

January 2014 Report from COUNTY COUNCILLOR

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ECONOMY, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

City Deal for Greater Cambridge

Work has been ongoing for some time between the County Council, Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, Local Enterprise Partnership and the University of Cambridge to take forward proposals to negotiate a City Deal for Greater Cambridge with Government. The approach taken has been a bold and ambitious one, and it is expected that if the Deal is ultimately agreed it will be to the benefit of the wider county and LEP area, not just to the Cambridge/South Cambridgeshire area. In the document accompanying the Autumn Statement on 5 December, Government announced its agreement in principle to the Greater Cambridge proposals, although much more work is needed to translate that into a detailed agreement. The Autumn Statement document said that details of the Deal will be available at the time of the Government's budget, which is expected in March. Work is continuing towards a detailed agreement with Government.

Connecting Cambridgeshire

The first Superfast Broadband cabinets went live in November, meeting the original expectation that roll-out would begin before the end of 2013. Cabinets went live in parts of Buckden, Cambridge (Coleridge), Grafham, Offord D'Arcy, St Ives, Somersham and Whittlesey, with many more to follow over the next two years. The [Connecting Cambridgeshire](#) website provides updates on the latest cabinets to go live on the 'my area' pages, with information about upgrading to superfast broadband. January will see the launch of the 'Destination Digital', which will support small and medium enterprises in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to achieve better connectivity, be more innovative, adopt broadband-enabled technologies, and boost productivity. Over £4.5m funding will be available.

Making Assets Count

Cambridge City Council and Fenland District Council have joined the County Council by agreeing in principle to the proposed creation of a publicly owned Joint Venture at the relevant Member meetings in October. External advice on the Stamp Duty Land Tax implications and potential solutions has been sought. £39k of funding has also been secured from the East of England Local Government Association for detailed work around the Joint Venture.

STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT

Long Term Transport Strategy for Cambridgeshire

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Strategic Planning and Transport Member group met on 18 November and signalled their endorsement for a Draft Long Term Transport Strategy (LTTS) for

Cambridgeshire. The Strategy is being finalised for public consultation in the New Year. This has been developed over the last year by Members and officers across Cambridgeshire. It aims to provide a high level framework to support sustainable development and continued economic prosperity, and:

- Outlines the long-term priority strategic infrastructure requirements.
- Provides a clear basis for investment decisions and bids for funding.
- Provides a case for improvements for infrastructure that is outside the control of the Council.

The LTTS outlines how the transport network will be developed to support sustainable growth in the Local Plans, which look to 2031 (2036 in the case of Huntingdonshire) and considers long-term aspirations to support sustainable growth to 2050. Once approved, this will support and inform the LEP's Strategic Economic Plan, which will be used as a basis for negotiation with Government around the Local Growth Fund.

Section 106 Allocations

Proposals for Section 106 funding allocations for some of the Market Town Transport Strategies and Corridor Area Transport Plans (where there is funding) are currently being assessed for eligibility. This is further to meetings and workshops being held in Huntingdonshire, Fenland and for the North and South Corridor areas of Cambridge to consider suggestions for schemes. It is anticipated that the recommendations will be reported to Cabinet for approval in December.

Better Bus Area Funding

A new system to avoid over-ranking of taxis in St Andrews Street in Cambridge is currently being tested, and will be operational before Christmas. The new scheme will see the Drummer Street taxi rank act as a feeder for the St Andrews Street rank, with a sign notifying taxi drivers when a new space is available. A proposal for camera enforcement of bus lanes has been approved by Cabinet, and work will begin shortly on this project. Audio announcement equipment has been installed in six Busway vehicles for trialling and there is funding available to roll these out to more vehicles if there is positive feedback. Over 20 Parish Councils across South Cambridgeshire responded to the grant offer to improve their bus facilities – the proposals have been prioritised and Parishes will be contacted shortly, with successful Parishes asked to develop their proposals further.

