

Questions for Cllr Howe received from Scrutiny members

Question Received From	Question	Response
Cllr Alex Riley	The concept of the CA Board is that it consists of the Mayor plus the Leaders of the seven constituent authorities plus the LEP. Please could you explain to us what changes have resulted from your decision to stand down as Leader of Hunts DC and their ramifications. For example, from which source do you receive remuneration?	<p>The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 sets out that the Combined Authority is made up of 7 <i>members</i> of the constituent Councils, a member of the LEP and the Mayor, who chairs the Authority. There are therefore no ramifications for the Combined Authority from my decision to stand down as Leader. I remain a Cabinet Member of Hunts District Council with responsibility for the Combined Authority and I commend my fellow members at Hunts who have recognised the importance of supporting me in my role as Deputy Mayor in this important first year of the Combined Authority.</p> <p>No member of the Combined Authority receives any allowance for the work they undertake for the Combined Authority. I continue to receive the same allowance for the work I carry out as a Cabinet Member of Hunts DC</p>
	At the last Board meeting the Police and Crime Commissioner – a previous Leader of Hunts DC – spoke up vocally in favour of the Huntingdon River Crossing Development proposal. Surely he is there to represent aspects of policing, not to be a surrogate extra Hunts DC member?	<p>Co-opted members of the Board can bring a variety of skills, experience and knowledge to the Board and are not limited to making comments on Board papers in relation only to their professional area. The Police and Crime Commissioner did say that he favoured the River Crossing scheme because it would bring improvements in road safety and did therefore bring his professional expertise into the debate. The minutes are available on the County website.</p>
	At the first meeting of the CA Board (Agenda item 2.4) it was agreed to set up an Independent Economic Commission. This IEC was granted a budget of £145,000	<p>Economic analysis and modelling is underway to underpin the work of the commission and inform the local industrial strategy that will be developed as a result. The economic modelling tool which is</p>

	<p>and was instructed to complete an economic review by 1 December. Please inform us who the members of the IEC are and what progress they have made to date.</p>	<p>being developed by the University of Cambridge will have the ability to test scenarios and impacts, including the forecast economic impact of introducing strategic infrastructure – in a way which we have not been able to do before in this area. This new evidence base and tool will provide powerful and compelling cases for future investment and further devolution to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.</p> <p>I have met with the Chair of the Commission, (Dame Kate Barker), the Chair of the Technical Group supporting the Commission (Prof. Matthew Bullock), and the lead developer of the economic model (Dr Ying Jin), to coordinate this work. Further meetings are planned with the Chair in November, and the Commission itself in December.</p>
<p>Cllr Dave Baigent</p>	<p>In regard to the LEP could you explain the wider implications for the Combined Authority given that Central Government is withholding growth funding secured for our area whilst the NAO undertakes and investigation into the LEP.</p>	<p>As Deputy Mayor of the Combined Authority and a member of the Combined Authority Board I supported the Mayor in his written proposals to the Local Enterprise Partnership which are available to read on the Combined Authority website.</p> <p>It has been widely reported that the Local Enterprise Partnership are not receiving funds from Government. For the Combined Authority, this means that plans for growth in our area might be impeded. The Mayor, leading the Combined Authority, has therefore offered to provide the necessary leadership to develop a new governance model.</p>
	<p>In regard to the LEP if the Combined Authority were aware of the difficulties that the Government implies?</p>	<p>See above. It is a matter of public record that the National Audit Office have been looking at the practices of the GCGP LEP and that funding is currently being withheld by Government.</p>

