

Item:

UPDATE ON THE WORK OF KEY EXTERNAL PARTNERSHIPS



To:

Councillor Lewis Herbert Executive Councillor for External Partnerships

Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee, 28th March 2022

Report by:

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Wards affected:

Abbey, Arbury, Castle, Cherry Hinton, Coleridge, East Chesterton, King's Hedges, Market, Newnham, Petersfield, Queen Edith's, Romsey, Trumpington, West Chesterton

Not a Key Decision

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This paper provides an update on the work of the following partnerships:

- The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (including the Business Board)
- Greater Cambridge Partnership
- Fast Growing Cities
- Innovation Corridor (London-Stanstead-Cambridge Consortium)
- Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Arc.

- 1.2 The paper is provided as a part of the Council’s commitment given in its “Principles of Partnership Working”, to set out annual reports summarising the work of the key partnerships it is involved with and highlights the considerable amount of activity that is taking place in tackling some of the “big challenges” that the city is facing. It also shows the ongoing joint working between partners and government to help meet these challenges. This year has included responding to the to the pandemic, which has involved partners findings ways to pull together to both ameliorate and find solutions to its impacts.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive Councilor is recommended to:
 - a) Note the achievements and progress of the strategic partnerships that the City Council is engaged with, outlined in this report.

3. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA)

- 3.1 The City Council is a statutory member of the CPCA, which was set up as a part of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Deal, with its first official meeting taking place in March 2017.

A Board, chaired by the elected Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, ensures that the decisions and actions of the Combined Authority deliver key outcomes for the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Cllr. Lewis Herbert sat on the **Combined Authority Board** during the year for Cambridge City Council.

- 3.2 As well as the Combined Authority Board there are six other committees that are part of the CPCA. Our membership of these committees is: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**, Cllr. Dave Baigent and Cllr. Mike Davey; **Audit and Governance Committee** Cllr. Mike Sargeant; **Employment Committee**, Cllr. Lewis Herbert; **Housing and Communities Committee**, Cllr. Lewis Herbert; **Skills Committee**, Cllr. Lucy Nethsingha, and Cllr. Niamh Sweeney; **Transport and Infrastructure Committee**, Cllr. Kate Thornburrow.

3.3 During the last year the CPCA:

- Adopted key values of **compassion, co-operation and community** and identified six key things it can focus on to make sure its projects fulfil their commitments whilst still holding to key values. As a part of this shift the **Growth Ambition Statement** was updated and subjected to a consultation that closed at the end of December. This is an important document because it lays out key priorities and the way they will be taken into account in future CPCA decision-making.
- Permanently **stopped the development of the CAM program** and placed One CAM LTD into dormancy and agreed that the remaining shareholders' funds be returned to its Recycled Growth Fund as partial reimbursement for the Business Board's investment in the project.
- Started to refresh the **Local Transport Plan (LTP)** and to develop the Local Transport and Connectivity (LTCP) programme, outlining key areas to be addressed in a "Soft Launch" engagement, in relation to the overarching vision, aims and objectives as well as key challenges and opportunities. The final Plan is scheduled to be delivered to the Board in Autumn 2022 for approval. The rewrite is to be designed to secure growth and ensure that planned developments across the county take place in a sustainable way. The aim is to incorporate the recommendations from the Independent Commission on Climate and from initial public engagement.
- Supported **local bus service improvement plans (BSIPs)** with bids to the government's national bus strategy to grow passenger numbers and to support better and more joined up public transport provision.
- Started to prepare (with partners, including the city council) an ambitious, comprehensive and public friendly Action Plan setting out how the Combined Authority will take action to **implement the recommendations of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Commission on Climate**.

