

Agenda Item No: 2.4

Report title: Local Transport and Connectivity Plan Update

To: Transport and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Date: 12 January 2022

Public report: Public Report

Lead Member: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

From: Rowland Potter

Key decision: No

Forward Plan ref: N/A

Recommendations: The Committee is invited to recommend the Combined Authority Board:

Note the outputs of the October Soft Launch public engagement

Voting arrangements: No vote required

## 1. Purpose

- 1.1 To report the outputs of the soft launch public engagement held online between Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November until Sunday 28th November 2021.
- 1.2 Provide a verbal update on progress toward the formal consultation proposed for 6 weeks that is scheduled to commence after the CA Board later this month.

## 2. Soft Launch Public Engagement

- 2.1 The Combined Authority undertook a four-week, public engagement exercise, that was open for comments on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November until Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2021, specifically in relation to the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.
- 2.2 The purpose of the four-week public engagement was to allow our local communities, stakeholders and businesses the opportunity to comment about their vision and priorities for transport within and across the region. The feedback received will be used to shape the emerging refreshed Local Transport and Connectivity Plan before formal consultation takes place. This consultation is scheduled to commence following the CA Board in January 2022.
- 2.3 During the public engagement, the Combined Authority received a total of 553 online feedback forms and 16 hard copy feedback forms, together with five emails.
- 2.4 The feedback form asked respondents to complete seven questions. Participants had the opportunity to focus their feedback on specific locations within our region, as question six enabled respondents to select which part of the region they wanted to provide feedback on. Of the 569 feedback forms received, the following summary is provided:
  - **96.2%** understood why the vision for transport needs to be updated.
  - **57.4%** either strongly agreed or mostly agreed that the updated vision is the right future for transport in the region.
  - The most recurring comments, when asked what changes should be made to the transport vision, concerned; improving cycling and pedestrian links (83), the need to improve transport infrastructure (75), and a desire to provide new bus routes (72).
  - **52.9%** strongly agreed or mostly agreed that the aims and objectives listed are the right transport priorities for the region.
  - When asked about what aims and priorities needed to be included the top three issues related to: more ambitious net-zero targets (61), the need to provide a greater transport infrastructure (47), and a desire to ensure that the transport network is affordable (39).
  - Regionally, bus routeing and frequency was ranked as the highest priority in five out of six regions, only Cambridge had a different top priority reducing congestion in the city.
  - Enabling communities and people access to opportunities was ranked as the highest priority (192), swiftly followed by the environment (187). These were the most important issues selected relating to how transport is also important in supporting other positive changes.

## 3. Formal Consultation

- 3.1 Following the soft launch public engagement and the feedback received, the team have been engaging regularly with elected members and leaders from across all our constituent Councils, including District, City and Councils, as well as the Greater Cambridge Partnership. This engagement has enabled the development of the next phase of consultation documents.
- 3.2 The consultation documentation is incomplete at time of publication of this paper and so a verbal update will be provided at Committee with more detailed documentation provided at the Combined Authority Board in preparation for formal consultation.
- 4. Significant Implications
- 4.1 None
- 5. Financial Implications
- 5.1 There are no financial implications as the approval has previously been given for consultation at board on 27 October 2021.
- 6. Legal Implications
- 6.1 None
- 7. Other Significant Implications
- 7.1 None
- 8. Appendices
- 8.1 None
- 9. Background Papers
- 9.1 Link to the Your LTCP