



Report title: CAMBRIDGE AUTONOMOUS METRO TASK & FINISH GROUP: INTERIM REPORT 2020/21

To:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Meeting Date:	14 th December 2020
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Cllr Mike Davey – Chair of CAM Task and Finish Group.
From:	Anne Gardener Scrutiny Officer
Recommendations:	Note and comment upon the interim report from the CAM Task and Finish Group.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This interim report updates the Committee on subsequent work that has been undertaken in the six months following the May 2020 report and ask members for comments on the work undertaken and going forward.

2. Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 24 June 2019 the Combined Authority Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed the establishment of a Task & Finish (T&F) Group to scrutinise the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM) with a view to report back to the Committee with recommendations by the end of the municipal year 2019/20.
- 2.2 In May 2020 the Committee approved an extension to the work of the T&F Group to continue its work into this municipal year as its work could not be concluded as, at the time, the full initial public consultation results remained confidential. There were also outstanding key questions on delivery, financing and the technology to deliver the project that remained unanswered until the final OBC is published. Consequently, the Committee requested updates from the T&F Group on a quarterly basis on progress on the review.
- 2.3 The May 2020 report provided a comprehensive report on the T&F Group findings to that

date. This interim report updates the Committee on subsequent work that has been undertaken in the six months following the May 2020 report.

2.4 TASK AND FINISH GROUP MEMBERSHIP

At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in October 2020 two new members of the T&F Group were appointed. The updated membership was established as:

- Councillor Mike Davey, Cambridge City Council (Chair)
- Councillor Grenville Chamberlain, South Cambridgeshire District Council
- Councillor Markus Gehring, Cambridge City Council
- Councillor Alan Sharp, East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Councillor Jocelyne Scutt, Cambridgeshire County Council

The T&F Group meeting held on Monday, 23 November elected Councillor Mike Davey as the new Chair, as indicated above.

2.5 PROGRESS SINCE THE LAST T&F GROUP UPDATE

Since May 2020 the T&F Group has held three additional sessions to progress the review and the report to the Committee for the meeting on 26 October 2020 outlined progress following the first two sessions held in July and October.

The T&F Group were able to meet with Simon Wright, CAM Technical and Engineering Consultant, at their meeting on 23 November and received a comprehensive update on the current status related to the City Tunnel Section of the CAM.

The T&F Group heard the funding, technical and stakeholder challenges related to the section as well as the implications of these particular challenges. The programme currently has three strands of activity: the delivery strategy; the business case, which includes the need to go out to tender for new consultants – the procurement for which is underway; and the conceptual design. The conceptual design element has a role in creating innovative ideas and solutions for the delivery of the CAM. This will assist in further developing the business case. The T&F Group were assured that these three strands of activity were moving ahead in accordance with the schedule and on-track to deliver outcomes.

The impact of Covid-19 has been factored into the activity strands in particular consideration on future funding and financing sources, and the future of mobility and demand on public transport.

The T&F Group heard that an integrated 'One CAM' approach will likely offer the best path forward to deliver the CAM, and that further reassessment will be required to define and detail this new approach. There is ongoing engagement between the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) and the Combined Authority at officer level and the engagement is maturing at member level.

In terms of re-evaluating the current direction of the CAM to ensure it is best placed to deliver on its objectives the following key points were highlighted:

- enabling land-based funding mechanisms
- considering appropriate phasing to optimise funding and bring components online earlier
- considering a joined-up business case to justify funding and approvals

- considering the implications of the future of mobility
- resolving the relationship with the GCP
- considering the implications of Covid-19 on future funding options
- ensuring programme direction is informed by lessons learnt from the delivery of other major infrastructure programmes
- considering technical assessment suggestions on innovation

The T&F Group heard the Business Case development will commence in early 2021 and will be informed by the delivery strategy currently ongoing. The T&F Group were informed that to define an optimal programme structure, phasing, decision points and milestones that enable effective and timely delivery in line with the programme vision and objectives will be required. The scheme will need to maximise value for money, with a coherent, defensible business case which would pass Central Government and key stakeholder scrutiny. It will be necessary to provide a consistent and co-ordinated approach to engage as diverse and broad a range of key stakeholders in order to build consensus among all parties. There will be a requirement to ensure integration with existing infrastructure/ transport schemes and land use to provide maximum benefit and affordability.

2.6 FUTURE PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITY FOR THE T&F GROUP

The T&F Group is next scheduled to provide an update on activity at the March 2021 meeting of the Committee. By then the T&F Group will aim to have met with the Chief Executive of the new Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the CAM, One CAM Limited, in a discrete T&F session. The T&F Group notes that the formal Committee has identified that they wish to invite the Chief Executive and Chairman of One CAM Limited to a full Committee meeting in late winter/early spring.

The T&F Group will consider the report presented to the Transport & Infrastructure Committee in November 2020 which detailed activities that are underway between the Combined Authority and the GCP on the C2C and CAM Metro projects. The T&F Group will raise any questions that arise from this report at its next meeting on a date to be scheduled prior to the end of December it at a session planned for late November.

The T&F Group will identify a number of areas that it would wish to have witness sessions for over the coming months with a view to producing a final report with recommendations prior to the Mayoral election in May 2021. These include budgetary considerations.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no anticipated financial implications associated with this review.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from the recommendation.

6. Appendices

6.1 None

7. Background Papers

7.1 Final Report of the CAM Metro Task & Finish Group for 2019/20: 29 May 2020
[CAM Metro T&F Group Final Report for 2019/20](#)

7.2 CAM Metro Task & Finish Group Update to the CPCA Overview & Scrutiny Committee: 26 October 2020
[CAM Metro T&F Group update October 2020](#)