	In regard to the LEP does the LEP continue to hold a vote on the Combined Authority?	Yes
	Is it the intention of the Combined Authority to take over the LEP	The Mayor and the Combined Authority are acting decisively to propose a solution to the issues currently faced by the Local Enterprise Partnership and we are doing that in order to ensure that the growth ambitions of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire can be delivered as the Combined Authority expects.
	<p>In regard to your own position on the Combined Authority, could you explain why if you have stood down as leader of Huntingdon are you still a member of the Combined Authority</p> <p>What remuneration do you now receive and who pays it?</p> <p>How are Huntingdon dealing with the fact that they have a right for their leader to sit on the Combined Authority (do they intend for him to attend in addition to yourself?)</p>	<p>The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 sets out that the Combined Authority is made up of 7 <i>members</i> of the constituent Councils, a member of the LEP and the Mayor, who chairs the Authority. There are therefore no ramifications for the Combined Authority from my decision to stand down as Leader. I remain a Cabinet Member of Hunts District Council with responsibility for the Combined Authority and I commend my fellow members at Hunts who have recognised the importance of supporting me in my role as Deputy Mayor in this important first year of the Combined Authority.</p> <p>No member of the Combined Authority receives any allowance for the work they undertake for the Combined Authority. I continue to receive the same allowance for the work I carry out as a Cabinet Member of Hunts DC.</p> <p>Having been appointed by Hunts DC to the Combined Authority, the Leader of the Council does not need to attend in addition to myself.</p>
	Was it appropriate for the Police Commissioner to be supporting the lobby for the 'third river crossing'	Co-opted members of the Board can bring a variety of skills, experience and knowledge to the Board and are not limited to making comments on Board papers in relation only to their

		<p>professional area. The Police and Crime Commissioner did say that he favoured the River Crossing scheme because it would bring improvements in road safety and did therefore bring his professional expertise into the debate. The minutes are available on the County website.</p>
Cllr Cantrill	<p>If the CA takes over the role of the LEP how does it intend to reconcile the different geographical areas that the two bodies cover</p>	<p>There is no intention for the Combined Authority to take over the LEP. This is to misunderstand the proposals put by the Mayor to the LEP Board. The Mayor has proposed that the sovereignty of the LEP and that of the Combined Authority is maintained but that the staffing structure supporting the two bodies and the umbrella of strategies and polices, in particular the Assurance Framework, are joined up. This means that the LEP Board will continue to make decisions in relation to its funding and for its own geography as will the Combined Authority for its area. This proposal will provide an efficient staffing structure and ensure that any spend within the Combined Authority area, whether by the LEP or the Combined Authority is aligned to the same strategic objectives.</p>
	<p>Will the CA undertake that any governance structures relating to the LEP – under the umbrella of the CA reflect a democratic accountability</p>	<p>The governance structures of the LEP are dictated by the Assurance Framework and Government guidance as well as its own memorandum and articles which it is required to have as a company limited by guarantee.</p>
	<p>Can the Portfolio holder explain the criteria used for prioritizing the St Neots Master Plan – and how does this fit in with the Local Plans of the component authorities</p>	<p>The Masterplan has been developed as a prototype. It is intended to bring together component plans (the Neighbourhood Plan, the Local Plan, the Market Town Transport Strategy) and produce a document that collates these into a set of strategic priorities for the town – it is intended to answer the question; what are the main priorities for supporting and enabling the future growth of this</p>

		town? It is subsequently intended that all partners can then work collectively to deliver these jointly agreed priorities. In St Neots for example, a major theme has emerged around the regeneration of the town centre – which needs collective input and collective investment to address.
	Is there an intention to deliver the St Neots master plan by way of a development corporation?	No. We have proposed that a new partnership/commission be formed to jointly take forward the work of the Masterplan.
	How does the St Neots master plan fit in with the transport strategy for that area of the region – in particular 1) the Mayors aspiration to run a light rail system from St Neots across and through Cambridge and 2) the proposed work of the A428 between Cambourne and St Neots (Black Cat junction)	Further to the answer provided above. The St Neots Masterplan work acknowledges the exciting opportunities which rapid transport to Cambridge, and the development of the East – West Corridor, will bring for the future growth of the town.
	The forward plan indicates that the investment strategy will be determined by the CA in December 2017, Can the portfolio holder set out his view on the criteria being developed for the strategy?	<p>This is strictly a question for Fiscal Portfolio Holder but my own view is as follows:</p> <p>The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Investment Strategy was brought to the June Board meeting and approved. This set out high level principles for the investment approach to be taken by the CA. Further development of the Strategy is subsequently underway, as set out by the Board. This is due to be reported back in December.</p> <p>I believe that the criteria for investment should reflect the overall ambitions of the Combined Authority, to achieve sustainable growth across the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Some of those ambitions were specifically outlined in the devolution deal, which must be prioritised as part of our deal with the people of Cambridgeshire. In my view this needs to find ways</p>