- Consulted the Council on priorities for the CPCA medium term budget. The Council suggestions for investment in nature (Logan’s Meadow Local Nature Reserve and the Greater Cambridge Chalk Streams projects); the economy (city portrait to inform inclusive recovery/growth); culture (the Guildhall and Corn Exchange); and climate (Waterbeach Depot EV-charging) have all subsequently been included in the budget for 2022-2025, subject to further approval of detailed business case. This is part of total package of £12m to take forward climate and social programmes.
- Started to **develop an affordable housing strategy** in the first half of 2022 taking in to account views of our constituent councils and working closely with Homes England. The Affordable Housing programme runs to 31 March 2022 with the original ambition under the devolution deal to deliver 2,000 new affordable homes with £100m of Capital funding being provided.
- Looking at **placed based innovation to level-up in the area** and design a series of long-term interventions that will seek to replicate the “Cambridge Phenomenon. Research is seen as fundamental to this and having won funding for, and started construction on, the first three buildings of the university campus in Peterborough, it is felt now is the time to deliver on the CPIER ambition to increase innovation-based business growth in the north of the area.
- Continued to **manage a portfolio of large capital projects** delivering journey improvements and public health benefits across the region to help deliver the commitment to double GVA – these projects are predominantly funded by the Transforming Cities Fund, a £95m fund devolved to the area with the Combined Authority able to direct to where it will create the greatest impact.
- Began a conversation with constituent members about the purpose of the Combined Authority and initiated a review of its governance arrangements. Both these initiatives are designed to improve its reputation and ways of working in order to maximise the potential positive benefits the CPCA can have for residents

and capitalise on new opportunities, including the Levelling-Up White Paper.

3.5 The CPCA has led on, or supported, the delivery of key projects in the Cambridge area during 2021, including:

- Re-instatement of the £750k budget for Cambridge South Station for the current, contractually committed, phase of the project and not for the subsequent DfT funded phase. Network Rail have continued their work in line with the contract held with the CPCA and have subsequently submitted invoices in line with the contract.
- Successfully developed a bid to support the purchase of 30 new battery electric, zero emission double-decker buses to operate on the Park & Ride and Citi2 routes. The overall project is over £16.5 million, being funded from the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority's Transforming Cities Fund, Greater Cambridge Partnership's City Deal, DfT, and an operator partner. The new buses are expected to enter service in during 2022.

3.6 Variations in the area delivery programmes during the year have included:

- The approval of £18.7m for 18 schemes by the The Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government to secure delivery of 1,188 affordable homes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The grant will be paid before March 2023 and at least £4m is expected in the current financial year.
- Delays in the Green Home Grant Capital Program caused by difficulties in agreeing the delivery model with Managing Agents. The forecast of funds invested through Start Codon has also reduced from £2.2m to £1m this year with a further £1m forecast in 2022-23.
- Underspending in the ongoing A10 Dualling project although this is likely to be carried forward.
- A decision to fund Wisbech Access Strategy to the completion of detailed design

4. CPCA Business Board

- 4.1. The Business Board was constituted in September 2018 as the LEP for our region, integrated within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, which is the “accountable-body, responsible to Government for complying with any conditions or requirements attached to any funding.
- 4.2 The Business Board assists in the achievement of the Combined Authority’s Growth Ambition Statement, responds to the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Economic Review (CPIER) and the realisation of the Combined Authority Business Plan 2021/22.
- 4.5 Following publication of the Local Skills Report in April 2021 reviewing progress and identifying strengths and needs in the region it was decided to refresh the Board’s Employment and Skill Strategy. This takes account of the fast-moving pace of skills requirements in the post COVID-19 world and the evolution of the Local Economic Recovery Strategy. Green Skills are identified as a cross cutting theme throughout, making the skills required for Net Zero a priority for investment of future education budgets that are devolved or delegated, such as the Lifetime Skills Guarantee and the Adult Education Budget.
- 4.6 A refresh of the existing sector strategies were completed, with the outstanding Agri-Tech strategy published in November 2021.
- 4.7 An updated Infrastructure Strategy for 2021-2025 was agreed on 3 November, focusing on delivering of next generation broadband connectivity and mobile coverage, using ‘Smart’ technologies to improve the environment, and extending free public access Wifi, while supporting digital inclusion. It builds on the past success of collaborative work with local councils, government and commercial providers, and sets new challenging targets to help ensure that that the area is well positioned to take full advantage of current and emerging technology advances.
- 4.8 During the year achievements of the Business Board included:
 - Maintaining the Growth Works business growth service, awarding growth funding region wide to create new jobs and stimulate capital expenditure. This service has also offered

guidance on COVID-19 resilience and the European Union Exit Transition – including import and export advice, fulfilling the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy criteria for funding, and delivering their various grant funding schemes.