Cambridgeshire Future Transport

The second of two Community Engagement Officers joined the Council in November to provide much needed additional staff capacity. A programme of community engagement is underway and updates on progress in the following areas are outlined below:

- **Area C (Villages south of the A428)** – Agreement has been reached on a serviced and the tendering process has commenced. The target date for the new service to commence is April 2014. The solution will be a mixture of fixed timetable (at peak times) and Demand Responsive Transport (at other times).
- **Area D (Villages along the A10 Corridor)** – A meeting with local groups to explore options took place in November.
- **Areas H (St Ives/Ramsey/Whittlesey), I (St Neots/Brampton) and J**

(Isleham/Fordham) – Preliminary work has now commenced.

The positive approach to community engagement being used as part of the programme has been highlighted in the report 'State of Rural Public Services 2013', published by the Rural Services Network in November 2013

Cambridge Science Park Station

The Department for Transport has re-affirmed its commitment to the delivery of the Station by December 2015. The planning application was submitted in July and, following consultation, it is expected that the application will be determined by the Joint Development Control Committee in December.

Cycle City Ambition Grant

Work started on site at the A10 cycle route at Shepreth on 28 October. A Stakeholder workshop took place at the Cambridge Botanic Gardens on 8 November, which was attended by 25 local stakeholders and interest groups to brainstorm cycling improvements on Trumpington Road – this adopted a 'blank piece of paper' approach. The Department for Health has now also contributed £200k to the programme to increase levels of walking, from funding that was only made available for bids from successful Cycle City Ambition Grant bidders. This aligns with the emphasis placed in the Cycle City Ambition Grant criteria that cycling improvements should have no negative impact on pedestrian provision, and indeed should enhance this where feasible.

Cycle Safety Fund Grant

Work funded by this grant has been completed at the Hills Road/Regent Street junction in Cambridge, and will shortly be completed at the A14/B1049 Histon Interchange. Work is underway at the A14/B1047 Horningsea Interchange and public consultation has just been completed on proposals to remodel the Radegund Road/Perne Road roundabout in Cambridge.

Local Growth Strategy and EU Investment Plan

A Draft Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) will be considered by the LEP Board on 10 December ahead of submitting this to Government in draft form. The Local Transport Body has a key role in terms of advising the LEP on the transport element, however the LEP will make the final decision on the programme and priorities.

Further work and negotiations will continue over the spring and views will be sought on the Draft SEP ahead of submitting the final draft by end of March. Allocations are expected to be confirmed in July.

INFRASTRUCTURE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

Community Hubs used for highway drop-in sessions

The Local Infrastructure and Street Management Service has initiated a trial to discuss local highway issues at Community Hubs. Drop-in sessions for local communities at the Ramsey and Yaxley libraries have proven to be very popular. Consideration is now being given to something similar in St Neots

Library in December, and Local Highway Officers will look to roll out sessions elsewhere in the county after Christmas.

Winter Maintenance

Cambridgeshire's gritters have been standing by since the beginning of November and have been called out a few times already. There have been no operational issues to date – there is a full team of trained drivers, an operational plan in place and a 'dry run' was carried out in October. Two new gritters delivered this season were recently named by local school children - 'Salty McGrit' and 'Snowbert'.

Trumpington Meadows Centre

Construction of the Trumpington Community Centre at Clay Farm is due to begin in November 2014. The opening date of the Community Hub has been revised, and this is now expected to open in October 2015.

Highways Capital Projects Delivery

The Local Projects Team has delivered over £3m worth of projects in Cambridgeshire, with another £8m of works currently being delivered. High profile projects have included resurfacing of Hills Road in Cambridge, Harrison Way in St Ives and Cromwell Road in Wisbech. The Transport Delivery Plan was approved in September, releasing a further £15m of projects. These are currently being planned with the aim of delivering projects in the early part of 2014.

Road Safety Education, Training and Publicity

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Road Safety Partnership's new crash car simulator resource, which is designed to engage young drivers in road safety messages, has been used with Sixth Form students, colleges and businesses since September. The car has already been featured on BBC Look East, and further events are booked at St Neots Community College and Marshalls in coming weeks. There has also been demand from other Authorities in the region to hire the resource following positive TV coverage. The team has also launched pedestrian and pushalong scooter training for primary school pupils this term, utilising volunteers in each school. The response from schools has been excellent and there is already a waiting list for volunteer training.

