



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Monday, 22 February 2021

Time: 11.00 a.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Platform

Present:

Cllr M Humphrey	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr S Corney	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr L Dupre (Chair)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr A Sharp	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr M Gehring	Cambridge City Council
Cllr M Davey	Cambridge City Council
Cllr J Scutt	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr D Connor	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr A Coles	Peterborough City Council
Cllr E Murphy	Peterborough City Council
Cllr A Miscandlon	Fenland District Council
Cllr A Hay	Fenland District Council
Cllr P Fane	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr G Chamberlain	South Cambridgeshire District Council

Officers:

Robert Parkin	Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, Combined Authority
Paul Raynes	Director for Delivery and Strategy
John T Hill	Director for Business and Skills
Rochelle Tapping	Deputy Monitoring Officer
Domenico Cirillo	Business Programmes & Business Board Manager
Anne Gardiner	Scrutiny Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from: Cllr P Jordan, substituted by Cllr M Humphreys.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Officer conducted the roll-call of Committee attendees.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 25th January 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Public Questions

- 4.1 There were no public questions.

5. Director for Delivery and Strategy

- 5.1 The Committee welcomed the Director for Delivery and Strategy.
- 5.2 Committee members had submitted questions prior to the meeting (Appendix 1) with responses provided.

The following points were raised during the follow up discussion:-

- 5.3 The Director was hopeful that following the government budget announcement next week the bus strategy would come forward and advised that there were good conversations ongoing at the ministerial level around the bus strategy.
- 5.4 In regard to East West Rail the guidance stated that response to proposals should be expected in the Spring.
- 5.5 In response to a question on zero carbon emissions and the impact of developing infrastructure schemes the Director advised that the Combined Authority would respond to what the Climate Change Commission reported in their report next month around tier two emissions and that in regard to ensuring partner organisations adhered to any recommendations from that report; the Local Transport Plan was the policy framework set by the Combined Authority as the transport authority for the area and therefore all partners would be working and delivering to that plan.
- 5.6 In response to a question around the strategic position of the Combined Authority and the supply of renewable energies such as electric charging points and hydrogen provision the committee were advised that there had been some thinking around these areas and that the Combined Authority were committed to developing a zero emissions strategy and the provision of electricity and hydrogen would form part of that. The Climate Change Commission would be making some recommendations around this issue.

There would be many points to consider such as having a supply of hydrogen and where this would be sourced from and if there would be a national contribution.

The Chair of the Climate Change Commission had written to all local councils to ask for proposals around charging points; to understand what was included in local plans for the provision in new developments and communities.

The Director advised that energy providers charged competitively for extra capacity and to combat this there would need to be lobbying from the Combined Authority and local councils

- 5.7 In response to a question on the budget detailed within the report the committee were advised that the amount of spend in the report referred to programme spend and that a note detailing the breakdown of this would be provided.
- 5.8 The Director advised that there would be a light refresh on the Local Transport Plan later this year which would take into account the recommendations from the Climate Change Commission and would consider the impact of the Covid Pandemic.

It was still too early to tell what the long term impact of Covid would be on travel behaviours; there had been a decline in commuting but whether this would be sustainable would depend on whether businesses continue to adopt the new work patterns put in place during the last year.

There had been a decrease in footfall in city centres with a drop of 75-80% which had impacted the economy of those areas.

There had been an increase in single passenger car use and more traffic was being reported but at different times of day.

It would take time to unpick all the data, evidence and the relationship to people's behaviour but there would be areas where the Combined Authority could influence and it would be important to have member feedback on this which was why the Local Transport Plan would be reconsidered by the CA Board and Transport Committee later in the year.

- 5.9 In response to a question about the spread of funding across the county on infrastructure projects the committee were advised that the context of the Local Transport Plan was to promote connectivity and raise productivity in all areas which would lead to investment into areas of the county where this had been lacking in the past.