- Transforming the Growth Hub into a new Growth Coaching Service, which has been instrumental in proactively engaging with the highest potential firms to speed their growth, build their capacity for growth, and sustain their period of growth. The new Careers Hub will initially assist young people from 30 schools to support better careers education and there are plans to apply for a second Careers Hub in the 2022/23 academic year, so all 72 schools and colleges in the area can join.
- Launching a campaign to raise awareness of the new, fully funded Level 3 courses available to adult learners (24+) across the region as part of the government's Lifetime Skills Guarantee.
- Running two grant schemes to help businesses respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Capital Grant Scheme provides grants of up to £150,000 to companies with between 6 and 249 employees and the Micro Capital Grant Scheme provides grants of up to £5,000 to sole traders, and employers with less than 5 employees. In total over £5m has been allocated in the area.
- Continuing to administer the Local Growth Fund, setting out clear priorities linked to evidence of outputs and deliverability.
- Managing two Enterprise Zones across the region – Alconbury Weald Enterprise Campus (2012) and Cambridge Compass Enterprise Zone (2016) which cover six key development sites.

Governance

- 4.9 The Business Board membership comprises of up to 10 members; two public sector members and up to eight business representatives. The Mayor and the portfolio holder for Economic Growth of the Combined Authority are non-voting members of the Business Board by virtue of their office and make-up the public sector membership. The term of

office for private sector representatives will normally be a maximum of 3 years. The City Council is not represented directly on the Business Board.

4.10 In accordance with government requirements for Mayoral areas there is a Local Agreement between the Business Board and the Combined Authority setting out the responsibilities of the Chair, Board and Accountable Body.

4.11 The Business Board has at least two public meetings a year, including an Annual General Meeting, to ensure the communities it represents can understand and influence the economic plans for the area. Agendas and reports for the Business Board are available on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority website.

5. Greater Cambridge Partnership (“the GCP”)

5.1 The Greater Cambridge Partnership operates as a Joint Committee and is the local delivery body for the City Deal agreement made in 2014 between five local partners and the Government to help secure sustainable future economic growth and quality of life in the Greater Cambridge area.

5.2 The vision for the GCP is to “work together to grow and share prosperity and improve quality of life for the people of Greater Cambridge, now and in the future” with the aim of creating a world class public transportation system and accelerating the construction of thousands of new homes and jobs in Greater Cambridge.

5.3 The projects that the GCP is currently investing in to fulfil its aims are grouped under the following headings:

- Housing and Strategic Planning
- Skills
- Smart Places
- Transport, and
- Economy and Environment

5.6 Investments in 2021/22 to progress and deliver the infrastructure required to transform connectivity, included:

- £8.5m to progress the GCP's four major corridor schemes, linking growing communities to the north, south east, east and west of Greater Cambridge. This year, work has progressed significantly on Cambridge South East Transport scheme Phase 1 (CSET1) and consultations were held on Eastern Access and Waterbeach to Cambridge.
- £6.2m on cycling and active travel schemes, including progressing the design of the Greenways routes and delivering Phase 1 of the Chisholm Trail; and
- £10.2m on further schemes to improve public transport and sustainable travel options, including the now completed Histon Road scheme and investing £2m in specific public transport schemes and other measures to encourage sustainable travel through the City Access project.