Supporting Businesses and Communities relocation

Although negotiations are still ongoing between the County Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council, it has been agreed that Supporting Businesses & Communities staff currently based at Sackville House in Cambourne will relocate to the South Cambridgeshire District Council offices at South Cambridgeshire Hall, hopefully early in the New Year. This positive move is in line with the Making Assets Count programme, and the co-location offers real opportunities for further collaborative working with District Councils, including in areas such as environmental health, crime and disorder, community safety and financial investigations.

Rogue Trader Awareness Campaign

Joint working between the Supporting Businesses and Communities Service, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire Constabulary has resulted in a drive to raise awareness about rogue traders amongst South Cambridgeshire residents. The latest residents' magazine has a two-page spread that includes advice on how rogue traders operate, who they target and how to report any rogue trading suspicions. It also includes mention of the Trading Standards work on 'Buy With Confidence', which helps consumers to find a reliable trader. A door sticker which sends a clear message to doorstep callers that the household does not deal with uninvited callers was also included in the magazine.

Street Lighting Private Finance Initiative

The second phase of the Street Lighting programme is due to take place in Cambridge from January and is expected to last several months. The first area for works to commence will be Cherry Hinton, followed by Coleridge, Abbey, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Fulbourn, Market, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey and Trumpington. It is anticipated that this will generate a high volume of enquiries from both residents and Members. The early phase of consultation with Members has begun and appears to be working well.

Festive lighting is currently a key issue. Balfour Beatty are engaging with Parish Councils and doing everything they can to accommodate festive lights being erected in a safe manner. Officers are also in the process of gathering information to inform the creation of a formal policy on attachments to streetlights. This policy will take into account manufacturers' guidance on appropriate loadings for specific columns. In particular guidelines will be outlined for larger and heavier festive lighting. This policy will be drafted in early 2014. Upgrading works are also taking place in Wisbech. As part of this process Balfour Beatty and the Cambridgeshire Street Lighting team are responding to enquires as and when they arise.

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND ADULTS

Primary School application process opens

Parents in Cambridgeshire who have a child born between 1 September 2009 and 31 August 2010 must submit an application for their child to start school in September 2014. The process can be completed online at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/education/primary/applyprimary/applyingforprimaryschoolplace.htm> or by returning a paper form, which can be obtained from any primary school and returned to the Council's Admissions Team by 15 January.

Clinical Commissioning Group procurement

The Clinical Commissioning Group's (CCG) procurement process for older people's NHS services continues, and the Council is involved as a partner. Officers recently met with all prospective bidders to provide information about the Council's plans and explore how services might be developed in future. The next stage of the procurement process will be an assessment of the bids in January, which will be followed by formal interviews that will include

representation from the Council. The current expectation is that the agreed provider will be known by April 2014 and implementation will be by July 2014. This is a challenging time table and may need to be amended.

Progress in tackling delayed discharges from Addenbrooke's

Partners in health and social care have recently taken part in a programme to reduce delayed discharges from Addenbrooke's into social care. This work involved the Council, Addenbrooke's, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust and the CCG. Key actions included improvements to patient pathways and business processes to support hospital discharge, and the establishment of relationships at Chief Executive, operational and individual levels to manage and monitor performance. Since April over 1,600 bed days have been saved at Addenbrooke's compared to a similar period in the first year. Whilst good progress has been made, further improvement is needed. "Discharge to assess" is an approach to transfers from Hospital into social care that involves early hospital planning and discharge at the point where an individual is clinically fit. If that individual has complex needs, these will either be assessed at home or in an interim nursing home or community hospital bed, rather than in Addenbrooke's. Chief Officers from relevant partner organisations have signalled their desire to build on work done (which has seen the number of lost bed days reduced by 23% from April to November) by adopting this approach. Work has begun to implement the "discharge to assess" approach and to understand the gap between the existing availability of community beds and future requirements, to ensure that in future people who appear to need residential and nursing care can be discharged from Hospital in a timely manner.

