondly, there is a critical gap in the skills required by employers and what is available to them, including high levels of literacy, numeracy and digital literacy. In addition, employees need to have the skills to understand and apply learning and the correct attitude and behaviour to secure employment, coupled with the flexibility to be able to learn new skills throughout their lives. In environment that all of these are still relevant in 2053 and readily available.

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In this region, life expectancy at birth has been increasing by more than 5 hours a day. If this rise continues, the life expectancy will have reached over 90 years by 2065. Today, 4% of the UK population is over 75 and by 2037 this is projected to rise to 13%. Based on these projections, by 2065 more than one person in five will be over 75.

According to present trends, perhaps a sixth of the over-75s will suffer from dementia. By then there should be an integrated model of dementia care, to overcome the fragmentation within the range of healthcare providers and between the NHS, social care and other agencies.

In this region, life expectancy at birth has been increasing by more than 5 hours a day. If this rise continues, life expectancy will have reached over 90 years by 2065. In 2015, research funding allocated to this area was £50 million. 40% of people in hospital beds ought not to be there. People are usually happier, and it is much cheaper if they are not in hospital. There is an urgent need to reduce the burden on the NHS. An important initiative in Cambridgeshire has begun to improve this, by providing better integration of health and social care services.

Cambridge is fortunate to have a hospice that provides end-of-life care, often in a patient’s home. By 2065 people’s condition will be monitored automatically, that they can be given help when they need it. The technology is already available, though there are serious issues about how to handle the data. Self-management by those with long-term conditions will need to become the norm; this will require research, organisation and funding.

People need from early in life to eat less and more healthily; drink less alcohol; smoke not at all; and take exercise so that they remain as active as possible in later life. The direct cost of mental ill-health, dementia, obesity, physical inactivity, diabetes, loneliness and cardio-vascular disease (including stroke) is already estimated to be £200 billion each year. 40% of people in hospital beds ought not to be there. People are usually happier, and it is much cheaper if they are not in hospital.

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In 2015, research funding allocated to this area was £50 million. It is now being recognised that the amount of money spent on research into dementia is far too little. Cambridge is fortunate to have a hospice that provides end-of-life care, often in a patient’s home.

In this region, life expectancy at birth has been increasing by more than 5 hours a day. If this rise continues, life expectancy will have reached over 90 years by 2065. It is important to do as much as we can to go on by ensuring the good design of residential areas, with cafes, seats, green spaces etc. For those who cannot go out, easy-to-use technology will help them to stay in close touch with family members and others. Communities need to be age-friendly and do much more to ensure that nobody who wants help is neglected. The voluntary sector will play a vital role in this change and we need to research the best ways of helping communities develop as they become self-sustainable and less reliant on health and care services.

Getting older people engaged in voluntary activities could provide great benefits. They can also play an important role in helping local facilities to continue that are not commercially viable – pubs, shops, libraries etc.

More generally, there is a need to develop new employment models that enable older people to work purposefully and enjoyably. Even if paid work is no longer open to them, they need to think how to contribute to society in other ways.

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In 2015 the NHS already faces a crisis, caused partly by the increase in the number of older people and although measures are being taken, they need to be pursued with much more vigour. For example, while more than 90% of older people live in mainstream housing, there is a reluctance among developers to build in simple measures to accommodate many generations of a family – if they want it.

The loneliness of older people is a present-day scandal. Currently, half of over-75 year olds live alone, many with television as their main company. This puts an unnecessary burden on the NHS, social isolation is a major determinant of health, and lonely people worry more about their condition, so that they even eat their food just to have someone to talk to. The old-people’s bus pass is a good investment, as it helps to avoid this. It is important to do as much as we can to go on by ensuring the good design of residential areas, with cafes, seats, green spaces etc. For those who cannot go out, easy-to-use technology will help them to stay in close touch with family members and others. Communities need to be age-friendly and do much more to ensure that nobody who wants help is neglected. The voluntary sector will play a vital role in this change and we need to research the best ways of helping communities develop as they become self-sustainable and less reliant on health and care services.