5.7 Investments in Skills, Smart, Housing and Economy and Environment projects to alleviate barriers to economic growth and shared prosperity in Greater Cambridge exceeded more than £2m in 2021/22. Highlights in the year include,

- The new Skills contract delivered by Form the Future, with Cambridge Regional College, is building on the delivery of new, high quality apprenticeships during the GCP's first five years of investment, providing local businesses with the skills they need to grow.
- Progress to enhance energy grid capacity to sustain local growth and the Smart Cambridge programme is investing over £1m in projects to maximise the benefits of technological and digital innovation across the programme.

5.9 The GCP provides more detail of progress of its workstreams in Quarterly Progress Reports to the Board. The main points shown in the report presented to the Board on 9 December 2021 are shown below. The full quarterly update for each workstream is shown in Appendix 1.

Housing and Strategic Planning

- 5.10 One key commitment of GCP is to enable the delivery of 1,000 additional affordable homes, exceeding the level needed to meet the Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plan requirements (33,500 homes between 2011 and 2031). The Greater Cambridge housing trajectory published in April 2021 shows that it is anticipated that there will be a surplus, in terms of delivery over and above that required to meet the housing requirements in the Local Plans, in 2022-2023.
- 5.11 The current forecast is for approximately 742 eligible affordable homes to be delivered between 2022 and 2031 towards the target of 1,000 by 2031. In practice this means that 74% of the target can be delivered on the basis of currently known sites.

Skills

- 5.12 The Skills contract with Form the Future in 2019 came to a successful conclusion at the end of March 2021. All the KPI targets were exceeded. Given the continued impact of Covid-19 on the labour market, this is seen as a significant achievement. The new contract became operational in April 2021.

Smart Places

- 5.13 Smart signals infrastructure has now been installed at all four junctions which make up the trial area and data is now being captured and analysed. A review of sensor technologies available in the market has been carried out and will inform the full procurement of the Strategic Sensing Network. This is a project being led by Smart and in collaboration with the County Council and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA).

Transport

- 5.14 Significant progress was reported for Transport schemes in the quarter, including the opening of the Histon Road project, construction on CSETS Phase 1 (Linton Greenway at Copley Hill and from Worts Causeway to Addenbrookes) and consultation on both City Access and the Eastern Access project.

- 5.15 Three schemes within the GCP programme were red RAG rated in the report for expenditure. The first is the Chisholm Trail that is over-budget, the second is the West of Cambridge Package that is under-spent and the third is Cambridge South East Transport Phase 1, also with an under-spend.

Economy and Environment

- 5.16 The Greater Cambridge Sectoral Employment analysis, released in July 2021, found a relatively strong performance of the Greater Cambridge corporate economy, with the impact of the first lockdown being mitigated by the resilience of KI (Knowledge-Intensive) companies, especially Life Science and ICT sectors. Non KI companies, however, showed modest employment growth and would have seen falls in employment without the support of the furlough scheme. The analysis will be updated in March 2022.
- 5.17 A draft Outline Business Case (OBC) for an Energy Grid project has been completed, which includes information on the offers received by UKPN, the delivery routes available for construction and the cost recovery estimates based on the Electricity Connection Charges Regulation (ECCR). It has been agreed this will be taken forward to a full business case.

Approaches to Engagement

- 5.18 The GCP continues to follow a geographically based engagement programme to ensure it can provide relevant and tailored updates about its broader work, including all relevant schemes for that area, and respond to any specific concerns or issues raised.

Governance

- 5.19 The Greater Cambridge Partnership is led by a decision-making Executive Board which coordinates the overall strategic vision and drives forward the partnership's programme of work. It is run in accordance with a clear governance structure, agreed by all partners. Cllr. Dave Baigent, is one of five members of the Executive Board.
- 5.20 The Board is advised and scrutinised by a Joint Assembly. The Joint Assembly provides advice to the Executive Board, drawing on the broad

expertise of its 15 members. Cllr. Tim Bick is Chair of the Joint Assembly and Cllrs. Rosy Moore and Simon Smith are members of the Assembly.