		<p>that spread the economic success of our most prosperous areas so that our most challenged communities have more ability and opportunity to benefit from that. That is something which we have historically been poor at achieving, and the Combined Authority should look at how it can be more effective. This includes the criteria used to make investment decisions, but it also includes; innovative models or funding mechanisms to secure investment, and pursuing further fiscal devolution to support investment across our area.</p>
	Does the strategy take into account a social return as part of the criteria – if so how is this reflected?	See above.
	How will the strategy reflect the different needs of the component authorities?	See above.
	What plans are the CA putting in place in the event in relation to BREXIT – to ensure that residents, businesses and other key stakeholders across the region are protected?	<p>At a strategic level the work we have commissioned from the Independent Economic Commission will develop a local Industrial Strategy, this will establish the way in which our economy – in all its constituent parts – will respond to the changing conditions brought about by leaving the EU.</p> <p>Furthermore, a masterplan for each market town will set out the particular investments and interventions required to support local industry beyond the period we leave the EU. For example, in St Neots our work to date has established our need to support the town’s highly performing manufacturing sector there so that it is well placed to strengthen and grow further.</p>

		<p>These strategies and plans will be informed by a world-class evidence base and the insight of our entire partnership. Sometimes though there is no substitute to getting out there and talking to businesses and residents to hear their views on what is needed. That's what I have been doing, and will continue to do, to ensure that when our plans come forward they reflect what local people are telling me matters most.</p>
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Questions for Cllr Clark received from Scrutiny members

Question Received From	Question	Response
Cllr Alex Riley	<p>At the very first meeting of the CA Board almost the very first item on a scantily-discussed agenda was the grant of £6.53M for Peterborough University – a third of the CA’s annual budget. Since the Scrutiny Committee was still in its infancy, we did not discuss whether to call this decision in. At an earlier meeting of the Scrutiny meeting, though, both Peterborough members expressed doubts as to the local desire for such a University. At the CA Board meeting it was pointed out that this University would be in competition with the Technical Centre being set up by the LEP at Alconbury. At that meeting it was stated that you anticipate have 2000 students by 2020 and 12,000 by 2035. Kindly explain how you intend to achieve these ambitious targets?</p>	<p>In June 2017 the Board approved an in principle payment of £6.5M of which £3.83M was available for draw down of funds. That draw down was dependent upon the Chief Executive being satisfied that appropriate project governance was in place. The former interim Director of Skills and Interim Legal Counsel have been meeting regularly with the University’s project manager to review project governance. To date only £386,388 has been authorised for release to the University. This is to cover curriculum development, marketing and engagement and project management until December. The new Director of Skills joined the Combined Authority on the 17 October and will be reviewing the governance practices to advise the Chief Executive whether to release any of the remaining funds.</p> <p>The remaining £2.7M of the total ‘in principle’ sum will be subject to full approval in December by the Combined Authority. This will be for improving student amenities and interim accommodation.</p> <p>The initial request for a University at Peterborough was made through the Devolution Deal application, and was consequently cleared by each of our member councils, including Peterborough.</p> <p>The University will not be in competition with the Technical Centre at Alconbury. The iMET centre will major in Manufacturing, Engineering and Technology with the University covering a much wider curriculum. The iMET will be focussing on apprenticeships and to a lesser extent continuing professional development courses both of which can form an integral part of a wider collaborative offering with the local colleges. The University is just that – A University.</p>

