

Combined Authority Business Plan 2020/2021 Mid-Year Refresh: what have we done so far?

Combined Authority Key Projects

Below are the 16 projects currently identified as priorities to the Combined Authority during the 2020/21 year of delivery. These are all on track to deliver as planned:

New Key Projects

These are the new projects which have now been identified as priorities for the CPCA:

A141 Bypass

Following on from results of the A141 study, the CPCA are going to directly procure a Multidisciplinary Consultancy to develop the Strategic Outline Business Case for the A141 Bypass, which will take up to 8 months to complete.



Business Board Growth Services

This project will focus on how the CPCA can provide businesses with advice and investment to help attract them to the area, grow whilst in the area and access the skills needed to feed that growth.



£100,000 Homes

The £100K Homes project has started work on four sites. The first £100k Home has been topped out and will be marketed to buyers in the Autumn.



A10

The Strategic Outline Business Case has completed and work has commenced on the Outline Business Case.



A47 Dualling

This scheme has delivered against its stage objectives and negotiations will progress with Highways England to establish the delivery method for the next development stage.



Adult Education Budget

The CPCA has successfully completed the first year of devolution, having spent nearly £8 million to ensure local residents are able to access and progress through adult learning opportunities.



Affordable Housing Programme

623 units have started on site, 1589 have been approved and 199 completed. The CPCA are on track to achieve our target of 2,000 new affordable homes by 31 March 2022.



Bus Reform Task Force

The CPCA has established benchmarks, identified what bus services are required across the area and selected 2 models for future bus and coach operations which are now being developed into Full Business Cases.



Business Board Growth Investments

The Business Board project has been renamed to better reflect the scope of the programme. This will now focus on how the CPCA targets, spends and monitors the impact of Local Growth Fund Capital Investments.



Cambridge Autonomous Metro

Work has been completed by leading transport experts on the definition, detail and scope of a 'One CAM' programme and the development of a One CAM Outline Business Case for the whole network.



Cambridge South Station

This scheme will now be progressed by Network Rail, on behalf of the Department for Transport. The CPCA will continue to support and promote the work involved.



Community Land Trusts

The CPCA are mobilising support for new homes and widening the range of products available.



Fenland Stations Regeneration

Improvements have been made to shelters at Whittlesea and Manea stations. Lighting and ticket machines have been installed at Whittlesea and work is continuing for car parks at Whittlesea, Manea and March.



King's Dyke Level Crossing

A new supplier has been approved and work commenced in July 2020.



Market Town Masterplans

Following approval at the August Board meeting, there is now a Masterplan in place for each key Market Town in the Combined Authority area.



Soham Station

Work commenced in September 2020. The CPCA, working closely with Network Rail, has agreed to a planned opening at the end of 2021, an improvement of 5 months.



University of Peterborough

Work on the Full Business Case has commenced and the 'spade in the ground' for Phase 1 Building will start in October 2020.



Wisbech Rail

The Business Case and GRIP 3B are complete. Engagement with DfT, ORR and Network Rail is ongoing to seek funding from Restoring Your Railway Fund for the next stage of development.

RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CPCA responded quickly, and in many ways, to support local businesses and provide funding during these uncertain times. The following examples are just a few of the initiatives carried out:

Active Travel Programme - Funding has been awarded by Central Government after Mayor James Palmer wrote to the Department of Transport, proposing a package of active travel measures. The CPCA approved the spend of £2.9 million to improve cycle and pedestrian facilities across the region. The CPCA has been working closely with the 7 Local and District Councils in the area and the Greater Cambridge Partnership to deliver these improvements.

City Centre Exit Strategy Group - A CPCA chaired sub-group bringing together taskforce groups for Cambridge and Peterborough to oversee the safe reopening of both city centres, and co-ordinating support with retailers, public transport operators, public health representatives, and the wider city based business community. The group includes district authorities to ensure support is extended to the reopening of high streets and market town centres.

COVID-19 Grant Scheme - The Business Board and the CPCA approved £5.5 million of Local Growth Fund capital to support businesses with capital grants up to £150,000 for large investment projects. 132 grants were awarded to businesses, which will create 287 jobs and safeguarded 522 jobs.

Local Economic Recovery Sub-Group - A CPCA chaired sub-group bringing together local authorities, businesses and business membership organisations to oversee and respond to post COVID-19 economic recovery for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. ERSGs are responsible for co-creating the Economic Recovery Strategy for the region, building upon local district plans and feeding into the OxCam Arc.

Micro Grant Scheme - To aid the survival of businesses and to safeguard jobs, the CPCA made funds available to support smaller COVID-19 affected businesses who required financial help with adaption or capital investment projects. The maximum amount of grant award was £5,000 and 128 grants were awarded.

Talent Portal - The CPCA has played a coordinating role in the Talent Portal, signposting local businesses in need of employees with local people in need of employment, to help Cambridgeshire and Peterborough build economic resilience due to COVID-19.

Transport Restart - Combined Authorities are expected to lead the restart of the transport system following the COVID lockdown. The CPCA has been working within the framework of the Local Resilience Forum to convene partners able to influence the transport recovery. The Transport Restart Group is chaired by the Combined Authority and brings together the two highways authorities, police and public health colleagues, the two city councils, a representative bus operator, Network Rail, Highways England, and the Department for Transport. It has met weekly since 1 June 2020.

Retraining Scheme - The CPCA is piloting a Retraining Scheme for adults to retrain into better jobs, and be ready for future changes to the economy, including those brought about by automation or those disrupted due to COVID-19.

OTHER PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT

Non-Statutory Strategic Spatial Framework:

Phase 2 has been paused to take account of proposed changes to the planning system and recommendations of the independent Commission on Climate Change. A response to the government's Planning White Paper will be submitted in October;

Independent Commission on Climate Change:

The Chair of the Commission was appointed in early 2020 and the next stages are engagement on key issues in the Autumn, followed by the first set of recommendations in spring 2021;

Public Service Reform Commission:

Members of the Commission plan to engage with Stakeholders and conduct further research. A final report is due in the Autumn of 2020.

OTHER PROJECTS

Below includes the rest of the CPCA Transport portfolio, which is currently on track with projects progressing as planned:

A1260 Nene Parkway Junction 15 and 32-3;

A141 Capacity Enhancements;

A16 Norwood Dualling;

A505 Corridor;

A605 Oundle Road Widening - Alwalton;

A605 Stanground - Whittlesea Access;

Coldham's Lane Roundabout Improvements;

Ely Area Capacity Enhancements;

Fengate Access Study - Phase 1;

Lancaster Way;

March Junction Improvements;

Scheme and Studies;

Sustainable Travel;

University Access (formerly known as Fengate Access Ph2);

Wisbech Access Strategy.

Junction 18 - A47 Improvements completed in July 2020.

DELIVERY PROGRAMMES

The following programmes remain on track:

Apprenticeships; Agri-Tech;
 Careers and Enterprise Company;
 Business Growth Service;
 Growth Hub; Garden Villages;
 Digital Connectivity Infrastructure.