- 5.21 Both the Executive Board and the Joint Assembly meet at least four times a year. Papers relating to public meetings are published online and the public have the opportunity to participate in meetings of the Executive Board by posing questions to be discussed in public.

6. Fast Growing Cities Group

- 6.1 Fast Growing Cities is an informal partnership wherein Cambridge City Council works alongside other fast-growing cities to emphasise to Government the particularly strong economic potential they offer to the UK economy, and the challenges that success – and the role of a sub-regional centre - brings. These cities (Oxford, Swindon, Milton Keynes Norwich, and Peterborough) share many of Cambridge's characteristics – strong on knowledge-intensive industries, pro-growth but constrained by infrastructure limitations and housing affordability.
- 6.2 Cambridge and the partner cities work with businesses, universities and neighbouring authorities to ensure that Government understands the case for investment in their economic potential and the case for particular policy interventions/relaxations to facilitate sustainable growth. The Centre for Cities also promotes this group and holds regular City Talks, and recent topics covered include the changes brought about by Covid-19 and how this might impact on the UK's future infrastructure priorities.
- 6.3 Centre for Cities published a paper on 5 March 2021 shining a light on the additional challenges the Fast Growth Cities Group has faced due to the pandemic and exploring how best to unlock their further growth and future success. The report concludes that it is important that policymakers support the Fast Cities Group to reach their potential and to ensure that they continue to function as regional employment hubs and innovation centres, post-pandemic.

6.4 The Fast Growing Cities Group continued to work with the Centre for Cities to understand emerging Government policy on levelling up and devolution during 2021/22; and worked to raise the voice and visibility of urban centres within the Oxford-Cambridge Arc debates.

7. Innovation Corridor

7.1 The Innovation Corridor is a consortium that involves business, leaders of councils and industry experts in championing the “corridor” to win investment, influence policy and support the region’s pioneering start-ups, institutions and businesses in their continued growth and success.

7.2 The UK Innovation Corridor (UKIC), Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and Growth Prospectus were launched in 2019 to establish a vision for the development of the corridor. The prospectus builds on and updates the data from the 2016 Independent Growth Commission, and discusses skills, housing, employment sites and infrastructure – themes consistent with each of the LEPs along the Corridor (New Anglia, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough CA, Herts, SELEP and London LEAP). The objective is to support a joined-up Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) across the corridor.

7.3 During the year events and specific discussions along the corridor were promoted and collaboration between businesses and local authorities encouraged. Cambridge City based businesses are highlighted within the website as exemplars of innovation and idea generation. Moving forward, the city council will maintain a watching brief and remain engaged with the work of this partnership, but will not be a fee-paying member in 2022/23.

8. Cambridge – Milton Keynes – Oxford Arc (“the Arc”)

8.2 The Arc Leadership Group (ALG) is a non-statutory collaboration between most of the Local Authorities and Local Enterprise Partnerships from across the Oxford to Cambridge Arc region. It has an agreed terms of reference that sets out three levels of collaboration: The Plenary which includes Leaders and Chairs from all member

organisations; the Executive which includes representatives from each of the sub-regional Growth Board areas (Oxfordshire, Central Area and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough); and the Arc Chief Executives Group.

- 8.4 In February 2021, the government published a policy paper that set out how it intends to develop a Spatial Framework to progress the ambition to support sustainable economic growth in the Arc area and this was followed in July 2021 with a consultation document, Creating a Vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc, that sets out a Spatial Framework to guide the future growth of the area to 2050. This was accompanied by a Scoping Report for a Sustainability Appraisal, to embed sustainability in the framework.
- 8.5 The consultation closed on 12 October 2021. The Council provided a joint response with South Cambridgeshire District Council that sought to align the aspirations and commitments for the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan with those of the emerging Arc framework.
- 8.6 In 2020 the Arc Leadership Group Environment Working Group agreed to produce a set of Arc-wide Environment Principles, which were endorsed by the Arc Leadership Plenary on 09 March 2021. It is hoped by having developed consensus and support for these principles, including direct engagement with government, that these will be used to support environmental policies within the emerging Arc Spatial Framework. Cambridge City Council endorsed these principles in September 2021.
- 8.7 The Group is supported with time and financial resources from the members as well as a central government senior responsible Director General. During the year the working groups aligned to the Arc reviewed and refreshed their membership and made progress with their work plans. The current work programme has been extended to September 2022 to allow the implications of the Levelling-Up White Paper and its impacts on local collaboration to be assessed. The programme will then either be brought to a conclusion in October or built on and moved forward.

