

## **Responses to Overview and Scrutiny Committee questions to the Combined Authority Board: 27 November 2019**

### 3.3 Climate Change

Q: How will the Commission and its work align with the work of the constituent authorities and of Cambridgeshire County Council's technical group on air quality? We note that Cambridgeshire County Council publishes its pre-consultation Climate Change and Environment Strategy next month.

*A: The Commission's terms of reference ask it to provide independent advice addressed to business and the public sector. It will be a matter for the Commission to decide how to take existing and developing public sector plans and strategies into account as evidence, and whether to make recommendations about the content of future plans. The Commission's role is to create a narrative for the whole county to inform the Combined Authority's point of view. This will not replicate the work being done by others, but will provide a more complete picture.*

Q: How can the Commission effectively address the environmental effects of transport when the Local Transport Plan is going to the Combined Authority's Transport Committee in early January and will be approved by the Combined Authority Board at the end of January, given the importance of transport to climate change?

*A: The Commission's terms of reference ask it to provide independent advice addressed to business and the public sector. It will be a matter for the Commission to decide how to take existing and developing public sector plans and strategies into account as evidence, and whether to make recommendations about the content of future plans. Agreeing the Local Transport Plan or the Local Industrial Strategy now does not prevent them being refreshed in the future to take account of the Commission's findings if this is what the Board wishes to do.*

Q: How will the Commission influence the decision-making processes of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority?

A: The Commission's terms of reference ask it to provide independent advice addressed to business and the public sector. It will then be for the Combined Authority to decide whether and how to take into account any recommendations the Commission might make.

Q: Whom will the Commission consult as part of its work?

A: As an independent body that will be a matter for the Commission to decide.

Q: How will the Commission work with the Executive Committees of the Combined Authority?

A: That will be a matter for the Commission to decide.

Q: Will the Commission's interim report be made available before the pre-election period for the May elections?

A: That will be a matter for the Commission to decide, although we note that next year's local election purdah is likely to begin in only 16 working weeks. Given the complexity of the work involved it would seem unlikely that the interim report would be produced in that time.

Q: How soon does the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority expect the Panel to be recruited and hold its first meeting?

A: Following the Board's decision to establish the Commission the recruitment of members has now begun.

Q: Will the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority appoint a lead officer for Climate Change?

A: Climate change is a cross-cutting issue and the management team own responsibility for acting collectively to ensure that it is reflected in every Combined Authority policy.