



Transport & Infrastructure Committee Draft Minutes

Wednesday 12 July 2023

Venue:	Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, Huntingdon PE29 3TN	
Time:	10.00 to 12.00	
Present:	Councillor Anna Smith Mayor Dr Nik Johnson Councillor Alan Sharp Councillor Nigel Simons Councillor Neil Shailer Councillor Sam Wakeford Councillor Chris Seaton	Chair and Member for Cambridge City Council CPCA Mayor East Cambridgeshire District Council Peterborough City Council Cambridgeshire County Council Huntingdonshire District Council Fenland District Council
Apologies	Councillor Peter McDonald Ms Rebecca Stevens Mr Andy Williams	South Cambridgeshire District Council Business Board Representative Business Board Representative

Minutes:

1	Announcements, Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest
1.1	Apologies were received from the Business Board representatives Ms Rebecca Stevens and Mr Andy Williams, and also from Councillor McDonald.
1.2	Cllr Seaton declared an interest in item 4 on the agenda as he was a trustee of FACT Community Transport which was a charity that provided transport services to people who had difficulty using conventional modes of transport.
2	Draft Minutes and Action Log
2.1	The minutes of the meeting on 14 June 2023 were approved as an accurate record subject to the following amendment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">That Cllr Seaton be added to the list of attendees as he was present for the meeting.
2.2	The Action Log was noted.
3	Public Questions
3.1	No public questions had been received.

4 Place & Connectivity Monthly Highlight Report –June 2023

4.1 Steve Cox, Executive Director – Place and Connectivity, introduced the report which provided the Committee with a general update on the key activities of the Place and Connectivity Directorate in relation to Transport and Infrastructure, which were not covered in other reports to this meeting. It also provided information on some key developments, risks and opportunities that had emerged.

4.2 The following points were raised in discussion:

- a) The Chair thanked the Transport team for all their hard work on the projects outlined in the report, and in particular highlighted the Active Travel England visit which had received very positive feedback.
- b) Following on from the Rail Summit that had been held on 7 July, Members were urged to sign the letter that was being sent to the Government to further press the case for investment into Ely Junction.
- c) The Mayor referred to the recent announcement regarding the proposed closure of rail ticket offices and asked how the CPCA could express its concerns about the effect it would have on the area. The following points were made:
 - Fenland District Council had already drafted their own response to all members of the Community Rail Partnership (CRP) expressing their dismay about the proposed ticket office closures, especially in light of the recent work done by the CPCA on the refurbishment of March station.
 - The proposals were seen as a backward step as it was coming ahead of changes to the online ticketing system and advance tickets, and at a time when the focus should be on doing everything possible to expand access to rail services.
 - It was imperative that staff were physically present on site, even if not in a dedicated ticket office, not only to help people and answer their questions but also from a safety perspective for passengers.
 - The three-week consultation seemed too short a period in which to gather views especially as it was coming into the summer when many people were away.
 - Many passengers were digitally excluded and therefore needed to use a ticket office in order to travel.
 - The deep concerns expressed unanimously by the Committee and also the key points from discussions with officers at all the constituent authorities would be collated and noted in the CPCA consultation documents
- d) Over the last few months there had been separate meetings about rail services and about bus services but these had not been combined. Members felt that there was logic in bringing the whole transport network together as it was critical in underpinning the wider work of the CPCA, for example, the work in the skills area and getting students to educational venues. Reference had been made at the Rail Summit about the integration of rail services with the bus network but officers agreed that there needed to be a more co-ordinated approach going forward.
- e) Officers were now able to confirm that the 55, 56 and 66 bus routes in East Cambridgeshire would continue under a new operator, details of which would be announced shortly.
- f) In response to Stagecoach announcing its intention to withdraw the 36 Bus route by 31 July, officers had considered whether an alternative service could be used to plug the gap, listened to feedback from users about the loss of access to medical services, contacted Community Link to see whether they could provide service between Thorney and Eye, contacted First Bus to see if they could amend the XL service, and also liaised with Stagecoach to understand the costs involved in maintaining the service. As these options were either not feasible or attractive to the provider the Authority was now going through an accelerated procurement process with the aim that the service, under a new operator, would be up and running by the 31 July deadline. CPCA Officers were confident that that this goal could be achieved provided agreement could be reached between themselves and PCC officers, and the budget had been identified,
- g) The CPCA had an overarching responsibility to deliver an improved public transport system and the Mayor had been liaising with operators and challenging them to be responsive to the vision for Bus Reform. Officers had also been challenged to build up capacity within the team and gain the expertise needed to undergo effective Bus reform.
- h) Councillor Simons asked that his thanks to the Mayor and officers for their work on Bus Reform and their work on the 36 bus route be put on record.

