



Transport & Infrastructure Committee	Agenda Item
15 November 2023	5

Title:	Director's Highlight Report: November 2023
Report of:	Steve Cox, Interim Executive Director – Place & Connectivity
Lead Member:	Deputy Mayor, Cllr Anna Smith
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	EEH Conference England's Economic Heartland held its annual conference at the Guildhall, Cambridge on 1 November 2023 and with more than 200 delegates, it was their biggest event yet. The Mayor spoke on the importance of regional and national connectivity and Tim Bellamy, our Assistant Director for Transport gave an update to delegates on the development of the Peterborough Station Quarter. The link to the presentation can be found here: PowerPoint Presentation (eeh-prod-media.s3.amazonaws.com)

2.2	<p>Road Safety: Vision Zero Summit Meeting</p> <p>The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Vision Zero Partnership held a one-day summit meeting on 3 November 2023 to undertake a strategic review of the partnership. This review allowed for the partnership to review the current strategy and decide which way to turn at the crossroads ahead of us. The decisions considered on the day will help shape the work programme for the Partnership and associated partners going forward, some of which may be funded through the Combined Authority. An update for TIC will be provided in due course.</p>
2.3	<p>Smart Transport Conference</p> <p>Tim Bellamy, our Assistant Director for Transport is facilitating a session on developing an effective network to service rural areas at the UK's largest two-day conference for senior private and public sector transport leaders and policymakers. The aim of the conference on 21-22 November is to allow the sectors to work together to transform the UK's transport network and achieve net zero.</p>

3. Combined Authority scheme updates

3.1	<p>A141 update</p> <p>The A141 and St Ives Improvements Study is considering upgrades to the transport network along the A141 corridor and around Huntingdon and St Ives to improve the way people move both locally and around the region. Through this improvement scheme, we aim to support long-distance travel, while also providing an opportunity to change more local trips to sustainable ways of travel. As well as alleviating current challenges to travel, it will allow new housing and jobs to be delivered sustainably.</p> <p>The Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) for the A141 and St Ives Improvements Study shortlisted a range of options that were focussed on the development of a new bypass to the north of Huntingdon and St Ives. Since the initial SOBC was completed in 2021, there have been some key policy updates with greater focus on Active Travel, Net Zero and climate change. Prior to moving into the Outline Business Case (OBC) stage we have carried out a review of the SOBC in light of these recent policy changes. This has involved revisiting the development and assessment of options by ensuring recent changes in standards/ guidelines and travel patterns are considered, which has meant modifying the timeline so that tasks that were planned for later stages are brought forward - specifically in relation to Transport Modelling. To ensure the analysis is as robust and evidence based as possible, we have been revisiting the assumptions and main findings of the previous work, as well as the outcomes of the public engagement and consultation surveys, to establish a preferred option to take forward and progress to public consultation.</p> <p>The study has so far completed, through detailed investigation, the selection of two new options namely, Strategic Public Transport and Hybrid Public Transport/ Road Option. These are currently being assessed in detail in accordance with DfT guidelines utilising the Cambridge Strategic Regional Model, which involves consideration of the user benefits that could be achieved as well as the potential carbon impacts and estimates of scheme costs. At the end of this stage of work, we will have assessed a total of five options in a consistent and robust manner and we will be in a position to determine which options should be discounted and which should be taken forward to the OBC stage for further assessment. This is currently scheduled to be completed by December 2023</p> <p>While this work continues, we are also developing the OBC, which is the next stage required in the planning process for a project of this size and significance.</p>
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<p>3.2</p>	<p>A10 update</p> <p>The project's aim is to complete the preparation of an Outline Business Case (OBC) to Green Book, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), and Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) assurance requirements. This entails, as an initial OBC task, the review, and validation when necessary, of the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) completed in July 2020 to meet the requirements of grant funding from the Department for Transport (DfT) by ensuring recent changes in standards/ guidelines and data are considered. The project deliverables will include a preferred route or package of proposals accompanied by robust costs and a preliminary design with full supporting business case.</p> <p>The first stage of the SOBC Refresh is now complete and CCC have confirmed that WSP will continue as their main consultants to deliver the next OBC stage.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement is continuing to ramp up and in October meetings have been held with Lucy Frazer MP as well as East Cambs and Cambridgeshire representatives. The purpose of these meetings was to update on progress and next steps. Following on from WSP and CCC Subject Matter Experts and WSP agreeing on a Transport Modelling approach, a meeting will take place with DfT shortly.</p> <p>Work is progressing on option development, particularly around areas such as modelling sensitivity testing, concept design, preparation of stakeholder materials and initial phasing strategy to commence. This is taking place concurrently with work on the structure of an OAR Addendum to capture the final stage of optioneering, which is being developed by the Business Case team. This will include a full stakeholder engagement plan to include two public consultations in 2024. The first is scheduled early in 2024 on the refined short list of options to be followed by another on the preferred option based on the responses/ outcome from the first consultation.</p> <p>A finalised programme will be agreed upon the work above being completed.</p>
<p>3.3</p>	<p>Active Travel Update</p> <p>Active Travel England has asked the Combined Authority to undertake a capability ratings exercise. As members may recall, a similar exercise was run with local authorities and the outcomes published in March 2023. The Combined Authority, working with the Highway Authorities, achieved a level 2 (maximum rating is 4). The rating informs Active Travel England's future funding decisions, allowing them to target funding and support in line with its active travel objectives. Member's commitment to active travel will play a critical part in establishing our rating, and we would like to thank you for your continued support.</p> <p>The deadline for completion of the self-assessment is the 22 December with the scores published in spring of 2024.</p> <p>Active Travel England have also informed the Combined Authority that additional capital and revenue funding will be available, Members will be updated once the information is available.</p> <p>The Active Travel Scrutiny Group, now known as the Active Travel Specialist Advisory Board (AT SAB), had their first meeting in October. The board is made up of key stakeholders in the region, including representatives from the constituent councils, campaign groups, Public Health and Greater Cambridge Partnership. Their aim is to enable active travel to have a positive impact on the region and assist the Combined Authority in reaching our active travel objectives. One of the Board's first tasks is to recruit an Active Travel Ambassador/Commissioner to promote active travel locally and nationally.</p>