School Improvement Strategy

Local Authorities are required to have a School Improvement Strategy (SIS) that sets out their role, what they do and how they support and challenge schools and academies to improve educational outcomes. Cambridgeshire's SIS has been set out in a number of different documents, such as the School Intervention Strategy and School to School Support Strategy. Work is underway to combine these into a single document that provides a clear and unequivocal statement of the Council's strategy.

Review of 'Early Help'

The CFA Directorate has recently commenced a review of 'Early Help' – the preventative response that aims to identify and support vulnerable children, young people and families early enough to prevent their needs escalating further – with the intention of developing this into a cross-Directorate model. The exercise to 'recommission' and redesign Early Help is being undertaken in response to the planned reduction in the budget across CFA. This will form part of the savings proposals for 2014/15 and future years. There is a recognised pattern of rising need and demand for services across the children's system. The intention is to consult with stakeholders and refine plans up to April, and have finalised plans for the recommissioning of Early Help services by the start of the new financial year. Member engagement will be woven into this process. Proposed implementation will begin from April

2015 to deliver savings for the period 2015-18. Implementation is likely to be a staged process for different areas.

Double-Up Project

The Double-Up Project is a 'invest to save initiative' whereby savings are made in domiciliary care packages through a review of those service users in receipt of two carers per visit because of moving and handling requirements, particularly those people who need to be hoisted. The project will begin in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, where capacity issues are particularly challenging. One of the main care agencies operating in that area, Beaumont Care, has already been approached regarding this initiative and is very willing to work with the Council on this project. Two Occupational Therapists have commenced work and will be employed for six months initially, with an option to extend the project to 12 months following a review of outcomes and savings.

Integration Transformation Fund

The Integration Transformation Fund (ITF) was announced in June as part of the Government's Spending Round. The Government will put £3.8bn into a pooled budget for health and social care services to enshrine closer working between organisations in local areas, in order to deliver better services for older and disabled people, keeping them out of hospital and avoiding long hospital stays. £200m will be transferred to Local Authorities from the NHS in 2014/15 to ensure change can start immediately through investment in new systems and ways of working. Government, NHS England and the LGA expect that this funding will be used to significantly affect the pattern of local services, shifting resource and demand away from acute services focused on treatment and towards community based services, focused on prevention. This is likely to mean an increase in the support available for older and disabled people in primary/community health and social care services. By managing demand in this way, a reduction is expected in the need for support at the acute level, with corresponding changes in acute services. A set of principles and vision for the impact of ITF in Cambridgeshire is currently being drafted and discussed with stakeholders and the public. Following sign-off of the initial ITF plan by the Health and Wellbeing Board and Government in February/March, detailed implementation plans will be developed during 2014-15 and there will be further consultations around these.

New co-located Secondary School and Special School in Littleport

The process to find a sponsor for two new schools in Littleport was launched in November. The secondary and special schools will be co-located and run as Academies by a single sponsor. The two schools are due to open in September 2016. The secondary school will be built to provide 600 places (4 Form of Entry) with scope for expansion to 750 (5 Form of Entry) if necessary. The special school will admit up to 110 children based on need. The proposals submitted by sponsors will be assessed by a Member/officer panel in February/March. The panel will identify its preferred sponsor, then Cabinet

endorsement will be sought in April. Details of the preferred sponsor will then be sent to the Department for Education for a final decision to be made by the Secretary of State in May/June.

Child Protection

There continues to be a significant increase in the number of children subject to a Child Protection Plan. The current figure is 363. Contacts and referrals have also continued to rise and, whilst in some weeks there has been a slight dip, the overall trend continues to be upwards. Actions are being taken to address this. It is believed that some of the more recent publicity regarding Serious Case Reviews has raised public awareness of the issues. In addition, families that the Council has been working with for some time, but where there has been what is referred to as 'second order change', have moved into the more assertive approach of the child protection process in order to safeguard children at risk of significant harm.