- i) The Mayor spoke about his recent Six District Challenge stating that the reality was that public transport for day-to-day use was a challenge for most of the CPCA's residents. Where it worked well it was great but often he had had to adapt plans because of delays and had he been under strict time pressure then the experience would have been much more stressful.
- j) The community of Queen Adelaide and the impact that the Ely junction enhancement work would have on residents there would be referenced in the letter sent to Government.
- k) The Cambs Area Bus User Forum had expressed concerns about the works being done on the A1307 and the changes this would mean for bus routes. Officers had immediately liaised with GCP and Stagecoach to find a solution that meant that all the main settlements along the A1307 would get a bus service at the weekend. More of this type of intervention was to be encouraged so that when road works were scheduled residents found out about changes to bus routes in good time.
- l) There was a role for the CPCA's Active Travel England lead officer to build on her work on rural connectivity to convene with members to understand the particular concerns that rural communities faced and how these got fed into the process. Active Travel England was very interested in the rural connectivity of the CPCA area as it was unique in having 47% of its population classified as rural compared to a national average of 17%.

RESOLVED

The Transport and Infrastructure Committee unanimously resolved to:

1. Note the report.

ACTIONS:

1. The Active Travel Lead Officer to engage with Members over the next three months to understand the key concerns around rural connectivity and for these to then be fed back to Active Travel England.
2. Officers to note Members' deep concerns regarding the proposed closure of the rail ticket offices and include reference to them in the CPCA response to the consultation.

5 The Combined Authority's proposed response to National Highways (NH) Strategic Road Network Initial Report (RIS3) Consultation

5.1 Tim Bellamy, Interim Head of Transport, introduced the report which outlined the key strategic points that the Combined Authority would be responding with to National Highways' RIS3 consultation.

5.2 The following points were raised in discussion:

- a) Officers were happy to include reference to the A428 in their response as an example of where active travel was needed.
- b) In the local Transport and Connectivity Plan the option to have a dual carriageway on the A47 from the A16 to east of Wisbech was still being explored and had not been ruled out.
- c) Under improved environmental outcomes, one of the six RIS3 strategic objectives, there should be a specific mention of action on litter which was a significant problem on all of the main routes.
- d) PCC Highways department would be submitting their own response to NH on the A47 and the A1 Wittering flyover.
- e) Given the inherently integrated network of transport, members asked whether greater emphasis should be placed on the fact that the most strategic investment in roads could be in areas other than roads, for example the Ely rail junction, in order to free up capacity on the road network.
- f) Officers were referred to an excellent paper on littering which had been presented at a recent meeting of the PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Committee.
- g) NH was not responsible for littering along the highways; instead that fell to the different authority areas along particular stretches of road. The CPCA had a role in making sure that all authorities were aware of these current responsibilities but as it was such a significant problem representation should be made to National Highways to take action on it so that it could be co-ordinated and properly funded.

h) There was a space for the CPCA to be a trailblazer in respect to litter and offer itself up as an exemplar in its work with constituent authorities and its championing of this problem.

RESOLVED:

That the Transport and Infrastructure Committee:

1. Having provided feedback, approve the Combined Authority's proposed strategic response to Government consultation on National Highways' Strategic Road Network initial report which includes future priorities for the next road period – Roads Investment Strategy 3 (RIS3).
2. Delegate authority to the Interim Head of Transport, in consultation with the Chair of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee to refine and finalise the Combined Authority's response (as at Appendix 1) following feedback from the Committee and submit a response to National Highways.

ACTIONS:

1. The Interim Head of Transport would seek feedback from National Highways on the A428 corridor and the public rights of way and report back to Members.

6 ITSO approved Contracts for English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS)

6.1 Tim Bellamy, Interim Head of Transport, introduced the report which outlined the options proposed for the delivery of the contracts for Host Operated Processing System (HOPS) and Smartcard Services

6.2 The following points were raised in discussion:

- a) Outsourced contracts could often prove, in the long run, to be of worse value for the tax-payer so exploration of delivery in-house was welcomed.
- b) Having sought the views of the Committee on the options, and undertaking a wide-ranging view to look at the costs and the expertise needed to meet the statutory obligations, officers would come back to the meeting in September with their recommendation. This would not preclude other options going forward that may be required as part of the Bus Review.

RESOLVED:

The Transport and Infrastructure Committee resolved to:

1. Note the content of the paper and offer feedback on the options proposed for the delivery of the contracts for HOPS and Smartcard Services.

7 Transport & Infrastructure Committee Agenda Plan

7.1 The Agenda Plan would be updated to reflect discussion at the meeting and would include items on the following:

- Demand Responsive Transport and TING
- The development of the Bus Network Review
- Peterborough Bus Depot

RESOLVED:

1. That the Transport & Infrastructure Committee Agenda Plan be noted.

10 Date of Next Meeting

10.1 The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 13 September 2023. The venue was yet to be confirmed.