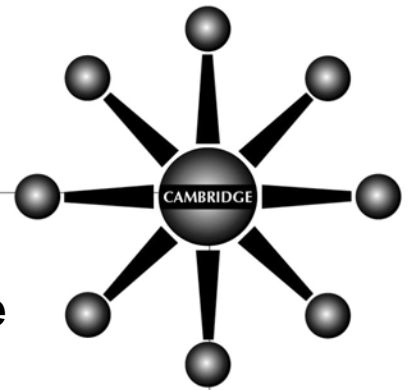


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Skills and Training Issues Top Conference Feedback

- The Greater Cambridge Partnership Annual Conference Report was launched this week.
- The GCP's 2006 Conference was its most successful to date with 300 delegates and a varied mix of stimulating presentations. The keynote presentation was given by Sir Digby Jones, the outgoing Director General of the CBI, who reflected on his six years at the helm of the CBI and offered his thoughts on the key challenges facing the Greater Cambridge area.

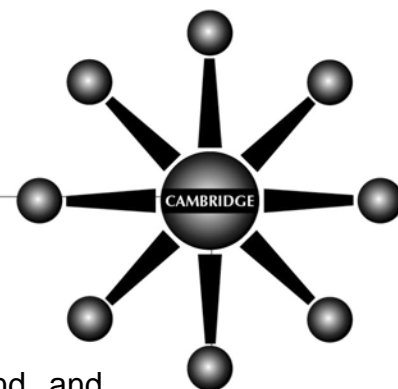


- Sir Digby Jones speech is included in the report.
- The 300 delegates were asked for their feedback and their top priorities for interventions to ensure Greater Cambridge continues to be a global economic force. The top priorities were:
 - 1 Staff and skills
 - 2 Business support
 - 3 Investment and networks
 - 4 Property
 - 5 Finance



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- Particular emphasis was given to:
 - Skills: upskilling the local workforce including for core skills
 - Property: more flexible buildings, more employment land and housing are needed
 - Manufacturing: if we do not have premises available locally we should link with a nearby manufacturing region
 - Business / academia: we need to increase the business knowledge exchange
- Nigel Brown says “What a conference! We have outdone ourselves with the subject matter, the quality of the presentations, and the speakers. The 10 project presentations really brought home to the audience what is being achieved in the Greater Cambridge area now.”
- The delegate feedback and project ideas session has provided useful information for the GCP in terms of the priorities for economic interventions and with general ideas and suggestions. The information will be used to focus priorities in the GCP Delivery Plan for 2007/08.
- For a copy of the Conference Report, email Lucy Brock at lucy.brock@cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Notes to Editor

- The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is the Sub Regional Economic Partner for the Greater Cambridge city region, comprising the 25 mile radius from Cambridge. This area covers Cambridgeshire and the districts of Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury (Suffolk), Uttlesford (Essex) and North Herts (Hertfordshire) and also incorporates the surrounding market towns of Huntingdon, Ely, St. Neots, Newmarket, Bury St. Edmunds, Saffron Walden, Haverhill and Royston.
- Please contact Martin Garratt on 07789 922487 for further information

