



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No. 1.4

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
Wednesday 25 August 2021

Public questions

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question:
1.	Rod Hart, on behalf of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Action Coalition	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson	<p>In light of the recent stark and terrifying Code Red warning given to us by the United Nations IPCC in their AR6 report and given that continuous growth on a finite planet is impossible and that “green growth” is an oxymoron.</p> <p>Isn't it time for the Combined Authority to seriously challenge two of its key ambitions namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. doubling the size of the local economy2. accelerating house building rates to meet local and UK need <p>Neither of these two ambitions are sustainable, the need is unsubstantiated and they will have the effect of massively increasing the regions CO2 emissions which are already well above the UK national average.</p>

	Response from:	Response to:	
	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson	Rod Hart, on behalf of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Action Coalition	As Mayor, I see climate change and public health as my key priorities. The scale of the challenge for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough on mitigating and adapting to the changing climate has been clearly set out in the first report of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate. I agree that we have to be careful how we deliver growth. The Combined Authority's agreement with government is to double the value of our economy, within the context of the government's target of net zero carbon emissions by 2050. One way to achieve that is through delivering better paid and higher value jobs. By doing so, we will help to tackle poverty that has such a negative impact on our residents health and wellbeing. The Independent Commission agreed that the growth objective was not incompatible with responding to climate change, depending on how it was delivered. Our collective challenge is therefore to support our businesses and residents in this move to low carbon growth. Having access to decent and affordable accommodation is fundamental. Housebuilding is not keeping up with need, putting pressure on housing prices that remain far out of reach for many. Housing sites have been allocated but homes aren't being released at the rate needed. It is important that the development industry is encouraged to bring forward this housing. These should be net zero homes and neighbourhoods that offer a high quality of life whilst both mitigating and adapting to climate change
2.	Question from:	Question to:	
	Dorothy Ball, local resident	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson	<p>Given the urgency for emission reduction of which last week's IPCC report reminded us, and the change in transport habits triggered by the pandemic, is duelling the A47 still really a priority?</p> <p>We all like to travel easily, but :</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">new roads nearly always increase traffic</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">the huge costs of becoming carbon neutral mean we should not spend limited resources on inessential projects, particularly when these increase emissions.</p>

	Response from:	Response to:	
	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson	Dorothy Ball	<p>The A47 is of strategic importance to the regional and national economy. Enhancing the route to improve connectivity will stimulate economic growth, employment, education, housing and the agri-tech economy in the north of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, contributing to levelling up the region.</p> <p>Improving the A47 will complement other transport and infrastructure priorities such as Wisbech Rail and increase the potential for a future development of a Garden Town at Wisbech.</p> <p>We are working collaboratively with Highways England who are reviewing existing evidence, including the work delivered by the Combined Authority. Highways England are assessing the current and future conditions of the A47, as well as reviewing and identifying options for the A47 between Peterborough and Wisbech. This will include, as you requested, assessing options for their climate and environmental impact, and any forecast changes in travel behaviour post-Covid.</p> <p>If options are progressed further, mitigation measures will be considered and implemented as far as possible. The outcome of Highway England's work is expected to complete at the end of October 2021.</p> <p>Supplementary question/ comment: We are in a climate emergency and need to reassess our priorities.</p> <p>Response: There has been a sea-change at the Combined Authority in how we are looking to address the climate emergency, in collaboration and co-operation with the Combined Authority Board.</p>
3.	Question from:	Question to:	
	Antony Carpen, local resident	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson	I have received a letter from Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner containing a response from The Minister for Skills & Apprenticeships regarding the founding of new adult education colleges. She has confirmed that powers to create new

			<p>institutions are held by the Secretary of State for Education, alongside powers to provide funding for their creation.</p> <p>I have written on my blog about the call from the House of Commons' Chair of the Education Select Committee for a new generation of adult education colleges. I have also written about how a new college on the eastern edge of Cambridge could not only benefit one of the most economically deprived wards in the county (Abbey Ward in Cambridge) but also serve residents in the northern and eastern villages around the city in both South Cambridgeshire and East Cambridgeshire district councils. Please could you ask your officials to work with members on the skills committee to assess the possibility of applying to the Secretary of State for the necessary powers and funds to establish such a college - mindful of the existing local planning process for the next local plan, and in particular whether there is any appetite from local industry (via the various networks and trade associations) to create and co-fund a new facility that can help us overcome the skills shortages that you are acutely aware of.</p>
	Response from:	Response to:	
	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson	Antony Carpen	<p>Combined Authority Officers are currently working with partners, our constituent councils, businesses and education providers on our refreshed Skills Strategy. Through our devolution deal, we have responsibility for planning and funding adult education across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and have commissioned a number of colleges and providers to deliver a wide range of courses from entry-level to Level 3 for our residents. You can find more information on our website.</p> <p>We are cognisant of the Education Select Committee's recommendations about an adult learning centre in every town. We are looking at adult education 'cold-spots' across the region, analysing the potential demand, feasibility and benefits of additional provision, particularly in those parts of the region where there are high levels of skills deprivation. We will certainly consider whether a college on the east of Cambridge would be viable and if so, how this might be funded.</p> <p>The Combined Authority works in close co-operation with our communities, particularly when establishing new provision. An example of this is the new</p>

			training facility that we are developing in partnership with Metalcraft in Chatteris. The new training centre will provide opportunities for apprentices as well as adult learners.
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