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In 2015 three quarters of people aged over 65 have a medical condition. People need from early in life to eat less and more healthily; drink less alcohol; smoke not at all; and take exercise so that they remain as active as possible in later life. The direct cost of mental ill-health, dementia, obesity, physical inactivity, diabetes, loneliness and cardio-vascular disease (including stroke) is already estimated to be £200 billion each year. 40% of people in hospital beds ought not to be there. People are usually happier, and it is much cheaper if they are not in hospital. There is an urgent need to reduce the burden on the NHS.

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The Cambridge Local Plan 2014

The local plan sets out the way that Cambridge City Council will meet the development needs of Cambridge to 2031. Over that time the city will have plans to grow significantly; supporting the nationally important economic contribution the city makes and the factors that are inseparable from that success, seen in the exceptional quality of life and place that Cambridge benefits from. This local plan will manage change in a positive and sympathetic way. It delivers a vision for growth that will secure the priorities for Cambridge.

The policies of the plan will set out how we will meet the important development needs that must be accommodated, but also how we will intend to protect this special city’s outstanding heritage and environmental assets. The plan will deliver new homes and jobs in a sustainable way, providing affordable housing (with 2,000 built by the City Council). Housing provision in the city will be of a high quality and will support the development of balanced and mixed communities. Housing, including a high proportion of affordable housing (with 2,000 built by the City Council).

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Councillor Lewis Herbert
Leader of Cambridge City Council

"The City Council has a clear vision to lead a unified city, ‘One Cambridge - Fair for All’, in which economic dynamism and prosperity are combined with social justice and equality."

"Cambridge — caring for the planet"

- A city that takes robust action to tackle the local and global threat of climate change, both internally and in partnership with local organisations and residents, and to minimise its environmental impact by cutting carbon, waste and pollution.

- A city where getting around is primarily by public transport, bike and on foot.

- A city which believes that the clearest measure of progress is the dignity and wellbeing of its least well-off residents and which prioritises tackling poverty and social exclusion, recognising that greater social and economic equality are the most important pre-conditions for the city’s success.

- An international city which celebrates its diversity and actively tackles discrimination on gender, race, nationality, ethnic background, religion, age, disability, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

- An entrepreneurial city with a thriving local economy, in which businesses are assisted to build on their global and national pre-eminence in learning, discovery and production, and develop a full range of local employment and skills development, while also recognising and delivering on their social responsibilities.

- A city where mutual understanding and partnerships are developed through joint working, community initiatives and volunteering.

- A city which strives to ensure that all local households can secure a sustainable, affordable local home, close to jobs and neighbourhood facilities.

- A city which draws inspiration from its unique qualities and environment and its iconic historic core, heritage assets and structural green corridors, achieving a sense of place in all its parts, with generous, accessible and biodiverse open spaces and well-designed architecture.
It would be a reasonable objective for the regional economy to grow five-fold in the coming 50 years. Cambridge is acknowledged as a long-term success story for UK plc, significantly driven in the past few decades by continuously increasing economic contribution of information technology and the physical and life sciences in which the region excels. Greater Cambridge has the significant advantages of a world-leading University and cultural and economic hubs. A large associated pool of highly qualified knowledge workers; a relatively unspoilt mix of urban and rural developments; and good transportation connections, particularly to London.

While the city of Cambridge is densely developed and at risk of congestion, the region has a relatively unspoilt mix of urban and rural developments; and good transportation connections, particularly to London.

The “network effect” that has driven much of Cambridge’s success will need to evolve and develop as the economy grows. Current transportation arrangements cannot hope to support the increased direct personal interaction in the greatly expanded economy and innovative transportation solutions will be essential. The ability to hold meetings “at a distance”, mitigating the cost for travel, will improve but collaborative working in highly equipped laboratories and discussing complex technical issues in regard to specialised experiments or materials will still benefit from face-to-face direct interaction. Smart infrastructure will be required such that the remote meeting and collaboration will need to be interactive and fully integrated to provide both an intelligent traffic solution and public accessibility information in real time that shows where and how traffic is moving.

