

COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

25 SEPTEMBER 2019

MATTERS ARISING SINCE PUBLICATION OF THE AGENDA AND REPORTS

Item 1.4 Public Questions

Please find attached at Appendix 1 the Questions to the Combined Authority Board from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee which met on 23 September 2019. The questions will be asked by the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Item 1.7 Governance (Decision Making) Review

Councillor Count has proposed an amendment to recommendation (a), see attached at Appendix 2.

Item 3.2 Soham Rail Station – Detailed Design and Construction

A supplementary note setting out the value for money issues in more detail is attached.

Item 4.1 Local Growth Fund Project Proposals September

At its meeting on 23 September 2019 the Business Board deferred consideration of this item and requested further information. There is therefore no recommendation from the Business Board for the Combined Authority Board to consider and the report has therefore been withdrawn.

Questions to the CA Board (25th September 2019) from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (23rd September 2019)

1.8 Quarterly Performance Monitoring Report

Following the collapse of Thomas Cook, what impact will this have, specifically in Peterborough, on the job growth trajectory?

2.2 Business Plan 2019-20 Mid-Year update

The 2019-20 business plan identified 12 key projects. As a result of the half year business plan mid-year update, the September Board will be invited to add 6 projects to the key project list

Does the authority have the capacity to take on 6 more projects and where are the resources coming from for the new projects?

3.1 £100m Affordable Housing Programme Scheme Approvals - Whaddon Road, Meldreth, South Cambridgeshire (Settle)

Peterborough City Council is working on a new Housing Strategy and may reconstitute its Housing Revenue Account with a view to building affordable new homes.

What are the implications for the delivery of affordable homes and the Combined Authority's programme to deliver 2,000 affordable homes by March 2022?

3.3 Public Transport to Serve Alconbury

What assurances can be given to ensure that an interim public transport solution will be in place when Cambridgeshire County Council relocate their headquarters to Alconbury?

3.4 Bus Reform Taskforce - Budget Drawdown

Can we be given an update on bus franchising and what else can be done to drive the bus system forward?

Item 1.7 Governance (Decision Making Review) – Proposed amendment to recommendation

Councillor Count will propose that recommendation a) be amended to read:

- a) Agree the amendments to the Constitution set out at Appendix 2, *subject to the following wording being substituted for paragraph 6.3 in Chapters 8 (Transport & Infrastructure Committee), 9 (Skills Committee) and 10 (Housing & Communities Committee):*
- 6.3 *The Combined Authority Board shall appoint the committee and substitute members. With the exception of the Chair, Board members may nominate another member from their constituent council to be a member of the committee in their place. The Board member shall also nominate a named substitute member. Nominations are in consultation with the Mayor and subject to approval by the Board. In principle, neither the Mayor nor the Board will seek to exercise their voting rights to veto or vote against the appointment of constituent council members to executive committees. See also Chapter 11, paragraph 2 of the procedure rules of executive committees and Chapter 4 paragraph 4.4.*

(Additional text shown in italics)

ITEM 3.2 SOHAM RAIL STATION – DETAILED DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE: VALUE FOR MONEY

The Board is being invited to agree to begin the delivery phase of the Soham station scheme. Board members may appreciate further background on value for money. The Combined Authority's approach to value for money is set out in its Assurance Framework.

The usual measure of value for money in transport schemes is the benefit cost ratio (BCR). This is the result of dividing the costs of a scheme by its modelled benefits. The benefits are calculated in line with Department for Transport guidance and put cash values on the economic, social and safety gains from a scheme.

The Soham scheme has been the subject of an independent value for money review. The BCR for the full Soham station solution, which has two platforms, is estimated at 3.55 by that review. This may, however, understate the benefits as it uses a benefit calculation from the Strategic Outline Business Case, based on a lower number of new homes in Soham than are currently planned for.

The Board is being asked to agree an investment in a single platform solution as the first phase of the Soham station project. In terms of compliance with our Assurance Framework, the normal benchmark for approving an investment is a BCR of 2 or more. As a standalone, the BCR for the single platform is lower than the usual benchmark. However, since the single platform is designed as part of the two-platform solution, that BCR incorporates costs that would be different if the overall project were for a single platform only. The BCR for the single platform is also based on up-to-date costs, but an out-of-date benefits calculation. It would be a little higher if actual plans for housing delivery in Soham were included.

The Framework allows exceptions from the usual BCR benchmark. The exceptional circumstances in this case would be that:

- (i) the Board is being asked to approve the first phase of a project which offers strong value for money overall, and
- (ii) the full project, with two platforms, can only be delivered once this first phase, with one platform, has been delivered; and
- (iii) only the costs but not the benefits used in the BCR are up to date.