



CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – 5TH AUGUST 2020

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
1.	Mr Michael Page	Mayor James Palmer	<p>In press articles dated 29th July the Mayor is quoted as saying that a report on the CAM from the Technology Advisory Committee in May this year is ‘an exceptional piece of work’, that it contains ‘a lot more innovative thinking’ and that it will be a ‘game changer’ in halving previous cost estimates to less than £2bn.</p> <p>Can we please know the membership of this committee and can we have an opportunity to read the report? At the time of writing this question I cannot find it on the CPCA website.</p>
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Mayor James Palmer	Mr Michael Page	<p>The technologically-advanced nature of the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro programme means it will continuously evolve and improve. In a fast-changing world, it is vital we seek additional, independent and ongoing technical insight throughout its development.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has some of the world’s brightest and best on its doorstep and it is right that the Combined Authority engages with that local expertise to help drive this programme forward.</p> <p>The role of the CAM Technology Advisory Committee - the TAC - exemplifies that approach, providing independent technical advice on the development of the CAM, under the guidance of its chair Dr David Cleevely CBE, and supported by leading technical and academic experts.</p> <p>As part of its role the CAM TAC has undertaken a review of the previous Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) and on-going Outline Business Case (OBC) work</p>

			<p>undertaken on the CAM Central Tunnel Section. The resulting report offers bold, innovative thinking on what is potentially possible and deliverable, and proposes that the use of smaller metro vehicles could reduce the cost of CAM from the £4bn indicated in the SOBC to less than £2bn.</p> <p>The TAC's findings are being assessed and will feed in to a joined-up One CAM strategy, which will integrate the project's strands together in one place. But it is important to stress that the report is one part of the ongoing, wider evolution of the CAM, and public engagement and consultation will take place at the appropriate stages of delivery, including details on the latest technologies being considered for implementation.</p> <p>I have requested that a copy of the TAC report is put on the Combined Authority website.</p>
	Question from:	Question to:	Question
2.	Councillor Tim Wotherspoon	Mayor James Palmer	<p>What has happened to the Non-Statutory Strategic Spatial Framework (Stage 2 was due a long time ago), and where is the current locus for coordination of plan-making across the constituent local planning authorities? We used to have a very effective Joint Strategic Planning Unit headed by John Williamson, and I am wondering how this may have been carried forward into new structures.</p> <p>Supplementary question: One of my hopes for devolution was that we would be able to produce an integrated single sub-regional strategy, combining planning, housing, transport, economy, utilities, and preservation and enhancement of built and natural heritage. So I was heartened to read in the agenda for the Combined Authority Board meeting on 29 May 2019 that "The Non-Statutory Strategic Spatial Framework Phase 2 is being prepared concurrently with the Local Transport Plan (LTP). NSSF2 has reached issues stage and these will be consulted on at the same time as the draft LTP". The LTP was also on your agenda that day, and its final version was adopted in January this year, but there is still no NSSF2. What assurances can you give that planning and transport can be quickly knitted back together again?"</p>

	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Mayor James Palmer	Councillor Tim Wotherspoon	<p>This is an issue for all combined authorities and the reality is that none have yet delivered a spatial plan. I am a great believer in a spatial strategy, but there are legitimate concerns amongst planning authorities that they will lose control. I would welcome more direction on this from Government. It is imperative that we work with Government, local councils, the Ox-Cam Arc, East West Rail and Homes England to create a framework for growth in Cambridgeshire that is beneficial to the whole county.</p> <p>The Combined Authority is working with South Cambridgeshire District Council and others and I believe that we can put a clear solution to Government based on the CAM Metro. I do believe that we need more assurance from Government on where powers lie in relation to planning authorities' powers. We were asked to produce a non-statutory spatial plan, but when you are delivering not just to Local Plans it is difficult to get agreement without a statutory spatial plan.</p>