Nevertheless, the ability to support state-of-the-art remote meetings and collaboration will need to be an area in which Cambridge excels in 2055.

This model will complement face-to-face meetings but not replace them. Office meeting rooms will be equipped with the necessary wall-sized 3D screens, cameras, speakers and microphones. The required space and equipment cost will preclude this technology but not replace it. Enhanced transportation choices can be more informed. So not limited participation from home will be possible and limited real-time technology will be supplemented by 3D cameras. This model will complement face-to-face meetings and collaboration will need to be more distributed and this network effect will be equally important, but will need to more effectively encompass the Greater Cambridge region for both physical and virtual connectivity.
Professor Theresa M. Marteau
Director, Behaviour and Health Research Unit, Cambridge Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge

2015: Cambridge is good but could be better.
Known for its University, cycling and Silicon Fen, Cambridge fares pretty well when it comes to health. Like many affluent British cities, its residents tend to live longer and in better health than people from poorer parts of the country.1

However, evidence from the University’s behavioural scientists, epidemiologists and political economists was creating an ominous picture of the future burden of disease including diabetes, cancer, dementia, heart disease and depression.2 The good news, though, was that this burden could be reduced if the population were to become more physically active, stop smoking, drink less and eat better. Cambridge set out an ambitious 50 year programme to meet this challenge. To prevent disease it focused on altering environments to change behaviour. To reduce the gap in health between the rich and the poor it focused on early intervention programmes.3

2065: 50 years on, what did Cambridge do, and with what effect?

The good news, though, was that this burden could be reduced if the population were to become more physically active, stopped smoking, drank less and ate better. Cambridge set out an ambitious 50 year programme to meet this challenge. To prevent disease it focused on altering environments to change behaviour. To reduce the gap in health between the rich and the poor it focused on early intervention programmes.4

Healthier, fitter and more prosperous. Cambridge is the first UK city to reduce the rising rate of obesity and price of unhealthy diets. Public health advice is now found on digital devices. More than 50% of adults report that they have seen a reduction in the number of calories and fat in their daily diet, with the help of prompts from their phones. This has led to a reduction in the amount of energy dense food eaten, with both outside and inside, where people meet their daily activity goals with the help of prompts from smart devices. These improvements, creative spaces were declared by the city’s residents as a catalyst to reduce car parks and were maintained by an enthusiastic network of local employers happy to do so and time to keep their employees healthy and happy.

Meat-free diets. The widespread availability of meat-free and meat-free products when a safer alternative is available. The sale of dangerous products when a safer alternative is available. The sale of dangerous products when a safer alternative is available. The sale of dangerous products when a safer alternative is available. The sale of dangerous products when a safer alternative is available.

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Smoke-free city in sight.

How has this been achieved? Tobacco control policies have been very successful, both locally and nationally, through a combination of high and rising taxation, removing cigarettes (now sold in unbranded packet) from point of sale, and banning smoking in all public and private spaces where children are present. Electronic cigarettes proved a passing fad and can now only be seen in museums.

A fairer society? Being born into poverty is associated with poor prospects for health, wealth and happiness. Cambridge invested heavily in early intervention programmes, based on neuroscience evidence to avoid the damaging effects on developing brains associated with poverty and to capitalise on the brain’s ability to change. In 2065 inequality remains the global challenge it was in 2015 given an absence of national and international fiscal reforms to corporation, inheritance and other taxes that are needed to shift wealth from the richest 1% that still own as much as the poorest 50%. Cambridge continues as Europe’s largest technology cluster, protecting it against rising unemployment in the surrounding areas. The present boom in the “neuro-drinks” industry contributes significantly to national and international fiscal reforms to corporation, inheritance and other taxes that are needed to shift wealth from the richest 1% that still own as much as the poorest 50%.

