



Transport & Infrastructure Committee	Agenda Item
17 January 2024	5

Title:	Director's Highlight Report: January 2024
Report of:	Steve Cox, Interim Executive Director – Place & Connectivity
Lead Member:	Cllr Anna Smith, Chair of Transport and Infrastructure Committee
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required

Recommendations:	
A	Note the content of this report.

Strategic Objective(s):	
The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
X	Achieving good growth
X	Increased connectivity
X	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose	
1.1	This report provides a general update on the key activities of the Place and Connectivity Directorate in relation to Transport and Infrastructure, which are not covered in other reports to this meeting. It also provides information on some key developments, risks and opportunities that have emerged.

2. Recent and Forthcoming Events	
2.1	On 21 November 2023 TIC member Dr Andy Williams and CPCA Transport Programme Manager attended a construction site visit to the Cambridge South Station. The visit was attended by senior members of the DfT, Network Rail and the Construction contractor J Murphy and Sons Ltd. The project continues to be well advanced with planned track closures over both this Christmas and New Year and next year also. The foundations for the footbridge and the structures for the new platforms can clearly now be seen. Progress remains as planned for 2025 opening.

3. Combined Authority scheme updates

3.1 Fengate Access Study - Eastern Industries Access - Phase 1

An update on the Fengate Access Study - Eastern Industries Access - Phase 1 includes:

- Completed - Newark Rd footpath, Oxney Road pedestrian crossing and Junction 7 improvements are now complete. There are some post completion works on-going which are close to being finalised.
- On-going - The Oxney Road/Newark Road mini roundabout project is now substantially complete with some minor snagging items to address and Stage 3 Road Safety Audit to complete. The Storey's Bar Road/Edgerley Drain Road/Vicarage Farm Road junction sub-project commenced on site on Monday 13 November 2023. This is estimated to be completed by 31 March 2024.
- Environmental work has commenced to identify sites where additional tree planting will be undertaken.

Junction 7



Newark Road Footpath



Oxney Road Crossing



Oxney Road Mini Roundabout



3.2 **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capability Fund.**

This section provides an update on the work undertaken to date on Electric Vehicles Infrastructure and the LEVI fund and highlights the development of the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy – comments of which would be warmly received by officers.

Information on the LEVI fund is available via the following links - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-local-ev-infrastructure-levi-funding> and [Local electric vehicle infrastructure fund - Energy Saving Trust.](#)

In March 2023, the Transport and Infrastructure Committee and CPCA Board took note and comment on the draft Electric Vehicle Implementation Strategy, approved the East Anglian Alternative Fuel Strategy, and approved the drawdown of the £88,560 from the LEVI Capability Fund.

In March 2023, an indicative allocation to the Combined Authority was made of up to £5,437,000 capital and £403,440 capability funding under the LEVI Fund. The allocation would require that funding be used to support charge-point delivery across the region, and that there should be collaboration with any constituent local authorities on proposals to use it.

In August 2023, the Combined Authority was successful for the bid for the £403,440 Capability Fund and notified that in terms of the £5,437,000 Capital Fund tranche two was entered and in 2024/2025 a detailed application for this funding will need to be undertaken and submitted.

It has been made clear as part of the funding that collaboration drives scale and can increase the amount of private investment leveraged into projects. Therefore, the Combined Authority and Highways Authority are working as one team with the Highway Authorities.

The Capability Fund looks to achieve the following:

- Finalise EV Strategy;
- Establish EV Infrastructure Governance;
- LEVI capital fund business case;
- Training;
- Engagement – constituent councils, members, public and other key stakeholders;
- Market testing;
- Consultancy work – mapping / site selection / branding;
- Procurement – CPCA wide;
- Development of 5-year Delivery Plan;
- Staff capacity to deliver installed and commissioned charging infrastructure; and
- Work towards application for Capital Fund (£5,437,000).

In September 2023 Combined Authority Board approved the drawdown of the £403,440 LEVI Capability Fund. Progress to date includes:

- Engagement with constituent Councils' officers.
- Councillor presentation introducing Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure was undertaken in November 2023.
- Engagement with England's Economic Heartland and other Local Authorities on strategies, lessons learned and way forward.
- Working through tasks as per the Capability Fund particular focus on EV strategy, consultancy work including mapping and procurement. Looking to procure mapping work this month.
- Programme, Risks and Business Case workshops internally.
- Progressing joint procurement – it is proposed Peterborough City Council lead on this – LEVI have stated “to drive scale and increase the amount of private investment leveraged into projects, collaboration between local authorities is a requirement of the LEVI Fund (between constituent authorities within a Combined Authority, between County and District Authorities and between London Boroughs).
- To realise the economies of scale, where suitable we anticipate this collaboration should result in joint procurement exercises conducted by the collaborating authorities.