The Director agreed to share with the committee the Local Transport Plan map which highlighted the spread of projects across the county.

- 5.10 In response to a question about responsive transport the committee were advised that this differed to community transport in two ways; firstly, the scheme would be more technically enabled with the use of an app and secondly it would use existing conventional bus routes. The goal would be to see if this would be a better value for money option of the subsidy. The director gave assurance that conversations would be had with the community service providers to reassure that there would be no impact on their services during this trial.
- 5.11 The Committee AGREED to note the report received from the Director for Delivery and Transport and thanked the Director for attending the meeting.

6. EU Update Report

- 6.1 The Committee received the report from the Director for Business and Skills which provided an update to the Committee on work that had been undertaken over the past 12 months, plus ongoing and future work, to support business leaders to prepare for and adapt to changes resulting from the UK's departure from, and more recently, the new Trade Deal with the European Union.

The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- 6.2 In response to a question about how organisations were being advised following the new trade deal the committee were informed that firms would not be advised to relocate their functions to EU states, most of the issues now being raised were around how organisations could adapt rather than around reconfiguration.

The main sectors that had been in contact with the Growth Hub programme were manufacturing as firms were finding it difficult to dissect the sub systems coming through from different suppliers.

The initial number of enquiries had been high and had come from mainly the manufacturing and agricultural sectors but the number of calls being received now was much lower.

- 6.3 In response to a question about businesses that had international trade links such as the Arts and Service industries and whether they were struggling as a result of the new trade deal; the Director advised that he would provide the committee with a breakdown of the sectors which had contacted the team for support and in particular would check if Arts and Service sectors had been particularly affected.
- 6.4 In response to a question about a report published by the British Chambers of Commerce in February that had found that 49% of exporters were facing difficulties the committee were advised that the Combined Authority had found that companies were now adapting but that there had been some teething problems at the start which was what the Chambers report had shown.
- 6.5 The Director advised that Combined Authority Growth Hub had been set up to provide advice and support but did not have a metric for reporting issues faced by businesses back to central government; this was a role that was being covered by business leads and the British Chambers of Commerce.

The Committee were advised that the funding provided by BEIS was to enable the LEP's to get the Chambers of Commerce to deliver the service; they have the best connections with exporters and were a lobby organisation and that enabled them to provide the feedback required to central government.

The Growth Hub was having regular meetings with Chambers and were adapting all the time as the programme progressed over the 12 weeks.

- 6.6 The Growth Hub programme was funded until the end of March but there was a possibility that it may be extended.
- 6.7 In response to a question about the virtual events organised in partnership with St Johns Innovate and Innovate UK, the committee were advised that 80% of businesses were being contacted so hopefully there would be a good take up of these sessions.
- 6.8 In response to a question about whether there had been a reduction in the amount of freight through the county, in particular on the A14, since the new trade deal was introduced officers agreed to look at whether the Combined Authority held this information and would provide the detail to the committee .
- 6.9 The Committee thanked the Director for Business and Skills for his report and responses.

7. **Bus Review – Task and Finish Group Update**

7.1 The Committee received the report which provided an update on the work of the Bus Review – Task and Finish Group.

7.2 The Chair for the Task and Finish group recommended that the group be disbanded until the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee was set up following the election and there was further work to be done at which time the new committee should reconstitute the group to complete its work.

7.3 The Committee **RESOLVED**:

i) to note the report.

ii) that the Bus Review Task and Finish Group be closed and that the new committee post election consider when to reconstitute the group in light of further work being undertaken by the Combined Authority.

8. **Business Board Lead Member Role**

8.1 The Committee received the report which outlined the role description for the Lead Member for the Business Board and asked the committee to recommend to the Business Board the adoption of this role as part of their scrutiny arrangements.

8.2 In response to a question about access to exempt papers the committee were advised that the members would be subject to the legislation set out in the regulations and would be able to scrutinise exempt reports in the same way as they could consider exempt reports that went to the CA Board.