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In 2065, agriculture and energy generation go hand in hand, and walk bielines can be seen in all directions heading out from Cambridge, with crops growing around their bases. After the problem of energy storage was solved, Community hubs can now be found on most streets, and communities that live, with strong communities that lead the way in developing ever more sustainable ways of living.

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It was barely light and slightly chilly as he crossed the short distance from his car to the cigar-shaped ‘Bullet’ and stepped into the soft warm glow of the long, thin cabin.

It was already half full and he found his way quickly to an empty seat and sat down. As he buckled up into the comfortable airline-style seat, a returning Bullet glided past an empty seat and sat down. As he buckled up into the comfortable airline-style seat, a returning Bullet glided past.

The Bullet cruised to a halt at the West Site interchange and waited nearby. He stepped in and sat back comfortably. The pod was recognised his booking and opened its door silently.

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As he had checked his e-mails, caught the headlines, and summoned the lift.

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The Bullet and autopods had transformed Cambridge. Three high-speed Bullet links came in from well outside the city, his area from the west, plus another from the east to the Marshall’s Site, and the third from the south to the Addenbrooke’s Site. This, plus the enlargement of Bullet links between the three sites meant that movements to, and between, the sites could be accomplished in a matter of minutes no matter which direction you approached from. Once on each site, commuters could use the local autpods to arrive at the door of their destination with ease, despite the vast size of each campus.

These transport links meant that the enormous economic growth which had occurred in Cambridge between the 2020’s and the 2060’s had been easily contained within the three campuses and had not been allowed to spoil the old city. This plus the convenience of travel from the surrounding towns and villages, had meant that the catchment area of the city had expanded enormously and an economic explosion had taken place. Global giants in bio-sciences, software, pharmaceuticals, finance, and high-tech engineering had poured into The Fen, and a flood of new start-ups had sprouted from above. The result had created the world’s largest and most successful technology cluster outside The Valley, putting even London’s Shoreditch, Hackney, and Olympic Park successes into the shade.

“Thousands of commuter and visitor vehicles no longer entered the city, and the peak-time traffic crushes had been removed altogether.”

And, best of all, movements within the traditional city-centre area bounded loosely by the three campus sites had become startlingly easy. Thousands of commuter and visitor vehicles per day no longer entered the city, and the peak-time traffic crushes had been removed altogether. As a result, within central Cambridge, pavements were crowded with pedestrians, autopod users and cars in a manner that seemed to have been a Cambridge tradition for ever — except these days the traffic moved reasonably smoothly over the course of a day, rather than being caught in what felt like perpetual grid-lock.

And all of this, he reflected, had been achieved without any draconian times, car movement restrictions, or excessive parking charges imposed from above. Rather, it had all happened because the Bullets and autpods had simply made it more attractive for commuters, visitors, and residents alike to use them in preference to using their cars.
Dr Tony Raven
Chief Executive, Cambridge Enterprise

In 2000, Cambridge will have celebrated the 100th anniversary of what was then the Cambridge Phenomenon which converted the city from a top university town into one of the world's top entrepreneurial clusters.

Fourteen billion-dollar companies and another 150 high-tech companies have been created in and around the city that are together turning over more than £12bn a year. It's where The Cloud and the chips that power it. Just 15 years ago we couldn't foresee the impact of the Internet, social media and genetics would have on our daily lives. And so today we cannot begin to imagine what ways we cannot begin to imagine.

“We know that the world will change in ways we cannot begin to imagine. And that to retain the world's leading minds in both academia and business, we must retain the attributes that have served it so well to date: a high quality of life that can attract and retain the world's leading minds in both academia and business.”

Cambridge businesses have developed in a 350-year-old city, and those businesses will change by 2050 changes in and around Cambridge have been planned to optimise the way Cambridge residents and visitors can live and work, not at the fastest pace, but at the most enjoyable productive pace. In reality, Greater Cambridge will have brought together all types of people, young and old, for a more socially inclusive life than in the early part of the 21st century.

Cambridge will continue to be an intellectually challenging place with a high quality of life that can attract and retain the world's leading minds in both academia and business.

