

Cambridgeshire Conservative Councillors



Cllr Elisa Meschini
Chair of the Greater Cambridge Partnership
Shire Hall,
Cambridge,
CB3 0AP

16th March 2022

Dear Cllr Elisa Meschini,

Congestion Charging in Cambridge

We are writing to you in relation to the Greater Cambridge Partnership's recent consultation suggesting the introduction of congestion charging in Cambridge.

We are concerned that an introduction of congestion charging would deeply affect many of our residents who work, but cannot afford to live, in Cambridge and so are forced to commute to and from often on a daily basis. Many of our residents will be affected but have absolutely no representation on the Board of the Greater Cambridge Partnership, and with this in mind we hope you will take our concerns seriously and act in the public interest of residents across the whole of Cambridgeshire.

Your proposals would see every single car user who needs to drive into Cambridge charged a fee of £15 every time they had to enter the city. This could cost our residents working in Cambridge, with no reasonable alternative other than to use a car, £75 a week. Even allowing for four weeks a year holiday this could result in an extra cost of £3,600 a year to residents. How can you possibly be considering this extra burden on people at this time? If you are to continue along this path, then you will be penalizing those on lower incomes that cannot afford to live in the city and those that work anti social hours.

We call for you to publicly declare that the Greater Cambridge Partnership Board will drop all notions of congestion charging without delay, and that the Board will not even contemplate such charging while there are no real reliable and affordable local transport alternatives in place, which forces hard working residents to use cars to commute in and out of Cambridge. This additional charge on Cambridgeshire's motorists would also unfairly tax patients and visitors needing to access Addenbrooke's Hospital, as well as those who simply wish to travel to Cambridge to visit family or friends or for leisure and shopping opportunities.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Heather Williams, Conservative and Major Opposition Group Leader South Cambridgeshire District Council

Cllr Ryan Fuller, Conservative Group and Council Leader of Huntingdonshire District Council

Cllr Anna Bailey, Conservative Group and Council Leader of East Cambridgeshire District Council

Cllr Chris Boden, Conservative Group and Council Leader of Fenland District Council

Cllr Steve Count, Conservative and Major Opposition Group Leader, Cambridgeshire County Council