8.3 In response to a question around the framework required by the Business Board, the committee were advised that the Assurance Framework regulated the LEP's activities and that the Business Board had to align with the national framework to get funding approved.

8.4 In response to a question about the scrutiny arrangements at other LEP's in the country the officers agreed to provide information on what scrutiny arrangements other LEP's across the country have; with some case studies to be provided.

8.5 The Committee **RESOLVED**:

i) that information be provided on what scrutiny arrangements other LEP's across the country have; with some case studies to be provided.

ii) that scrutiny of the Business Board be added to the programme for the training session with Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

The Committee requested a recorded vote (Appendix 2) on the recommendations and **RESOLVED** with 11 votes in favour and 2 abstentions to:

a) Invite the Business Board to agree a Lead Member from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to shadow the Business Board as part of the Scrutiny arrangements for the Business Board; subject to the agreement of the Combined Authority Board.

- b) Invite the Business Board to agree the role description for the Lead Member shadowing the Business Board, subject to the agreement of the Combined Authority
- c) Propose Cllr Murphy for the role as Lead Member for the Business Board

9. Combined Authority Forward Plan

- 9.1 The Committee received the Combined Authority Forward Plan.
- 9.2 The Lead Member for Housing and Communities advised that they would be following up on the £45m funding from MHCLG and the issue over the end date for the housing programme.
- 9.3 The Lead member for Transport advised they would be posing questions on two issues coming up at the March meeting; the Low Emissions and End of Year report.
- 9.4 The Committee noted to Forward Plan and the areas the Lead Members planned to cover.

10. Work Programme Report

- 10.1 The Committee received the report which asked the Committee to discuss and agree items that they would like to be added to the work programme for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2020/21 municipal year.
- 10.2 The Committee RESOLVED:
 - i) to note that the University of Peterborough Update would come to the committee after the election.
 - ii) to note that the invitation to the new CEO and Chair of One CAM Ltd would be delayed until after the elections.
 - iii) That a training session for the Committee would be held on the 5th March at 2pm with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- 11.1 The Committee would have a Training Session with the Centre for Governance & Scrutiny on 5th March at 2pm.
- 11.2 The next meeting will be held on Monday, 22 March 2021 at 11.00 a.m. with a pre-meeting for Members at 10.00 a.m.

The meeting closed at 12:41pm

Questions for Director for Delivery and Strategy – O&S Committee

From	Question	Response
Cllr Dupre	1. You are responsible for 23 projects on the Combined Authority's project register. Is that a manageable workload?	The Combined Authority's Directors have broadly comparable workloads, and are supported in their roles by excellent expert teams. A simple count of projects on the register does not measure the Director's duties in overseeing a programme of activity. This is done through formal project governance, in which individual projects' managers report into programme-level governance arrangements. Individual projects vary greatly in their scale, budget and complexity. Project performance also varies: a portfolio entirely composed of projects with "Green" RAG ratings and a low risk profile would require minimal senior management intervention, compared to one in which a number of projects were rated "Red", which is defined as a trigger for Director-level intervention. Directors also have other duties in addition to overseeing their project portfolio.
	2. Are any of those 23 projects more challenging than you originally expected, and if so, in what way?	From time to time, individual projects require senior management intervention. This can happen for a range of reasons. Over the last 12 months, a number of projects have been challenged by the Covid-19 situation, which has, for example, affected some supply chains, as well as altering travel patterns and public transport patronage. Some shifts in government policy – for example, the decision to only publish a one-year Spending Review last Autumn – have also made the future funding environment less predictable.
	3. When do you expect to have confirmation from HMG of any money available for the A10 project?	The Combined Authority is awaiting Ministers' decisions on funding next stages of the A10 Business Case submitted last July; we remain in regular communication with the Department for Transport to monitor the position.