Cambridge ideas are recognised as changing the world and the city is known as the most imaginative place to learn and to create, stretching people to achieve the best work of their lives.

Catherine Ruskin
Chief Executive, Cambridge Network Ltd

In 1950 no one could have foreseen the dramatic change to come, or the technologies that would drive it, just 10 years ago we couldn't foresee the impact that the Internet, social media and genetics would have today on our daily lives, and so today we cannot begin to imagine what ways we cannot begin to imagine.

What we do know is that the world will change in ways we cannot begin to imagine. And that Cambridge's leading position in that change we must retain the attributes that have served it so well to date: a high quality of life that can attract and retain the world's leading minds in both academia and business.

“Cambridge needs to continue to be an intellectually challenging place with a high quality of life that can attract and retain the world's leading minds in both academia and business.”

By 2050, Cambridge has stood at the leading edge of invention and innovation. It has created recognition and leadership in academia, industry and commerce. Cambridge has thrived in a place that is receptive to new thinking and agile in responding to it; a safe and supportive place to do risky things; and above all intellectually challenging, with a high quality of life that can attract and retain the world's leading minds in both academia and business. Retain those and the rest, whatever they turn out to be, will follow.

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Cambridge is welcoming to learners and workers, and stays small by encouraging visitors to stay for a few years and then go back to their home territory to continue to do business remotely with Cambridge. Families send next generations to repeat the exciting experiences they had in the city. Cambridge is a smart city, of course, with the highest quality, joined up access to all the information that could be needed. The Understanding of Things is another world-changing technology that Cambridge led in by building the network of connected sensors, communication devices and big data analysis that made the difference.

The Schools and Universities of Cambridge have continued to stay at the top, with the student's matched to the role they play in a working life marked by flexible phasing. Recognising a total working lifetime of up to ninety years now, with healthy lifestyles greatly extended, individuals choose to work in phases to suit their life choices: Sabbaticals, re-training and re-deployment are commonplace. Ambition and hard work will not be enough, we will need to work smarter. The choices between private and public sector approaches has been reduced as people work in smaller units, and unemployment is a new people understand the impact of purpose on their lives.

The nature of business in Cambridge has moved on. Furin has resolved the energy crisis that loomed certain in the 2020s, and Cambridge clean-tech development has been recognised for being at the forefront of this technical salvation. Healthcare has changed beyond recognition from the age of obesity and chronic illness. There is still considerable progress being made in curing Intolerance, but Maintenance of Peak Kindness and Productivity has been effective for nearly years. Prevention of illness is well advanced, and acceptance of a total working lifetime of up to ninety years now, with healthy lifestyles greatly extended, individuals choose to work in phases to suit their life choices: Sabbaticals, re-training and re-deployment are commonplace. Ambition and hard work will not be enough, we will need to work smarter. The choices between private and public sector approaches has been reduced as people work in smaller units, and unemployment is a new people understand the impact of purpose on their lives.

Space travel is expensive and the queues swell longer by the day, but then Time Travellers continue to love Space travel is expensive and the queues seem longer by the day, but then Time Travellers continue to love Space travel is expensive and the queues seem longer by the day, but then Time Travellers continue to love Space travel is expensive and the queues seem longer by the day, but then Time Travellers continue to love Space travel is expensive and the queues seem longer by the day, but then Time Travellers continue to love
By 2055, the paperless office will finally have arrived. All current and past information will be accessed digitally via voice recognition, and the keyboard will have been consigned to the museum. Even the cheapest machines will be electronically tossing out the sound of the keys. The University Library will be extremely restricted. Walls will smell the real thing. Access to the book stacks in the most privileged researchers will ever get to touch and feel the real thing. The great and mighty are still rather reluctant to share the knowledge they own and provide by the university. Scientific, technological and medical research will still need laboratory space for the ultimate experimental tests, but computational prediction will be the main mode of exploration in Cambridge. Exploration in the field will be dominated by remote controlled machines capable of operating unaccompanied in hostile environments within the body, under water, in deserts or forests, in space. But the conception, interpretation and dissemination will still happen in Cambridge, with even more international groups than today. And the boundaries between University and private sector exploitation businesses will have dissolved.

