



Transport & Infrastructure Committee		Agenda Item
13 September 2023		5
Title:	Place & Connectivity Directorate Monthly Highlight Report: August 2023	
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.
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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.
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2. Recent and Forthcoming Events

2.1	East of England All Party Parliamentary Group Meeting on Levelling Up Digital and Physical (Roads) Connectivity Cllr Anna Smith and the Head of Transport will be attending the East of England All Party Parliamentary Group Meeting on Levelling Up Digital and Physical (Roads) Connectivity on 12 th September to discuss how can better road infrastructure help level up the East of England as well as power up the East of England's economy and how better connectivity can provide levelling up opportunities and power the region to growth. Following this meeting the Head of Transport will report to the Committee on the key outcomes and the role the Combined Authority will play in promoting the needs of the area.
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2.2	<p>Meeting with National Highways Chief Executive</p> <p>The Mayor and senior Combined Authority officers met with National Highways' (NH) Chief Executive, Neil Harris. The Mayor discussed the Combined Authority's transport priorities for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, reflecting on the importance of the emerging Local Transport and Connectivity Plan in shaping strategic direction and securing future funding, as well as seeking reassurance that NH's plans to replant 160,000 trees on the A14 are on schedule in response to the concerns expressed by many residents and councillors about the high failure rate of initial planting.</p> <p>In addition, the Combined Authority also outlined issues and concerns around the A47, A1(M), A428 and M11 projects. NH stated that they would actively engage with partners and the Combined Authority as these were developed further.</p> <p>Other issues covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Littering – the Combined Authority offered to help with the facilitation of these conversations with District Councils to improve the environment for those travelling on the SRN through Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. • NH committed to assisting the Combined Authority in the development of this strategy and its implementation would be welcomed. • NH outlined that due consideration would be given to further use of bats' bridge such as seen on A11 and Norwich Northern Distributor Road. This is something that could be integrated into the design for A428 due this road cutting across significant amount of grasslands and fields (with animals and habitats).
2.3	<p>Wittering, Castor and Wansford</p> <p>Mayor Dr Nik Johnson and the Head of Transport visited the area of Wittering, Castor and Wansford on 17 August to discuss and understand the concerns of local residents, businesses, and interest groups in relation to the lack of a bus service and active travel provision. Following the meeting, the transport team are working with the local community to come forward with viable solutions to their concerns that can be fed into the appropriate funding and governance processes over the course of the next 6-12 months.</p>

3. Combined Authority scheme updates

3.1	<p>City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement</p> <p>As part of the early discussions on deeper devolution a proposal is being prepared to make the case for CPCA to benefit from a Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) from Government. Outside London CPCA is the only MCA not to be given the opportunity of CRSTS which, for other MCAs, has provided a five-year funding settlement for investment in local transport networks. CRSTS consolidates the Highways Maintenance Block, Potholes Fund, and Integrated Transport Block. It would create the ability for Cambs County Council and Peterborough City Council, as Highway Authorities, to work with CPCA and other partners to design and deliver ambitious investments in the local highway network.</p> <p>The case will be prepared and pursued as part of the 'levelling out' of MCA responsibilities through devolution discussions and also form a key part of our submissions ahead of the Autumn Statement.</p>
3.2	<p>Other Executive Director meetings</p> <p>The Executive Director is due to meet the region's Traffic Commissioner on 5 Sept to discuss the work being carried out by CPCA on Bus Reform and Network Review and explore opportunities for closer working going forward. Traffic Commissioners are responsible for the licensing and regulation of those who operate heavy goods vehicles, buses and coaches, and the regulation of local bus services.</p> <p>The Executive Director is also meeting senior DfT officials on 5 Sept. The agenda will include updates on progress with the LTCP and bus reform, as well as issues and opportunities relating to DfT led funding channels and to continue to press the case for CPCA priority projects, including Ely Area Capacity Enhancement, Peterborough bus depot and further Zebra bus funding.</p>

3.3	<p>Active Travel</p> <p>Bidding Defra have released an Air Quality Grant which aims to reduce air pollution in areas with an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). CPCA are hoping to put in a joint bid with CCC, however as PCC does not have an AQMA they have opted to not participate in the bid. Discussions are underway on the structure of the bid which needs to be submitted by the 29 September.</p> <p>Active Travel Specialist Advisory Board The Active Travel Specialist Advisory Board (AT SAB), formerly known as the Scrutiny Group, will oversee major active travel projects for both infrastructure and behavioral change work undertaken by the Combined Authority. Their role is to share the voice of the communities that CPCA represent and provide technical advice. The AT SAB's first meeting is in September and will discuss the group's aims and objectives as well as starting the process of recruiting an Active Travel Advocate.</p> <p>Active Travel Strategy Preliminary works have started on the process of creating an Active Travel Strategy for the CPCA. The strategy will set out the CPCA's approach to active travel for the next 5 years. It will outline aims and objectives, layout how the CPCA priorities funding active travel schemes, and signpost other strategy documents.</p>
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4. Strategic Partner scheme updates

