

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – 27TH JUNE 2018

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
1.	Antony Carpen	Mayor James Palmer	<p>“What are his initial observations - and those of his advisers, of the Land Value Capture inquiry being held by the House of Commons Select Committee for Communities & Local Government?</p> <p>(See https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/land-value-capture-inquiry-17-19/) - in particular the most recent public hearings, a video of which is at https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/housing-communities-and-local-government-committee/news/land-value-capture-evidence-17-191/</p>
	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Mayor James Palmer	Antony Carpen	<p>Thank you for your question. I submitted a written response to the Land Value Capture inquiry which is available online.</p> <p>I support the development of land value capture mechanisms and welcome the Government’s review of legislation and current practices for land value capture. I support this because capturing value from increases in land value means that the public are not called upon to pay for infrastructure.</p>
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2.	<p>Richard Wood</p> <p>On behalf of Cambridge Area Bus Users</p> <p><i>Cambridge Area Bus Users, an affiliate of Bus</i></p>	Mayor James Palmer	<p>In the light of the DfT’s Quarterly Bus Statistics: England Q1 (January to March) 2018, which reveal a 2.3% annual decline in local bus passenger journeys in English non-metropolitan areas coupled with an annual increase in bus fares of 2.8%, outstripping the Consumer Prices Index rate of inflation of 2.5%, and taking into account the fare rises and route cutbacks throughout the Combined Authority area, and a reported shortage of drivers at Stagecoach East...</p>

	<p><i>Users UK:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>aims to represent – and campaign on behalf of – bus passengers in and around Cambridge;</i> • <i>is independent of any political party.</i> 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What positive action does the mayor propose to take to ameliorate the current situation and to improve and co-ordinate bus services, in the interests of the travelling public? • In particular, does the mayor propose to use his devolved powers to take control of bus services in the interests of the travelling public? • And how will the mayor's Strategic Bus Review provide for open and transparent consultation with the travelling public, directly, and with their representatives?
No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question
	Mayor James Palmer	<p>Richard Wood</p> <p>On behalf of Cambridge Area Bus Users</p> <p><i>Cambridge Area Bus Users, an affiliate of Bus Users UK:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>aims to represent – and campaign on behalf of – bus passengers in and around Cambridge;</i> • <i>is independent of any political party.</i> 	<p>The provision and performance of existing bus services are disappointing and it is clear that there has been a decline in many areas over recent years. The simple fact is that patronage is falling and costs to bus operators are increasing. Together this has created an environment in which commercial bus services are being withdrawn and can only continue through public sector subsidy.</p> <p>In the short term the Combined Authority is reviewing subsidy provision with Cambridgeshire County Council. However, interventions will be limited in the short term until the Combined Authority's Strategy Bus Review is completed later in 2018 and the findings are considered.</p> <p>A key component of this bus review is to review the new powers which are available to the Combined Authority through devolution, including the ability to franchise services. However, the Combined Authority does not wish to pre-empt the findings from this study.</p> <p>Finally, in relation to engagement with the public as part of this study, there are no plans to formally consult at this stage. However, the study team will be engaging with a number of key stakeholders including the upper tier authorities, the district councils, the Greater Cambridge Partnership, bus operators and the Cambridge Bus User Group. This engagement has not yet commenced but will take place over the coming months. In addition, Transport Focus has been appointed as an independent advisor to the project.</p>