- Started engagement with distribution network operator (DNO); and
- Launch of a public engagement survey this month to understand people thoughts and needs in terms of Electric Vehicle and Infrastructure in January 2024.

A draft Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy was bought for comment to Combined Authority Board in March 2023. Since March 2023, this strategy has been worked on and an updated DRAFT document is appended to this report for comment in Appendix A.

The report will cover topics including:

- Scope;
- Vision & Objectives;
- Background and Policy Context;
- Local and Regional Policy;
- Chargepoint speeds and technology;
- Enabling infrastructure (DNO connections);
- Current situation across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough;
- Key Focus Areas;
- Chargepoint accessibility;
- Communication, Advocacy and Outreach;
- Public and Shared Transport;
- Planning, Regulation and Guidance;
- Commercial options for installation and operations;
- How we will deliver; and
- Action Plan.

Currently, the strategy is being shared for comment with all constituent Councils and a final collaborative and agreed document is planned to be tabled at the March 2024 Transport and Infrastructure Committee and subsequently approved at the Combined Authority Board.

3.3 **A47 High Level Study**

In the summer of 2023 Norfolk County Council on behalf of the A47 Alliance commissioned a high-level study to assess the benefit of fully dualling the A47 and the carbon impacts of doing so. The Combined Authority contributed a small amount of funding, £6,537.60, to the study's development. The outcome of the study is due to be reported at the A47 Alliance on 19 January 2024. A further update will be provided in the next Director's Report.

3.4 **Active Travel Update**

Chris Boardman and Active Travel England visit

The visit from Chris Boardman and his Active Travel England colleagues was successful. There was sufficient media coverage and promotion of the Winter Wheelers campaign which is currently running in the region. The group started at Cambridge Station and cycled, using Voi bikes, along the Chisholm Trail to Cambridge North station. Here they boarded a bus on the guided bus way and had a walking tour around Northstowe.

ATE Self-Assessment

Active Travel England's Self-Assessment was submitted on the 22 December. The Self-Assessment allows us to provide evidence of our capability and ambition for active travel schemes. Using our evidence Active Travel England provide the Combined Authority with a rating. This rating determines how much funding we receive in future funding rounds. We are currently at a Level 2 and are aiming to achieve a Level 3.

	<p><u>Bids Submitted</u></p> <p>In November we submitted an eCargo Bike Try-Before-You-Buy bid to Climate KIC. The bid requested £77,380.80 to expand the current scheme running in Cambridgeshire.</p> <p>Department for Transport have released their Transport Decarbonisation Demonstrators grant. We are currently talking to local businesses about the opportunities available to us.</p> <p><u>Active Travel Specialist Advisory Board</u></p> <p>The Active Travel Specialist Advisory Board (SAB) (formally known as the Scrutiny Group) met for the first time in November and again in December to discuss the requirements for a Walking, Wheeling, and Cycling Commissioner. Work is underway to create a job description for this role.</p>
3.5	<p>Cambridgeshire County Council Transforming Cities Fund (TCF) works</p> <p>TCF-funded schemes have enjoyed successes, as well as encountering some challenges, during 2023. The installation of a new signalised crossing outside a primary school, as well as nearby junction safety improvements and road resurfacing work on The Brook in Sutton, was completed on time during the school summer holidays.</p> <p>A similar major junction improvement on Barton Road in Cambridge was also completed according to programme and brings major benefits to active travel users crossing the A603. Two additional zebra crossings are planned for installation in Chatteris early in 2024 and are also on-track and expected to be complete according to the programme, and design work to progress improvements to the Addenbrookes Roundabout in Cambridge are well underway and will be completed within programme.</p> <p>There are some challenges within the delivery programme, including securing road space for works within Cambridge City due to high demand, impacting the programme for a planned upgrade to a crossing of Chesterton Road in Cambridge, at the junction with Carlyle Road. The proposed modal filter on Mill Road Cambridge was subject to an application to the Court to suspend the Traffic Regulation Order and all associated work until the final determination of the case. The County Council is waiting a further hearing to determine whether the Traffic Regulation Order should be suspended, no action will be taken until this point.</p> <p>A large proportion of the TCF funding is allocated towards implementing 20mph zones in locations around the County. This has proved popular with schemes planned for completion in Cambourne, Ely, Histon and Impington, Huntingdon, Ramsey and Bury, St Ives and St Neots before the end of the financial year. Installation of the first of these schemes is expected to commence in January 2024.</p> <p>Further engagement is planned for the 20mph schemes proposed in Soham and Cambridge before an application for a Traffic Regulation Order is made, with programme for delivery of these schemes to be confirmed subject to the outcome of consultation.</p>
3.6	<p>Climate-KIC's Cargo Bike Try-Before-You-Buy Scheme Bid</p> <p>On 13 September 2023, the Climate-KIC advertised the Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge 2024 fund.</p> <p>Applications for grants up to 90,000 EUR (£78,000) were requested with a maximum of five projects funded. Cities and towns, with a population of at least 25,000, in the EU Member States, Horizon Europe Associated Countries¹ (including the United Kingdom) and Switzerland were eligible to apply.</p> <p>The challenge called on cities to present bold and impactful projects that seek to decarbonise transport, improve local air quality and accelerate the take-up of active, shared, collective and/or electric mobility. The projects would support the transition to cleaner, greener, and more inclusive transport.</p> <p>The cargo bike try-before-you-buy model has been piloted by Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) since July 2021. This scheme has been very popular and there is currently a four-week waiting list to borrow an electric cargo (e-cargo) bike. The scheme has eight bikes; four bikes in two styles for families</p>

