



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**

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Our reference: TO2026/21140

Mrs Jenni Ramos

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21 August 2026

Dear Mrs Ramos,

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State dated 29 July 2026 regarding the Voice of the River joining the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation board.

Greater Cambridge is one of Britain's most important engines of growth, home to the University of Cambridge, other world-class research institutions, and innovation-led ecosystems in technology, advanced manufacturing, and life sciences. However, despite its global significance, Greater Cambridge faces a set of deeply interconnected challenges, particularly in relation to infrastructure and housing provision.

The government established the Greater Cambridge Development Corporation (GCDC) on 23 July 2026 following a public consultation that ran from 4 February to 1 April 2026. With direct access to central government, the Development Corporation will provide Greater Cambridge with the tools, certainty and investment to bring national and local partners behind shared priorities.

An interim board has been appointed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government Secretary of State. The interim board is chaired by Peter Freeman, former Chair of the Cambridge Growth Company, and includes the locally elected leaders from the area, and non-executive directors with expertise in regeneration, housing delivery, academia, transport, and sustainable development. The framework document, which you have referenced, is being developed by the department in collaboration with the GCDC.

The government expects the GCDC to be an exemplar of excellent community engagement. It will work closely with local government, communities and local partners to ensure that growth is shaped by these priorities at formative stages and delivers lasting benefits for existing and future residents. Furthermore, the consultation response agreed that the government will ask the GCDC to create structured forums for engagement to provide a clear structure for enabling residents to help shape priorities, inform proposals, and ensure that a wide range of voices are heard as plans are developed transparently.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will conduct an open recruitment exercise for the permanent roles of chair and non-executive directors on the GCDC board. If you are interested in a member of Voice of the River sitting on the permanent GCDC board, I would encourage you to consider applying, once the recruitment campaign has launched.

If you have further queries regarding community involvement in the GCDC, please contact the GCDC directly at GCDCEnquiries@homesengland.gov.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to write to us.

Yours sincerely,

Emmeline
Correspondence Unit