Department of Education Six-Monthly Review

On 13 November the Department for Education undertook a six-monthly review of Cambridgeshire's progress following the 'inadequate' inspection of children's safeguarding arrangements in October 2012. The DfE spent a day with a range of partners, senior managers, practitioners and the Chief Executive as the Chair of the Improvement Board. DfE has confirmed that Cambridgeshire's Notice to Improve is likely to remain until after a return visit from OfSTED to confirm that the Council has moved out of an 'inadequate' judgement. The new OfSTED framework introduced in November no longer has the judgement of 'adequate', and this is now 'requires improvement'. This potentially could mean that Cambridgeshire moves from 'inadequate' into 'requires improvement' as no Local Authority has been able to evidence improvements that go up two judgements. Cambridgeshire is anticipating an OfSTED inspection in either January or February.

Visit by the Cabinet Office regarding Adoption Reform

Cambridgeshire has been working in an adoption partnership with Coram, a voluntary adoption agency with nationally recognised expertise, to provide strategic leadership to Cambridgeshire Adoption Service, with the aim of delivering better outcomes for children and families, particularly focusing on minimising delays for children who need long-term services. Recently Cambridgeshire hosted a visit by the Cabinet Office who met staff, senior managers and representatives of Coram to discuss the impact of the Adoption Reform Guidance that has been issued in the last 18 months. The Council is one of 10 Local Authorities being visited by the Cabinet Office, who intend to report directly back of Ministers about the outcome of their visits.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

The Health and Wellbeing Board has selected the following topics for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) programme of work for 2013-2014:

- Carers

- Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment
- Mental health of adults of working age
- Mental health of older people
- Older People – primary prevention

The first four topics are expected to be completed and presented at the Health and Wellbeing Board in April. However, a consultant has only recently been appointed to manage the two Mental Health JSNAs. As a result, the projects are at risk of not meeting the deadline, although every effort will be made to minimise the risk. The Older people – primary prevention JSNA is scheduled for delivery at the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2014. Further topics are planned for later in 2014.

Warm Homes Healthy People Winter Campaign 2013/14

Public Health with support from the Communications Team is working with partners to mitigate the risks associated with cold weather to the health and wellbeing of vulnerable groups. The key aims are to provide vulnerable groups with the appropriate information for minimising the effects of the cold and where they can find additional support. This builds on work undertaken in the past two years in Cambridgeshire that saw the network of organisations that provide support increase its cross referrals, improving access to services. This was along with increased involvement of frontline health and social care staff who play key roles in identifying those at risk, providing information and signpost to these services. The Department of Health 2013 Cold Weather Plan highlights the following five top tips to keep the home warm, to help manage bills and to stay healthy which need to be widely promoted:

- Heat the home well
- Get financial support
- Eat well and have plenty of fluids
- Get a flu jab
- Look after yourself and others

Excess Winter Deaths Information for Cambridgeshire

The following is summary of the information found in the Excess Winter Mortality in England and Wales, (provisional) 2012/13 and 2011/12 statistical bulletin published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) on the 27 November:

- The Excess Winter Death Index in 2011/12 shows that Cambridge City had nearly 25% more deaths in the winter months compared to the non-winter months. This figure was statistically significantly higher than the England average. There were 60 excess deaths in the winter months compared to the non-winter months.

CUSTOMER SERVICE AND TRANSFORMATION

Peer Review

The final report from the LGA Peer Review team, which was on site for a week from 14 October, is now available online at <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/peerreview.htm>.

Business Plan

Work continues to prepare the Business Plan for 2014/15 and beyond. Monthly Workshops with Cabinet, Group Leaders and the Corporate Leadership Team continues. Meanwhile the five Overview and Scrutiny Committees are looking at the proposals and offering challenge in process. The Members' Seminar on 6 December was used to further explain the financial position, as well as give all Groups a chance to raise alternative proposals. The Business Plan will go to Cabinet in January and to Council in February.

Cllr Roger Hickford
Jan 2014