9. Implications

(a) Financial Implications

The strategic partnerships will be responsible for drawing down significant levels of resources to improve infrastructure and support the growth of Cambridge City, including any emergency funding. By working together with public agencies the council may be able to achieve more than working on its own. As set out in the BSR, Cambridge City Council provides resources to the GCP through a contribution of New Homes Bonus.

Last year the council made a contribution of £5,000 to the costs of the Fast Growing Cities Group's activities and events; £13,500 to the Oxford-Cambridge Arc local authorities group and paid £10,000 to support the work of the Innovation Corridor.

(b) Staffing Implications

This will depend on how the development of joint working opportunities is taken forward within each partnership.

(c) Equality and Poverty Implications

The partnerships will identify ways of involving all communities in their work, including those who are more disadvantaged. Emphasis will be on providing affordable housing, training and other measures to move people back into work and addressing inequalities. During the pandemic work has looked to support the local economy and support those most vulnerable.

(d) Net Zero Carbon, Climate Change and Environmental Implications

Business models that promote low carbon use and improve the sustainability of developments will be supported, and the findings of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Climate Change Commission, established by the CPCA, considered.

(e) Procurement Implications

The partnerships are likely to procure or commission services to achieve their aims.

(f) Community Safety Implications

To improve community safety is the purpose of the Cambridge Community Safety Partnership, which will be the subject of a report to Environment and Community Services Scrutiny Committee.

10. Consultation and communication considerations

Individual bidding streams and plans will specify stakeholders and communities to be consulted, especially where targeted work is required.

11. Background papers

Background papers used in the preparation of this report:

Cambridge City Council's Guide to Partnership Working

<https://www.cambridge.gov.uk/guide-to-partnership-working>

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Landing Page

[Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority \(cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Committee Pages

[CMIS > Committees > Combined Authority Board](#)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Member Responsibilities

[Lead Members & Responsibilities | CPCA | The Combined Authority \(cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk\)](#)

GCP Governance

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/about-city-deal/governance/>

GCP Quarterly Progress Report Agenda Item 10 of GCP Joint Assembly 17

February 2022

[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

City Access response to Covid-19 pandemic

<https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/city-access/city-access-response-to-covid-19-pandemic>

Fast Growth Cities: Centre for Cities

<https://www.centreforcities.org/publication/fast-growth-cities-opportunities-and-challenges-for-cambridge-oxford-milton-keynes-swindon-norwich/>

Fast Growth Cities – 2021 and beyond

[fast-growth-cities-2021-and-beyond.pdf \(centreforcities.org\)](#)

The UK's Innovation Corridor

<https://innovationcorridor.uk/discover/#inside-stories>

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc: government ambition and joint declaration between government and local partners

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-oxford-cambridge-arc-government-ambition-and-joint-declaration-between-government-and-local-partners>

The Oxford-Cambridge Arc Economic Prospectus

https://www.semlep.com/modules/downloads/download.php?file_name=2133

About the Innovation Corridor All Party Parliamentary Group

[UK Innovation Corridor – APPG](#)

About the UK Innovation Corridor

[UK Innovation Corridor – About](#)

Planning for sustainable growth in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc: an introduction to the spatial framework (February 2021) - Planning for sustainable growth in the Oxford-Cambridge Arc: an introduction to the spatial framework-GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

12. Appendices

n/a

13. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact GRAHAM SAINT, CORPORATE STRATEGY OFFICER, tel: 01223 - 457044, email: graham.saint@cambridge.gov.uk.