

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF GROWTH, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE
HELD AT 7.00PM, ON
TUESDAY 12 JULY 2022
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors I Yasin (Chair), N Bi, C Burbage, G Casey, N Day, M Farooq, C Fenner, JA Fox, JR Fox, M Haseeb, M Jamil, K Knight, N Moyo, M Perkins, R Ray, M Rangzeb, M Sabir, N Sandford, L Sharp, H Skibsted, C Wiggin and Co-opted Member Parish Councillor June Bull and Independent Co-opted Members Matthew Barber and Dr Esther Norton

Officers Present: Adrian Chapman, Executive Director Place and Economy
Lewis Banks, Transport and Environment Manager
Emma White, Transport Programme Manager for Cambridgeshire
and Peterborough Combined Authority
Paulina Ford, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Charlotte Cameron, Democratic Services Officer

1. NOMINATION OF CHAIR

The Senior Democratic Services Officer advised the Committee that in accordance with

Part 4, Section 8 – Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules, section 13, Joint Meetings of Scrutiny Committees a Chair would be required to be appointed from among the Chairs of the Committees who were holding the meeting. Nominations were sought from those present who were Councillor Day, Chair of the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Yasin, Chair of the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Yasin was nominated by Councillor Jamil and seconded by Councillor Day. There being no further nominations, Councillor Yasin was appointed Chair of this committee.

The Chair welcomed everyone present and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for members of both Scrutiny Committees to scrutinise Peterborough's Local Transport Connectivity Plan.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Michael Perkins.

The following Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committee Co-opted members also submitted their apologies: Stuart Dawks.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

No declarations of interest or whipping declarations were received.

4. **PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL'S CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH LOCAL TRANSPORT AND CONNECTIVITY PLAN**

The Growth, Resources and Communities and the Climate Change and Environment Committees received a report in relation to the proposed consultation response to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

The purpose of the report was to consider and make comments in respect of the Council's proposed consultation response to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.

The Transport and Environment Manager accompanied by the Transport Programme Manager for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority introduced the report and key points raised included:

The Combined Authority produced a new draft Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP). It was advised that the draft had been developed collaboratively and that Peterborough's priorities had been included to focus on supporting the local area.

The Officer identified that some of the priorities included in the Peterborough section were transformative. These included the Peterborough Station Quarter, the Fletton Quays Footbridge and work on a new location for a bus depot. The challenges of rolling out electric vehicle charging points were identified, with an acknowledgement that due to the lack of off-road parking in the city this would require private sector investment. Finally, walking and cycling strategies and their support to active travel were highlighted. The Officer referred to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and the potential for the creation of a Cycling and Walking Task and Finish Group.

The Transport Programme Manager for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority added:

The LTCP would aim to bring the region closer together through a properly funded joined-up net zero transport system. The plan had 11 key objectives spread across 6 key transport targets. The plan would remain aligned with all relevant local, regional and national transport policies as it developed.

An engagement soft launch had been completed and 500 feedback forms were received. Of those responses, 95% understood that the transport plan needed to be updated, 65% believed that the update was the correct one and 25% felt the objectives listed were the right transport priorities for the region. Responses to this soft launch were used to inform the updated LTCP.

The Growth, Resources and Communities and the Climate Change and Environment Committees debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members noted the results of the 2021 census which showed that Peterborough had a population of 215,000 and was the 4th fastest growing city in the country. Members asked why Cambridge had 14 pages in the LTCP and Peterborough only had 5. The Officers advised that further information regarding Peterborough's transport plans would be added to the LTCP.
- Members referred to the issue of the Bus Depot on Lincoln Road and sought clarification on what had been done to resolve it. Members were advised that a proposal had been sent to the Combined Authority to approve a £40,000 feasibility study which would review the options around enhanced bus partnerships and franchising.

