



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No. 1.5

## Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board January 2023

### Public question

	<b>Question from:</b>	<b>Question to:</b>	<b>Question:</b>
1.	Kelly Whitley, local resident	Councillor Anna Smith, Statutory Deputy Mayor	My twin teenagers are in further education in Cambridge, but our village of Bassingbourn has no bus service to Cambridge, nor any bus service at all to take them to the nearest public transport link in Royston early enough in the morning to reach college. Both boys also work at McDonald's in Royston at weekends but there is no bus service at all on a Sunday, and Saturday bus times, like weekdays, are very limited. The cycling route along the A1198, crossing the A505 roundabout, is dangerous and we do not own a car. I am a single mum with two younger children as well and cannot afford regular taxi fares to Royston. Young people in Bassingbourn, which is a relatively large village, have no suitable public transport links for young people needing to get to education, training and jobs. What can the Combined Authority advise for my sons?
	<b>Response from:</b>	<b>Response to:</b>	
	Councillor Anna Smith, Statutory Deputy Mayor	Kelly Whitley, local resident	Thank you for this timely and important question.

	Question from:	Question to:	Question:
			<p>As a former teacher in sixth forms in Cambridge, I really sympathise with the issues your twins are facing on a daily basis. So many of our young people rely on public transport and active travel to access our key services and employment locations across the whole of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This is something that the Combined Authority and our constituent councils are committed to working on to improve.</p> <p>It is so important that we encourage people to use an improved bus network as we cannot simply afford for people to buy cars to make up for failing public transport or lack of active travel, especially as driving is not an option for everyone. That is why, as part of the Local Transport and Connectivity Plan, we have developed a Bus Strategy that outlines the strategic goals for our bus network. This will provide a basis for funding bids to Government to hopefully allow for these improvements to be made.</p> <p>The strategy, which is currently out for consultation, consists of a new way of running services in the first place, including franchising, in order to give more control over routes and schedules. The Greater Cambridge Partnership is currently out to consultation on sustainable travel zones, which would see an additional £50M invested in buses, which would be the biggest shake up of buses outside London since services were deregulated in 1985.</p> <p>It goes without saying that better buses will benefit everyone, providing access to education, training and employment, as well as the ability to reach all the things that people need in their daily lives. Despite the importance of bus travel, we know that services have been in decline for many years, and it is vital this is addressed if we are to achieve our ambitions for social equality, accessibility, climate change and public health. Therefore, this Board meeting will be examining the financial options available to it to maintain and improve the bus offer for the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, including Bassingbourn.</p> <p>Especially in relation to active travel, we acknowledge that safe cycle routes are needed in so many places across our region. I understand that Bassingbourn to Royston features in the Cambridgeshire Active Travel Strategy, and in that</p>

	Question from:	Question to:	Question:
			<p>context will be in the next iteration of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan. In order to progress this scheme in a timely manner, funding is important, and the Combined Authority alongside Cambridgeshire County Council are exploring sources to ensure this scheme can be delivered.</p> <p>A key part of the Combined Authority's new Active Travel Advocate's role will be examining accessibility and routes within our rural and semi-rural areas by bike and foot. The outputs from this work will form the basis of our bid for further funding from Active Travel England, with the hope that this vital improvement can be made to the routes in these areas of our region.</p> <p>Finally, as part of the recommendations from the Transport and Infrastructure Committee, Route 17 – which is Royston, Bassingbourn and the Mordens – is one of the six contracts we are seeking approval for today to allow procurement and re-tendering. If this is agreed and the procurement is approved, then the Interim Head of Transport and his team will engage with the successful bidder and operator to ensure that your views and those of the community are understood and we subsequently seek to improve the offer for those living in Bassingbourn.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>