The University of Cambridge will still have a residual component, allowing some individuals to taste the traditional experience, but the bulk of teaching and education will be delivered remotely. "The University of Cambridge will still have a residual component, allowing some individuals to taste the traditional experience, but the bulk of teaching and education will be delivered remotely." Top people from around the world will still want to gather together to meet and discuss their research and ideas. The University’s unique selling point — its USP — will be its convening power, bringing key individuals to Cambridge to experience personal interactions and chemistry despite the large carbon cost of international travel in an energy-deprived world. "The University's USP will be its convening power, bringing key individuals to Cambridge to experience personal interactions and chemistry despite the large carbon cost of international travel in an energy-deprived world."
Emma Thornton
Head, Tourism and City Centre Management Cambridge City Council

Technology
Looking ahead to the future, we would like to think that Cambridge will be ahead of the game in terms of using cutting edge technologies and innovations. The beauty of Cambridge is that whilst it is steeped in history, it is also at the forefront of scientific and technological discovery and we would seek to continue to safeguard, but also to innovate.

Augmented reality
Whilst we appreciate that augmented reality is something that we will already see coming on stream, particularly in a specific museum or attraction, as the technology becomes further refined there seems to be potential to explore this further in a city like Cambridge. With its strong academic heritage, some of the colleges and other great buildings, and into the past we can take our visitors on a green corridor connecting Cambridge with Wicken Fen to the north-east.

The challenge of looking forward 50 years in a city like Cambridge is marked by the 800th anniversary of the University of Cambridge is an interesting one, as in 50 years it is not a survival instinct time set against the long arc of the city so far.

So, what can we usefully consider are changes in the ways in which people are able to take part in cultural experiences, returning to a more social and communal use of the city streetscape.

Advances in technologies around work and transport have released the city centre from the constant in and out of flows of creating space for more significant civic and cultural experiences, returning to a more social and communal use of the city streetscape. However, by 2065 the historic core, which was already stretched by its very nature, means that the exact form they will take should be a large extent unknowable. However, what we do know is that they will, in whatever shape, be a crucial part of the Matter of the future.

Much about the historic city centre has not changed. Buildings, which are rich traditions of history, much of years are still standing, and many have the same uses as in 2015. The museums, venues, and open spaces, which were unique in a shape for a city of the size of Cambridge in 2015, are still present. City centre green spaces continue to provide a balance of recreational and cultural activity experienced in the historic centre is matched or surpassed. Venues with the scale and infrastructure appropriate for the expanded city have been planned into the growth, including large scale green spaces available to hold city wide gatherings, with excellent public transport, cycling and walking links.

“Achievements in technologies around work and transport have released the city centre from the constant in and out of flows of creating space for more significant civic and cultural experiences, returning to a more social and communal use of the city streetscape.”

Chair, Arts Development UK

Emma Thornton
Head, Tourism and City Centre Management Cambridge City Council

Safeguarding heritage
Our vision for Cambridge in 2015 is that it would continue to be recognised as one of the premier historic cities in the UK with its distinctive built heritage conserved. In addition to the college buildings this would also include its rich tradition of church, civic, industrial and domestic architecture.

Looking ahead to the future, we would like to think that Cambridge will be ahead of the game in terms of using cutting edge technologies and innovations. The beauty of Cambridge is that whilst it is steeped in history, it is also at the forefront of scientific and technological discovery and we would seek to continue to safeguard, but also to innovate.

Cambridge would have received World Heritage Site status in recognition of the beauty and integrity of its urban fabric and its importance as an international seat of learning, research and innovation. A green corridor linking Cambridge with Wicken Fen to the north-east.

Value not volume
There would be much greater recognition for Cambridge as a short-break destination with improved connectivity and transmission and distribution and the virtual cultural experiences they support are ubiquitous, and the city’s cultural value is now internationally accessible, but the long arc of the city so far.

