RSA Cambridge Group
Meeting at ideaSpace: 10 February 2011

What will be the developments in technology in the next 20 years that will most change our lives?

- Pervasiveness of internet and communications technologies – in workplace and home, education and retail, health and so on (provided that we jump broadband cable and go for cell/satellite/wireless technology)
- Automation of common-sense cutting through data overload for improved decision-making
- Video-conferencing expansion enabling people to work remotely and travel less
- Electric cars (provided that a single option is selected for development)
- Improved resource, recycling and waste systems and management
- Improved control systems applied to lighting and energy use
- Access control systems using biometrics
- Bio-technology enabling cross-overs between sectors (technology, medical research)
- Tele-medicine self-connect illness diagnosis systems
- Robotics to assist ageing population
- Green environmental technologies – new construction materials, solar power and so on
- Food technology – novel ways to grow food, vertical farming

How can we ensure that our sub-region takes a lead in as many of them as possible?

Specific to region:

- More research and investment to enable us to develop practically and become regionally sustainable – water supply is just one major issue
- Infrastructure development of sub-region – transport, communications and housing
- Well-focussed partnerships with Asia
- Technical support skills development
- Application of locally-developed new technologies here – to get feed-back quickly. For example, new green technologies could be tested on new urban extension housing
- Food production technology developed to increase regional self-sustainability
- Governance and planning to become more 'joined-up'

Nationally:

- IT education in schools must be developed - it is affecting intrapersonal communication and attention spans and is becoming a health issue
- New ways of learning, using IT, need constant development
- Energy reduction must be given a high priority – by eliminating stand-by red lights, using more LED, low energy lighting and solar power
- The social/educational divide in school leavers must be addressed
- Technology security must be constantly refined
- Building codes and regulations should be influenced through science