

## Combined Authority Board 30 June 2021: Questions from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Item 1.5: Forward Plan

Q: We note item 29 on the Combined Authority's Forward Plan – a decision on CAM - scheduled for the 14<sup>th</sup> July meeting of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee. What is the Combined Authority's envisaged programme of work on CAM or its replacement and what future interactions with and involvement of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee do you foresee within this programme?

*A: As the transport strategy is a Board reserved matter, the forthcoming paper on future transport strategy will be taken directly by the Board on 28 July 2021.*

*Alongside the general power of Overview and Scrutiny to call-in decisions for scrutiny review, it is open to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to conduct scrutiny activity in relation to areas of the CPCA's work, including the Local Transport Plan.*

### Item 4.1: East West Rail Consultation

Q: The Committee notes the consultation response from East West Rail and asks whether the Combined Authority will consider co-ordinating its consultation responses on such schemes with its constituent Councils in future?

*A: During the development of the Combined Authority's response in relation to East-West Rail, officers engaged with partners and Member Councils from across the region to ensure a level of consistency between submissions. This engagement included meetings with the Executive Director, Place and Economy and the Group Manager: Transport Strategy and Funding from the County Council, the Assistant Director, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth at the Greater Cambridge Partnership, the Transport Advisor at the University of Cambridge, Cambridge University Health Partners, Cambridge Ahead, and Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service through the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Transport Sub-Group.*

*It is of course important that the Combined Authority continues to endeavour to reflect the views of the constituent Councils and recognise areas of difference. Over the last two years, the Combined Authority has managed to achieve a number of coherent and agreed responses to a range of transport consultations, including London Luton Airport's Arrivals consultation, England's Economic Heartland's Transport Strategy and a number of Greater Cambridge Partnership scheme consultations. The Combined Authority will continue to liaise and co-operate with Member Councils to ensure that responses truly reflect the needs of the community.*

### Item 4.3: Climate change

Q: In light of the findings in the first interim report of the Combined Authority's Commission on Climate Change, will the Mayor be declaring a climate emergency?

*A: The Independent Commission have set out the evidence on how a changing climate is affecting Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and has given the Combined Authority a clear set of recommendations to respond to. That is the focus of debate for today.*

*As a society we face significant challenges such as climate change, access to good quality affordable housing, tackling fuel poverty and deprivation, funding of public health and social care, loss of biodiversity and more, all whilst coping with a global pandemic. Making a declaration on just one of these issues, however fundamental, is not the right approach for the Combined Authority. I want to see compassionate improvements to everyone's quality of life, that deliver across all these issues.*

*What I do believe the right approach for the Combined Authority is to set a clear target for reducing emissions and get on with delivering that in a fair and compassionate way. Equally, we must all be prepared for the impacts of a changing climate that are already with us, such as more risk of flooding. This is why we need to act on the Commission's recommendations now and agree the actions that the Combined Authority will take.*

*We acknowledge that some constituent councils have already declared a climate emergency and respect that decision. The Combined Authority must also now take up the role of tackling climate change and providing leadership on this issue.*