The challenge of looking forward 50 years in a city like Cambridge is marked by the 800th anniversary of the University of Cambridge is an interesting one, as in 50 years it is not a survival instinct time set against the long arc of the city so far.

Speculating on arts, recreation and culture 50 years into the future, what we can usefully consider are changes in the ways in which people are able to take part in cultural experiences, returning to a more social and communal use of the city streetscape.

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A strong collaborative approach to planning over the 50 years between 2015 and 2065 has meant that Cambridge, rather than following the model of those cities which simply added ring after ring of housing around an ever more pressurised civic core, took a very different approach to growth. Cambridge took the opportunity to breathe the most beautiful city centre eviscerated and remade in green landscape with it. The very high quality of life associated with Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire has been maintained and developed, providing a recreational and cultural match to the complex intellectual and economic growth of the city.
Cambridge needs to continue to be a place that is above all an intellectually challenging, with a high quality of life that can attract and retain the world’s leading minds in both academia and business.

Any education system that doesn’t consider students is preventing sustainable growth. The University’s USP will be its convening power, bringing key individuals to Cambridge to experience personal interactions and chemistry despite the large carbon cost of international travel in an energy-deprived world.

What we can expect with a degree of certainty is that vehicles will most likely be autonomous in their operation and not powered by an internal combustion engine.

Cambridge must restore some of its medieval ambitions, but with those royal privileges directed toward the poor and disenfranchised rather than children of an elite.

Cambridge is a unifying town, a united city, ‘One Cambridge - Fair for All’, in which economic dynamism and prosperity are combined with social justice and equality.

We know that the world will change in ways we cannot begin to imagine. The ‘network effect’ that has driven much of Cambridge’s success will need to evolve and develop as the economy grows.

The extensive nature reserve will provide access routes from Cambridge and surrounding towns and villages by foot, cycle, on horseback and by boat and will create recreational opportunities across a unique and developing area of countryside.

The University of Cambridge will still have a residential component, allowing some individuals to taste the traditional experience, but the bulk of teaching and education will be delivered remotely.

Inequality remains the global challenge that it was in 2015 given an absence of national and international fiscal reforms to corporation, inheritance and other taxes that are needed to shift wealth from the richest 1% that still own as much as the poorest 50%.

Assumptions about the desirability of equality that are normal today were in their infancy in 2065.

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Cambridgeshire will be an exemplar for the landscape-scale restoration of the natural environment, championing innovative land management and creating healthy places to live.

Much of the business growth has been based on foundations laid down in 2015.

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Advances in technologies around work and transport, have released the city centre from the constant in and out flow of cars and created more space for significant shared cultural experiences, returning to a more social and communal use of the city streetscape.

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Visions of Cambridge in 2065

In October 2013, Professor Sir Mark Walport chaired the first Foresight Future Cities Regional Workshop in Cambridge. The discussions during that meeting inspired a consortium of people from across the city to come together to work on the ‘Visions of Cambridge in 2065’ project. This is one of six local city projects co-funded by the Foresight Future of Cities project in the Government Office for Science. Each project is developing its own methods for visioning possible futures of its city.

‘Visions of Cambridge in 2065’ seeks to open up the possibility of imagining the future of Cambridge to a broad cross-section of its citizens; eliciting visions of what the city could look like in 2065, and to map diverse projections for its future.

This volume represents the first phase of the project, bringing together visions from city and county-level policymakers, researchers and people who work for companies, local organisations and networks. The second phase of the project will include perspectives from the people who live and work in the city.

This project was co-led by the Cambridge Forum for Sustainability and the Environment and the Centre for Science and Policy (CSaP).

The Cambridge Forum for Sustainability and the Environment is a Forum in the University of Cambridge that aims to stimulate cross-disciplinary conversations about some of the great sustainability challenges the world faces in the future, and the research pathways which will help to prepare for and address those challenges.

The Centre for Science and Policy promotes engagement between academic research and government in order to improve the use of evidence in public policy, and support academics in the public policy dimensions of their research.