



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 2.1

Combined Authority Monthly Highlights Report: November 2022

To: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board

Meeting Date: 30 November 2022

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Deputy Mayor Councillor Anna Smith

From: Gordon Mitchell, Chief Executive

Key decision: No

Recommendations: The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

- a) Note the content of this report.

Voting arrangements: No vote required.

1. Purpose

This report provides a general update on the key activities of the Combined Authority and the Mayor since the last Board meeting, which are not covered in other reports to this Meeting

2. Updates

2.1 Organisational Update

2.1.1 Welcome to Cllr Anna Smith, Statutory Deputy Mayor

Cllr Anna Smith formally started as Statutory Deputy Mayor and an induction process is underway.

2.1.2 Improvement Plan Supplementary Update – emerging strategy

The delivery of the Improvement Plan is continuing at pace. A further update to supplement the highlight report being discussed at Board today is to share that a draft of the overarching Combined Authority Strategy, a draft Mayoral Ambition Statement and the recruitment to the revised Chief Executive's office (including support to the office of the Mayor) policy roles have all been completed.

2.1.3 Executive Director Recruitment

This is being discussed at the Employment Committee which is due to take place prior to the CA Board meeting. If the Job Descriptions are agreed, these will be advertised before Christmas with interviews in January.

2.1.4 M10 Mayoral Combined Authorities Benefits Framework and Trail Blazing

The Mayoral Combined Authorities across England meet regularly to actively share and discuss best practice and opportunities. Some work was commissioned during the summer, led by Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, to develop a clear benefits framework for MCAs and to populate case studies for further learning and sharing with central government. The initial work is nearing completion and will be shared shortly.

Pleasingly the Autumn Statement identifies work with Trail Blazing MCAs for potential further single settlement and devolution. We will engage with our Greater Manchester and West Midlands colleagues to aid our own region's considerations for further devolution and single funding settlements.

2.2 Infrastructure

Anglia Ruskin University Peterborough (ARU-P)

2.2.1 The start to term is reported to be going very well with the first Teaching Building occupied and open to students. The Research and Development Centre is shortly due for completion. The original plan was to attract local small and medium sized businesses with connections to the university and this aim remains.

2.2.2 The planning application has now been submitted for Phase Three of the campus with determination expected in January 2023. Building work with our now secured partner

contractor is expected to commence in spring 2023; this phase is to be funded from Levelling Up funds following our successful bid application.

National Infrastructure Commission

- 2.2.3 The National Infrastructure Commission visited our region on 2nd November 2022. The National Infrastructure Commission has been visiting six city regions around the UK to discuss the big infrastructure challenges for different places around the country.
- 2.2.4 Key projects and asks for economic infrastructure, including transport, climate resilience and energy infrastructure have been presented to the Commission via constructive roundtable discussions and site visits across our area. This has further been followed up with a briefing document supplied to the Commission.
- 2.2.5 Letters have been sent to Local Authority Leaders, Chief Executives and Members of Parliament to update them on the meeting and a copy of the briefing document supplied to the Commission has also been shared.

2.3 Climate and Nature

The Greater South East Net Zero Hub hosted a Heat Network event on the 17th November in conjunction with the Danish Embassy. The event provided a variety of speakers with a focus and knowledge exchange on low carbon heating is a central part of reaching net zero. Cllr Bridget Smith attended on behalf of the CPCA to talk about tackling the climate change crisis in our region, the Local Area Energy Plan in Peterborough, the heat network in Swaffham Prior and the need for innovative, place-based solutions.

2.4 Education, Skills and Employment

2.4.1 Skills Bootcamps

The Department for Education have invited the Combined Authority to submit a proposal for grant funding to deliver Skills Bootcamps (Wave Four). Deadline for submission is the 30th November. It is anticipated that the outcome of the proposal will be announced in January. Currently Skills Bootcamps are funded via a grant on an annual basis.

2.4.2 Careers

The Careers Hub will host its inaugural Careers Conference at ARU-P on 31st January. The focus of the event will be future skills needed in the labour market and ensuring our students are prepared for the world of work. The conference will attract businesses, Careers Leaders and members of school Senior Leadership Teams.

2.4.3 Primary Careers

The Combined Authority's Employment and Skills Strategy highlights our desire and need for an All-Age Careers Service. Current funding supports secondary and FE provisions via the Careers and Enterprise Company and the National Careers Service (NCS) focuses on adults in the workplace. The Combined Authority has been lobbying for provision to be extended to include primary education, devolved at a regional level. This is a vital time in a young person's development when bias and stereotyping can be challenged and exposure to role models is likely to shape future provision.