		<p>These Student number targets were set after research based on the size of universities in similar conurbations across the country. The outlined growth gives an indicative pattern of expansion over twenty years based on the population of different cities and the size of their university(ies). Importantly all these universities are viable in both academic and financial terms and meet the needs of their location.</p> <p>The required work to assess the numbers which need to be attracted to create the proposed university with an assigned level of confidence was undertaken earlier this year by Liz Thomas Associates. The focus of this work was to demonstrate how to engage the potential target student populations and develop an understanding of their attractors and drivers in choosing a course and institution.</p>
<p>Cllr Dave Baigent</p>	<p>In regard to 'Peterborough University'  Who is keeping account of how the £6+ million granted to them?  Is that account going to be made public and if so at what intervals?  Can you update us on the current position in regard to the site and any other significant movements towards setting up the project?  What is Anglia Ruskin's view on there being a 'Peterborough University'?  Are Anglia Ruskin going to vacate Peterborough?</p>	<p>As above the progress towards a university and the draw down of funds is being monitored through meetings between Combined Authority senior officers and the university project manager. In addition a regular University Stakeholder group meets to review progress towards the university and the CEX only approved draw down of funds in consultation with the portfolio holder for skills.</p> <p>A clear outline of governance structure, project plan, risk register and project log was requested by the Combined Authority . This has now been delivered and some intial project funding has been released. Draw down of the remaining funds is subject to a further report to the Combined Authority and a detailed Business Case and Investment Strategy for Phase 3 of the University "Design and Build of a University Campus" will be produced by February 2019.</p> <p>In addition , the new CA Interim Director of Skills has a place on the HE steering group, which has to date been attended by the Interim Counsel and will be able report on the gateway review processes outlined above.</p>

		<p>The proposed sites are still yet to be finalized but there is a preferred site and this will be agreed in due course by the Combined Authority</p> <p>Anglia Ruskin are represented on the project steering group, where they have been involved in all stages including the preparation of the business case.</p> <p>Questions about ARU's future intentions are best addressed to ARU.</p>
	<p>In regard to employment what action is being taken to ensure that there will be the right amount of tradespersons required to build the promised extra housing that will be enabled by the Combined Authority?</p>	<p>As covered in the context slide, there is a significant national shortage of skilled tradesmen in this area. It has been recognized as a priority in the Skills Blueprint and will be looked at as part of the skills strategy.</p>
	<p>Is there any plan to establish a building trades college for apprentices to service the extra housing that will be enabled by the Combined Authority?</p>	<p>Current local providers will already be delivering aspects of this and gaps will be identified as part of the Skills Review. This will also feature in the plans for the apprentice hub</p>
<p>Cllr Cantrill</p>	<p>To what extent is the CA working with the LEP regarding careers guidance for secondary school pupils?</p>	<p>In the Centre for Skills papers which came before the Board on 28 June 2017 the LEP member of the Board approved the recommendation to work jointly on a skills review. This Skills System Review will help to identify this and what we can do.</p>
	<p>To what extent has the CA taken steps to address the issue of the travel subsidy for 16-18 year olds in further education being cut?</p>	<p>Access to Further Education across the County was discussed as part of the Area Review Process. Transport alongside place based delivery was discussed but not resolved and all the concerned parties have agreed to continue to meet to review this. This will also feed into the Skills System Review that we will be undertaking</p>
	<p>To what extent is the CA coordinating with the GCP on the employment and skills work that the GCP is also undertaking – and how does this fit in with the employment and skills agenda in the broader area?</p>	<p>There is continued dialogue with the GCP, with The Executive Lead for skills and the GCP CEO talking on a regular basis, the GCP have also been consulted about the plans for an Apprenticeship hub and how the GCP work and this will align. In addition to this there has been an agreement for a GCP representative to attend the Skills Work stream meeting to ensure a joined-up approach</p>

Cllr Yeulett	With both the LEP and CA addressing the provision of skills will there be a conflict of interest/duplication in this area?	If this is unaddressed, there could be a problem. However, the root and branch review of the entire skills system in Cambridgeshire will generate a prioritised action plan and structure designed to serve learners and businesses. The review is supported by both the LEP and CA.