- Members sought further clarification on the role of Stagecoach in the negotiations for a new bus depot. Officers advised that the Combined Authority (CA) were in discussion with Stagecoach and that the CA had additional powers and greater access to finances for franchising.
- Members referred to page 92 where it stated that improvements in and around the city centre were expected soon and sought clarification on when and what those improvements would be. The Officer noted that several active travel improvement schemes would happen as a result of larger developments.
- The Transport and Environment Manager advised that the proposed new Cycling and Walking Task and Finish Group would help to review active travel schemes from a planning perspective.
- It was noted that there were no cycle routes available south of the river and a solution would need to be found.
- Members asked what percentage of the funds in the plan would be spent on active travel. Members were advised that nothing was stipulated but that several schemes were being looked at.
- Members noted the 6 key objectives of the LTCP and sought clarification on how they would be factored in and achieved for rural and remote areas. Members were advised that the LTCP was a strategic document and that there had been discussions around transport hubs aimed at connecting the rural and urban areas.
- Members referred to the information on page 6 about the work with the CA on bus routes and asked if there were any plans for a bus working group to be reinstated. Members were advised that the CA were working on bus operations and when there were firm plans for a bus strategy, they would be presented to scrutiny.
- Some Members emphasised the benefits of a bus working group and noted that it would be important for Members from across the CA to have an input on bus strategies in the region.
- Members were pleased at the comprehensive inclusion of cycling and walking strategies in the plan and their connection with rural communities. Members sought clarification on how the cycling plans would be achieved and connected with the rural areas. Officers acknowledged the importance of this area of work and noted that the work of the new Cycling and Walking Task and Finish would help to facilitate this.
- Officers advised that this work would collectively build into a rural cycle strategy which would connect the rural areas to each other and the city.
- Members referred to the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) on page 5 and sought clarification on the external support received. Members were advised that there were two types of funding; the Active Travel Fund which was capital money for infrastructure and the Capability Fund which was revenue funding from the Department of Transport.
- Members were advised that these funding streams would enable the Council to promote sustainable travel and look for further schemes of funding.
- Members referred to £600,000 in funding from Cycling UK and noted that the Council did not receive as much funding as others. Members queried whether the cycling plans could be more aspirational given the potential to lose out on funding in the future. Officers noted that getting the LCWIP approved would be vital in allowing the Council to bid for more funding.
- Members asked why the major schemes in the plan focused on roads and not solutions to deal with congestion. It was acknowledged that there were several road schemes and Members were advised that some individuals would not have a realistic alternative. Members were also advised that there were multi-modal schemes which included road, cycle and walking measures.

- Members were advised that the multi-modal schemes included work on dualling the A16 at the Norwood development site, additional cycling and walking infrastructure and a pedestrian/cycle footbridge over the A47.
- Members asked if there were any schemes focused on promoting public transport to those who travel into Peterborough from other counties. Officers advised that there were ongoing studies focused on reviewing rail connectivity to the surrounding areas.
- Officers noted that the response would be improved to include more references to the work around rail connectivity.
- Member referred to the public consultation and sought clarification on how elderly residents without access to the internet were able to respond. Officers advised that newspaper adverts, schools and businesses and public events were used to advertise the consultation.
- Members suggested the Cross Key Homes would be a good place to promote the consultation so that those without internet could be reached.
- Members sought clarification on the what the views of those who answered the consultation were. Members were advised that the in-person events had been well attended and the key themes raised included bus, rail and active travel links. Officers advised that a briefing note on the public feedback received would be provided.
- Members asked if retail parks had been targeted for the consultation as there were concerns those areas were being missed. The Officers noted that they had not been targeted and advised that this would be reviewed.
- Officers were advised that Tribute, a rural Peterborough magazine, would be a useful tool in reaching the rural areas.
- Members asked if Officers had determined a quantifiable financial benefit of the transport plan. Members were advised that the schemes within the plan allowed for larger sums of investment and an exact figure would be hard to determine.
- Members were concerned that the plan did not go far enough to improve the transport connectivity of the city and asked if the growth rate of the city had been considered. Officers noted that the plan needed to be more ambitious to support the growth in the city.
- Members noted that the response to consultation did not include reference to the proposed 15% decrease in motor vehicles by 2030 and queried how equipped the city was to deal with such a change. Officers advised that work with a consultant had been commissioned to review what that reduction would mean for the city.
- Members were advised that there would be child documents under the LTCP focused on specific schemes within the strategy.
- Members noted that bus prices were unaffordable and that bus timetables did not meet the usage needs of residents. Members were advised that work around the affordability and service of bus routes would be added to the response.

The following recommendation was made by Cllr Sandford and seconded by Cllr Knight, that Peterborough City Council's consultation response to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport and Connectivity Plan be rewritten to include relevant comments made by the Committee.

The Committee unanimously **AGREED** to the recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** that Peterborough City Council's consultation response to the Cambridgeshire and

Peterborough Local Transport and Connectivity Plan be rewritten to include relevant comments made by the Committee and that the plan includes a more detailed section for Peterborough to take into account the following areas:

- Information on the connectivity between rural areas and the city
- Information on rail connectivity
- Additional information on bus routes and public transport connectivity
- Quantifiable GDP to represent the growth of the city
- The proportion of major schemes that will be Active Travel and;
- The long-term view for Peterborough.

AGREED ACTIONS

1. The Growth, Resources and Communities and the Climate Change and Environment Scrutiny Committees considered the report and **RESOLVED** to make comments in respect of the Council's proposed consultation response to The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Transport and Connectivity Plan.
2. The Committee also requested that the Transport and Environment Manager:
 - Consider reinstating the bus working group
 - Provide the committee with a briefing note on the public feedback to the consultation.
 - Review the way in which the consultation is communicated and advertised to ensure public areas and such organisations like Cross Keys homes are included.

CHAIR

Meeting began 7.00pm and ended 7.55pm

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