Whilst we continue to work closely with the NCS to shape their regional provisions, we are in extended discussions with a partner to deliver a pilot programme focussing on Careers Education within a primary setting. This activity will support future policy around the careers agenda whilst also allowing us to produce case studies and collect data to support future endeavours.

2.4.4 Adult Education Budget and Multiply

A successful procurement of the Adult Education Budget and Multiply was undertaken to ensure we have increased capacity and a mixed marketplace of skills providers. We now have 16 Training providers in addition to the nine college/local authority providers, who have been on-boarded, and delivery has commenced.

The new Multiply programme launched during 'Number Confidence Week' in November, seeking to address low numeracy skills and number confidence, with an allocation of c.£4m up to 2024-25. Our target is to enrol 8,500 participants and deliver 750 courses over 2.5 years. Further marketing and comms activity to promote the programme is under development.

2.5 Business Support and Investment

2.5.1 The Combined Authority has been notionally allocated £3.2million from the Rural England Prosperity Fund and in order to secure this funding for 2023 to 2025 an Addendum to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Local Investment Plan must be completed and submitted by 30th November 2022.

2.5.2 Expressions of Interest (EOI) were submitted to UK Research and Innovation in response to their call to partners to create Innovation Launchpads across England. The successful Launchpads will be awarded up to £7.5million to provide grants for SME's to undertake research and innovation activities. The Combined Authority has led on its own EOI focussing on Advanced Materials and Manufacturing supported by partners Anglia Ruskin University, Institute for Manufacturing, Smart Manufacturing Alliance and The Welding Institute. The Combined Authority has also provided support as a collaboration partner on another EOI related to Agri-Food Tech with New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Greater Lincolnshire LEP, this EOI targeting a bigger geography pan-regionally.

2.5.3 The Government has announced their intention to develop knowledge intensive growth clusters in place of the previous announcements of potential new Investment Zones. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough may be well placed for such a cluster(s) and consideration is being given to ensuring our region is represented during any decisions for these new clusters.

2.6 Transport

2.6.1 Cambridgeshire County Council's engagement on the Fenland and Huntingdonshire transport strategies and the county's plan for active travel ended on Monday 7 November. Positive feedback received and continues to inform our approach to transport in the region. These strategies were developed by the County Council in collaboration with constituent Councils and the Combined Authority. There is clear alignment between these localised strategies and the emerging Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

2.6.2 Key Route Network consultation

Following a lengthy period of consultation DfT has concluded that it would not be

proportionate to make combined authorities the highway authority for the KRN in their area. This is due primarily to the associated additional financial and administrative burden on combined authorities of holding these functions. Instead, and as previously announced in the Levelling Up White Paper (February 2022), in Combined or County Combined Authority areas the Government will provide new powers of direction for mayors, where they want this, to increase mayors' control over KRN. In more detail, DfT intend to seek the necessary power to be able to confer on all directly elected mayors a power to direct local authorities in the use of their existing highway and traffic authority powers, where these relate to the agreed KRN within the combined authority area.

This will need further discussion locally between the mayor and the highway authorities, including work to be done to define what the KRN for our region is, if we wanted to seek such a change.

2.6.3 Local Transport and Connectivity Plan

The Combined Authority continue to work on updating the draft document with assistance from the County and City Councils, in addition to the constituent Councils. Work on developing the evidence base on the quantified carbon assessment and the use of associated transport planning tools is progressing, with feedback sought from elected members and officers on a range of potential interventions and schemes. The Combined Authority awaits the draft LTP guidance to be released by central government with the delay likely to have an adverse impact on delivery of our Plan.

2.7 Greater South East Net Zero Hub

The GSENZH commissioned two studies, energy efficiency supply chain intelligence and the skills need for retrofit. Data tables and analytics for LEPs/LAs are being finalised for issue and a dissemination event for skills is being held in London (30/11) to provide an overview of the current retrofit training landscape. Energy Systems Catapult, Delta-LCP and Parity Projects will present their findings on future requirements to meet Net-Zero targets and skills and training required to deliver home decarbonisation across the Greater South-East region. We will also be hearing from innovators in the training sector and will have time to discuss what local authorities, LEPs and regional energy hubs can do to accelerate the delivery of high-quality training for home decarbonisation.

Continued commitment to Net Zero featured in the Autumn Statement, including a commitment for an Energy Efficiency Task Force and £6bn energy efficiency investment for 2025-28.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

3.1 None

4. Legal Implications

4.1 None

5. Public Health Implications

5.1 None

6. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

6.1 Neutral

7. Other Significant Implications

7.1 None