to borrow, and four different styles for businesses to trial. To date there have been over 160 trials of cargo bike and over 65% of participants have decided to purchase a cargo bike after the trial period.

However, despite the popularity of the cargo bikes, the scheme only had funding for three years and so will come to an end in spring 2024. Therefore, this project was selected as a basis for this bid.

The bid proposed a scheme that will build on Cambridgeshire's success by adding eight additional bikes and expand the geographical reach to Cambridgeshire market towns and Peterborough city. Three additional family cargo bikes will be added to the Cambridgeshire scheme and four family bikes and one business bike will be available in Peterborough.

Families and businesses wanting to try out a cargo bike can access the details of the bikes online. There are nine styles of bikes to choose from and the loan time is between 1 and 8 weeks (1 or 2 weeks for families and 4 or 8 weeks for businesses). There is a small fee to take part in the scheme to ensure that the bikes are valued.

All bikes (including the 8 original bikes) will be fitted with a GPS tracker, which will allow data to be collected about people's journeys and routes taken. This valuable data can be used to help prioritise cycle networks and remove physical barriers. The bikes will be supplied with chain locks and receive a routine service at 6 months and an in-depth service at 12 months.

The intention is that the scheme will be provided by a local company who can offer the benefit of local knowledge. The organisation that delivers the project will be selected in line with the Combined Authority's procurement process. The procurement process will commence mid-January to ensure the provider is in place and bikes purchased by April 2024. The project will continue until July 2025.

A copy of the bid is attached at Appendix B

3.7 Transport Decarbonisation Demonstrators Bid

The Combined Authority are looking to support a bid into the Transport Decarbonisation Demonstrators. [Competition overview - Transport Decarbonisation Demonstrators - Innovation Funding Service \(apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-innovation-funding). The bid allows UK registered businesses to apply for a share of up to £2 million to work with Local Authorities to develop place-based solutions to transport decarbonisation. This funding is from the Department for Transport (DfT).

The first bid is with Modular Clinton Global (MCG) Ltd (other stakeholders include Nottingham University, Cater and Merger Consult and New Climate Solutions Ltd). The projects looks to create a place-based demonstrator that will support collaborative energy-efficient transport management to track, connect and optimise assets towards net zero transportation. It thus empowers transport operators and policy makers at local authorities with enhanced transparency of carbon emissions as well as costs, to strategically adapt decarbonised operations, secure energy provision(renewable/hydrogen), and unlock the potential to deliver benefits and incentives to travellers. If successful in the bid and If all the data requested is available, the project is targeting to deliver a simplified tool for the Combined Authority to measure the impact, which could be aid further the decarbonisation roadmap and implementing the net-zero transition.

