



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No. 1.4

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board Wednesday 24 November 2021

Public questions

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question:
1.	Lara Davenport-Ray, on behalf of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Climate Action Coalition	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson and Councillor Bridget Smith, Lead Member for the Environment and Climate Change	<p>At the September 2021 meeting of this Board, several members observed the absence of carbon accounting in the proposals put before them. I see that items in the November agenda again ask this Board to make decisions about spending on large projects, without considering carbon implications.</p> <p>Today you have been asked to consider spending on several projects including the St Neots Future High Street Fund (Item 3.3), Market Town Programme Investments in Ely & Soham (Item 3.4), and improvements to a junction of the Nene Parkway (Item 4.2). Spending decisions like these have a significant impact on the environment and ecology of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Environmental Assessments may well have been carried out, but they are not included in the paperwork put before you today. Having an Environmental Assessment is not a tick box exercise. Not only officers, but also Board members, need to assess the environmental impact of a project against each funding proposal. Most of the proposals put before you do, however, contain a section titled "Significant Implications." This currently includes financial and legal</p>

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			<p>consequences and would provide a suitable place for environmental implications to be summarised for your review.</p> <p>My question is this: Are environmental and carbon implications just as significant to this Board's decision-making, if not more so, than financial and legal implications? Shouldn't carbon accounting and environmental impact be provided to this Board with every proposal? How can you make sustainable, forward-thinking and responsible decisions without this information?</p> <p>If growth is the indicator by which this Board plans to measure its success, then spending on growth projects with zero sum carbon or negative carbon implications should be prioritised. Our region needs the leaders in this room to support this approach to responsible decision-making.</p>

No.	Response from:	Response to:	Response: