



Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee	Agenda Item
11 September 2023	5

Title:	Place & Connectivity Directorate Monthly Highlight Report: August 2023
Report of:	Steve Cox, Interim Executive Director – Place & Connectivity
Lead Member:	Deputy Mayor, Cllr Bridget Smith
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	No vote required

Recommendations:

A	Note the content of this report.
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Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):	
	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
	Achieving good growth
	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 Environment and Sustainable Communities, which are not covered in other reports to this Meeting. It also provides information on some key developments, risks and opportunities that have emerged.
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2. Combined Authority scheme updates

2.1	CA Board Action 336 An action from the Board was for an agreed definition of net zero as there were variances in definition. Also, what monitoring would be put in place and where was the performance element. The June Committee meeting considered a performance report on progress against the Climate Action Plan. This also included a commentary on the use of Net Zero targets. The need for enhancing the climate data and monitoring has been recognised and a funding request submitted to Board. In addition, the Climate Partnership in June received a presentation from the Centre for Climate Engagement at Hughes Hall on the role of setting “Locally Determined Contributions”. This is being scoped as a possible new action for the Climate Action Plan.
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2.2	Peterborough Electric Bus Depot – Peterborough City Council are leading on the project to deliver a facility that will utilise the £4M of funding secured from DLUHC by the Combined Authority. A joint report is to be issued to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee on 13 September 2023 and CA Board on 20 September 2023.
2.3	The Combined Authority received confirmation after the June Committee of DeFRA funding for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. As our programme lead, Cambridgeshire County has gone out to market to contract the editorial support role required.

3. Strategic Partner scheme updates

3.1	The Combined Authority grant funded £1M of DLUHC funding to Cambridge City Council to assist with land assembly costs associated with redeveloping some 1950's flats, adjacent houses, and garages at Fanshawe Rd, Cambridge. The project shall provide 93 new affordable and sustainable homes, enhanced provision of open space and improvements to a community pavilion.
3.2	Both Peterborough Council and the County Council have successfully completed Phase 1 of the Pathfinder Places programme funded by Innovate UK. These two multi-partner projects have taken an initial view of 'non-technical' barriers to achieving Net Zero 2050. Both authorities are submitting bids for Phase 2 of the programme. 31 partnerships are eligible to bid up to £5m, with a likely 5 or 6 being successful.
3.3	The Future Fens Integrated Adaptation Taskforce met in July. It discussed progress to date on the FFIA Manifesto. Activity underway or planned included Fens 2100+ Adaptation decision-making framework, an Integrated Water Management strategy for the Fens and Lincolnshire, a 'fens-wide' visualisation tool, and improved hydrological systems understanding of the Fens. The Taskforce also received a presentation on the proposed Fens Reservoir and the benefits of open channel transfer of water.
3.4	Tender documents have been issued to seek consultants to lead the preparation of the Infrastructure Delivery Framework. This work, previously reported to the Committee, will work with partner organisations across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to identify the infrastructure blockages to achieving sustainable and inclusive growth, including energy, water, and transport, and to set out potential solutions for CPCA and other partners to progress. Consultants are expected to be in place by the end of Sept.

4. Appendices

4.1	None
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5. Implications

Financial Implications	
5.1	None
Legal Implications	
6.1	None
Public Health Implications	
7.1	None
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
8.1	Neutral
Other Significant Implications	

9.1	None
Background Papers	
10.1	None