The second bid is with Outspoken Cycles. Their bid is to run an eCargo bike library for residents and create an on-street hire scheme for eCargo bike. This scheme will deploy ecargo bikes to key locations across both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. A Bluetooth-based app system will allow members of the public to rent eCargo bikes on short journeys. In addition, there will also be a fleet of bikes that are available to rent for one or two months from a selection of eCargo bikes. Both parts of this scheme will encourage users to participate in active travel as well as increase the number of shorts duration trips made by eCargo bikes.

The bids were submitted 8th January 2024 and the successful bidders will be informed in February 2024.



4. Monthly Transport Statistics

	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	August 23	Sept 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	YTD
Passenger numbers on subsidised routes (last updated 13/10/2023)	90,593	97,960	112,011	<i>NB passenger numbers provided by 4-week period by all but two operators.</i> <i>Period 1 (2nd – 29th April) = 143,627 (updated 13/10/23)</i> <i>April ridership separately recorded = 25,628 (updated to include an additional operator.)</i> <i>NB. Period 1 total is missing data from 2 small operators.</i>	<i>Period 2 (30th April to 27th May) passenger numbers = 152,646 (updated 13/10/23)</i> <i>May ridership separately recorded = 27,439 (updated to include an additional operator)</i> <i>NB. Period 2 total is missing data from 2 small operators</i>	<i>Period 3 (28th May to 24th June) passenger numbers = 149,838 (Total is missing data from 1 operator) Updated 22/11/23</i> <i>June ridership separately recorded = 31,677 (updated to include an additional operator)</i>	<i>Period 4 (25th June to 22nd July) passenger numbers = 163,520 (NB. Amended 22/11/23)</i> <i>(Total is missing data from 1 small operator.)</i> <i>July ridership separately recorded = 32,274 (NB. Updated 22/11/23.)</i>	<i>Period 5 (23rd July to 19th August) passenger numbers = 147,827 (NB Amended 22/11/23)</i> <i>(Total is missing data from 1 small operator.)</i> <i>August ridership separately recorded = 30,754</i>	<i>Period 6 (20th August to 16th September) passenger numbers = 143,743 (NB Amended 22/11/23)</i> <i>(Total is missing data from 2 small operators.)</i>	<i>Period 7 (17th September to 14th October) passenger numbers = 138,768 (Total is missing data from 3 small operators.)</i>	<i>Period 8 (15th October to 11th November) passenger numbers = 168,133 (Total is missing data from 3 small operators.)</i>	<i>Periods 1 to 8 (with missing data) total = 1,209,892</i> <i>April to August ridership separately recorded = 147,772</i>

		Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	YTD
Real time passenger information	Total signs	439	439	439	439	439	439	453	453	453	453	453	
	Faults reported and fixed	11	5	8	3	6	2	11	5	2	11	7	
Taxi cards – customers, booklets issued in 2023/24 to date													99 (requests from 54 scheme members)
Bus passes issued		1,706	2,041	2,407	1,873	2,010	1,862	1,916	2,110	1,684	2,014	1,662	
Library assisted bus pass applications					316 (Cambs) 96 (P'boro)	317 (C) 92 (P)	262 (C) 96 (P)	235 (C) 92 (P)	280 (C) 116 (P)	262 (C) 70 (P)	275 (C) 87 (P)	185 (C) 66 (P)	Total = 2,596 (April to October)
Love to ride miles													1,368,184 miles
Rides on scooters		75.5k	85.2k	89.8k	85.6k	97.8k	111.5k	101.8k	95.6k	105.2k	116k	110.7k	883.9k

Bus Pass call centre update:

- Performance for bus passes calls answered for October was above the SLA of 85% finishing the month at 92.50%
- Calls to the Contact Centre, including telephone applications was 743
- The average wait time for calls was down from 2.28 minutes I September to 01/25 minutes and the average call time 6.09 minutes
- Non-phone contacts were 3,503, which includes processing application evidence documents

Community Transport Support of Volunteer Car Schemes:

- Support to Community Transport Volunteer Car Schemes though verification of driver Data Barring Service checks for new and renewing drivers and issue of ID cards. 114 checks have been carried out since 1st April 2023.



5. Appendices

5.1	Appendix A: - Draft Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy Appendix B: - eCargo Bike Bid Appendix C: – Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge 2024 Guidance
-----	--

6. Implications

Financial Implications

6.1 None.

Legal Implications

7.1 None.

Public Health Implications

8.1 None.

Environmental & Climate Change Implications

9.1 Neutral.

Other Significant Implications

10.1 None.

Background Papers

11.1 None.