	<p>A grant opportunity has been identified from EIT Climate-KIC. The Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge fund is for European cities who identify bold and impactful projects which seek to decarbonise transport, improve local air quality and accelerate the take-up of active, shared, collective and/or electric mobility. A project is currently being developed and due to the tight deadline, which is 24 November, Members will be updated on the details at the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>Cycle September 2023 saw over 1000 people riding with a total of 165,000 miles travelled including nearly 33,000 commuter miles in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Cycle September is a global workplace challenge encouraging people to ride their bikes more often and for transport purposes.</p> <p>Cycle September 2023 was a great success in gaining over 500 new users to the platform and had one of the highest participation rates in the UK. Love to Ride, funded by the Combined Authority, have built relationships with District Councils before and during the campaign, building on these partnerships with future campaigns – Winter Wheelers is next – highlighting the importance of being seen and safe cycling during the winter months.</p>
3.5	<p>Railway ticket office closures</p> <p>Following around 750,000 responses to the consultation on plans to close rail ticket offices nationwide, the transport secretary Mark Harper has asked train operators to drop their proposals which had been vigorously opposed by Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority along with many other groups.</p> <p>The Combined Authority had voiced ‘deep concerns’ about the proposals in the consultation response – focusing on the impact to station users, especially vulnerable travellers.</p>



4. Monthly Transport Statistics

	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	August 23	Sept 23	YTD
Passenger numbers on subsidised routes (last updated 13/10/2023)	90,593	97,960	112,011	NB passenger numbers provided by 4-week period by all but two operators. Period 1 (2 nd – 29 th April) = 143,627 (updated 13/10/23) April ridership separately recorded = 25,628 (updated to include an additional operator.) NB. Period 1 total is missing data from 2	Period 2 (30 th April to 27 th May) passenger numbers = 152,646 (updated 13/10/23) May ridership separately recorded = 27,439 (updated to include an additional operator) NB. Period 2 total is missing data from	Period 3 (28 th May to 24 th June) passenger numbers = 150,519 (Total is missing data from 2 operators) June ridership separately recorded = 31,677 (updated to include an additional operator)	Period 4 (25 th June to 22 nd July) passenger numbers = 164,148 (NB. Amended from 163,408) (Total is missing data from 2 small operators) July ridership separately recorded = 31,738	Period 5 (23 rd July to 19 th August) passenger numbers = 148,479 (Total is missing data from 2 small operators.) August ridership separately recorded not fully available yet.	Period 6 (20 th August to 16 th September) passenger numbers = 138,222 (Total is missing data from 3 small operators.)	Periods 1 to 6 (with missing data) total = 897,641 April to July ridership separately recorded = 116,482

					<i>small operators.</i>	<i>2 small operators</i>					
Real time passenger information	Total signs	439	439	439	439	439	439	453	453	453	
	Faults reported and fixed	11	5	8	3	6	2	11	5	2	
Taxi cards – customers, booklets issued in 2023/24 to date											47
Bus passes issued		1,706	2,041	2,407	1,873	2,010	1,862	1,916	2,110	1,684	
Love to ride miles											639,267m
Rides on scooters		75.5k	85.2k	89.8k	85.6k	97.8k	111.5k	101.8k			647.2k

Bus Pass call centre update:

- Performance for bus passes calls answered for September was above the SLA of 85% finishing the month at **90.50% 9SLA**
- Calls have **started to decrease now that the Peterborough integration is becoming embedded, down from 869** in June to 759.
- The average wait time for calls is **2.28 minute and the average call time 6.25 minutes**
- Non-phone contacts were 3,249, a **decrease** from 3,721 in June again as a result of the integration embedding and targeted communications.
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Community Transport Support of Volunteer Car Schemes:

- Support to Community Transport Volunteer Car Schemes through verification of driver Data Barring Service checks for new and renewing drivers and issue of ID cards. 107 checks have been carried out since 1st April 2023.



5. 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