4.1	<p>Cambridge South Station</p> <p>The Network Rail development of the new Station infrastructure and non-station building works (platforms and ancillary works) are progressing on site. Following the successful Transport and Works Acts Order a detailed planning application for the station buildings has been submitted. Once approved the construction of the station buildings may progress. There remain track works planned over the 2023 and 2024 Christmas periods to make the rail connections into the existing systems. The planned opening date remains 2025.</p> <p>The Mayor Dr Nik Johnson met with CEO of East West Rail Ltd on 28 July to discuss the project's latest developments and the consultation events. The eastern route proposal continues to call at the new Cambridge South station, job and housing opportunities will extend far beyond the cities of Oxford and Cambridge, spreading growth opportunities across the whole area.</p>
4.2	<p>Ticket Office Consultation</p> <p>It is the CPCA's mission is to make life better, healthier, and fairer for all by driving growth that is evenly spread and sustainable. This includes supporting and promoting fair and equal access to transport within our region for all of our communities and railway users.</p> <p>In regard to the consultations around train station ticket office closure, CPCA has expressed its deep concerns around the proposals to each of the train operating companies that have a presence in our region as well as to Transport Focus who are collating responses on behalf of the rail industry.</p> <p>Whilst recognising that rail usage and consumer expectations are constantly evolving, we hold a firm view that there should always be a minimum level of service that all passengers and other end-users should expect. We are concerned that the proposed plan, including the removal of ticket offices, will adversely affect some of our communities who deserve safety, security, and accessibility at all railway stations at all times.</p> <p>Sufficient time and information have not been provided to the consultees in such a manner to be able to understand the process and what is being proposed. It is inherent in a fair consultation that consultees are provided with sufficient information to enable an intelligent, meaningful response and that information is provided in a way that is accessible for those who wish to respond to the consultation.</p>

	<p>Without this it is difficult to develop an informed response on how the proposed changes will impact on different groups, including those with protected characteristics. Availability of staff at stations can be important in assisting a wide range of passengers who find using ticket machines difficult and require extra support whilst travelling, and those that do not have access to the internet or do not own a smartphone. Access to rail can be vital in allowing independence and providing access to key services and leisure. The CPCA would like to understand the rationale behind proposed changes at each station, informed by data which it is assumed is available. We would also like to see changes in numbers of staff at each station quantified, as it is difficult to assess whether the changes might be positive or negative for passengers without this.</p>
4.3	<p>Peterborough Station Quarter</p> <p>Peterborough City Council appointed Arup to undertake the Masterplan Framework and develop the Outline Business Case for the Peterborough Station Quarter. Already a Masterplan Framework options Workshop has taken place with a further workshop taking place at the end of August. Peterborough Station Quarter is key to transforming connectivity, access and development opportunities for this area of Peterborough. The Masterplan considers the layout of the existing station entrance and the proposed new western entrance. Active travel, public transport, public realm and development are all key elements of this work with options being developed.</p> <p>The Combined Authority and Peterborough City Council met representatives of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Department for Transport and Active Travel England to provide an update on progress and discuss the next stages of the work, including progressing with the Outline Business Case.</p>

5. Monthly Transport Statistics

5.1		Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	June 23	July 23	YTD
	Passenger numbers on subsidised routes	90,593	97,960	112,011	<p><i>NB. passenger numbers provided by 4 week period by all but one operator.</i></p> <p><i>Period 1 (2 – 29 April) = 80,525 (updated 22/8/23)</i></p> <p><i>April ridership separately recorded = 22,051.</i></p> <p><i>NB. Period 1 total is missing data from 2 small operators.</i></p>	<p><i>Period 2 (30 April to 2 May) passenger numbers = 83,616</i></p> <p><i>May ridership separately recorded = 23,695</i></p> <p><i>NB. Period 2 total is missing data from 3 operators</i></p>	<p><i>Period 3 (28 May to 24 June) passenger numbers = 150,065</i></p> <p><i>(Total is missing data from 4 operators)</i></p> <p><i>June ridership separately recorded = 27,034</i></p>	<p><i>Period 4 (2 June to 22 July) passenger numbers = 163,408</i></p> <p><i>(Total is missing data from 6 small operators)</i></p> <p><i>July ridership separately recorded not available yet</i></p>	<p><i>Periods 1 to 4 (with missing data) total = 477,614</i></p> <p><i>April to June ridership separately recorded = 72,780</i></p>
	Real time passenger information	Total signs	439	439	439	439	439	441	
		Faults reported and fixed	11	5	8	3	6	2	11
	Taxi cards – customers in, in 2023/24 to date								39
	Bus passes issued	1,706	-	-	1,873	578 (to 12 th May)	1,862	1,916	
	Love to ride miles								639,267m
	Rides on e-scooters	75.5k	85.2k	89.8k	85.6k	97.8k	111.5k	101.8k	647.2k

	<p>Bus Pass call centre update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance for bus passes calls answered was excellent in June, finishing the month at 97.40% (SLA target is 85%). • Calls have increased from 799 in April to 869 in June. • The average wait time for calls is 00.36 minutes. • Non-phone contacts were 3,721 in June, a decrease from 3,751 in April.
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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