	<p>4. How does the Combined Authority intend to address the impact of COVID on travel behaviours and in particular the reduction in public transport use?</p>	<p>As the Covid pandemic has progressed, the Combined Authority has been convening partners weekly to monitor the latest data and consider actions. The Transport Restart Group was initially convened to coordinate a programme of recovery actions following the first Covid lockdown. That scope included in particular action to reenergise public transport use and to put in place active travel measures, both of which aimed to offset an anticipated rise in single-passenger car journeys post-lockdown. Further developments in the pandemic and the measures to manage it have meant that the anticipated recovery phase has yet to begin; indeed, the government’s official guidance has evolved to a point where public transport use is formally discouraged. The Combined Authority will continue to work through the Recovery Group to coordinate partners’ efforts to restart the transport sector as and when that becomes timely.</p> <p>The Combined Authority is also continuing to pursue the Mayor and Board’s ambition to reform the system for subsidising buses, despite the significant disruption to the sector. Conversations with the Department for Transport and with public transport operators are ongoing. We hope to make significant progress with this work once the government has published its National Bus Strategy and clarified future arrangements for national subsidy.</p> <p>For the present, we do not know what the long-term impact of Covid on travel behaviour will be. The available data are not strongly supportive of initial hopes the pandemic would simply encourage positive travel behaviours which could subsequently be “locked-in”. The Combined Authority Transport Committee will be invited at its March meeting to consider undertaking a limited refresh of the Local Transport Plan in the light of learnings and new evidence from the pandemic about future travel needs.</p>
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	<p>5. How does the Combined Authority align its focus on road building with its stated intention to 'hammer down' carbon emissions?</p>	<p>As outlined in the LTP, the Mayor and Combined Authority Board are committed to reducing carbon emissions to net zero by 2050.</p> <p>The Mayor has asked the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate Change to report to the Combined Authority Board with authoritative recommendations to help the region mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change, enabling us to meet the commitment to eradicating net carbon emissions across the area by 2050. The Commission will report in March 2021.</p> <p>The Local Transport Plan prioritises the development of public and 'active' transport modes as well as reducing the need for travel. Of the Authority's current ten "Key" projects relating to transport, a majority relate to public transport.</p> <p>However, it is recognised that the private car - which as a mode is already beginning to transition to zero-emission fuel sources - is and will remain a key mode for many residents across the region. The Combined Authority therefore continues to support targeted highway infrastructure and enhancement schemes, especially where they assist in addressing congestion and low air quality, promoting more sustainable growth, and improving road safety and operation.</p>
	<p>6. What is the Combined Authority view of the Government's intention to run diesel trains on the new East West Rail line, with no clear plan for the introduction of alternative technologies?</p>	<p>East West Rail is being promoted by a government-owned company. A public engagement exercise on options for the section of the route linking Bedford and Cambridge is expected in the coming weeks. The East West Rail company has in the past indicated it would run diesel trains on the line. The Combined Authority will be invited to respond to the EWR proposals; this will include an opportunity for members to set out a view on the proposed propulsion system for the trains in the light of the Combined Authority's settled view on tackling</p>

		climate change and any relevant recommendations made by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate Change.
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Appendix 2

O&S Committee – 22nd February 2021

Recorded Vote – Item 8

'Invite the Business Board to agree a Lead Member from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to shadow the Business Board as part of the Scrutiny arrangements for the Business Board; subject to the agreement of the Combined Authority Board.'

Name	For	Against	Abstain
Cllr Mike Humphrey	X		
Cllr Steve Corney	X		
Cllr Alan Sharp	X		
Cllr Lorna Dupre	X		
Cllr Peter Fane	X		
Cllr Grenville Chamberlain	X		
Cllr Anne Hay	X		
Cllr Alex Miscandlon	X		
Cllr Markus Gehring			X
Cllr Mike Davey	X		
Cllr Jocelynn Scutt			
Cllr David Connor	X		
Cllr Andy Coles	X		
Cllr Ed Murphy			X