

Transport & Infrastructure Committee – 14 June 2023

Public Questions

	Question from:	Question to:	Question
1.	Mr Anthony Carpen	Transport & Infrastructure Committee	<p>Re item 5 - the Place & Connectivity Report para 2.3: "Rail Summit – 7 July 2023" I went to the Rail Future East meeting in Cambridge last December where transport consultant Jonathan Roberts presented his findings on how to improve rail links in the East of England. (See the summary on pages 4-8 at https://www.railfuture.org.uk/east/rail-east/RailEast-Issue-197-February-2023.pdf)</p> <p>What assessment have officers made of the analysis by Mr Roberts? If they have not seen the report, please could I ask the CPCA to arrange for Mr Roberts and Rail Future East to brief officers and the Committee and commission the substantive report to be placed in the public domain if it is not already - and make the appropriate press/publicity arrangements so that its findings can be shared more widely? (*I'm not a member of Rail Future but I am on their mailing list and support their calls for significantly improved rail networks).</p>
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Cllr Anna Smith (Chair of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee)	Mr Anthony Carpen	In order to provide a truly, sustainable and integrated transport network, rail has to play a key role in offering appropriate choices for people and businesses, especially those involved in the movement of freight. The Combined Authority has been successful in attracting funding and focus from government and other partners in recent years, such as the opening of

			<p>Soham Station and money for Cambridge South Station. It is essential that the Combined Authority continue to work with strategic stakeholders to promote, champion and lobby for the necessary improvements within the rail network and therefore the assistance of Rail Futures will be a key in our approach.</p> <p>I would therefore like to extend an invitation to Rail Futures to attend our Rail Summit in July where conversations can commence with elected members and officers alike.</p>
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