

County Briefing from County Councillor John Reynolds. July 2013.

Connecting Cambridgeshire

Connecting Cambridgeshire has mapped out some of the first areas across the county to receive the new broadband infrastructure. A high level map giving an indication of areas with premises under consideration for the first phase of the rollout can be viewed on the Connecting Cambridgeshire website. A 'Parish Checker' is also being developed to allow people to find out how their area fits in to the programme. The first phase of the roll-out is scheduled from December 2013 through to June 2014. Further details of this and subsequent phases of the roll-out plan will be announced at regular intervals from September 2013, as more information becomes available. The first phase of the project will be targeting those areas that will require the least work to upgrade the infrastructure in order to connect them to faster broadband services.

Cambridge Future City

The Cambridge Future City project aims to investigate ways to use technology and data to make the city function more smoothly. This includes data related to transport, air quality, energy usage and licensing of premises/planning. A feasibility study was developed in 2012 as part of the national Future City Demonstrator competition. Cambridge was one of thirty cities that won a £50,000 grant from the Technology Strategy Board (TSB), the UK's Innovation Agency.

The TSB is now investing £5m in a Future Cities Small Business Research Initiative competition, challenging businesses to work with the demonstrator cities and using them as test-beds to scope and deploy prototype solutions to the challenges shared by residents and businesses in many cities around the world. Cambridge and the surrounding area will be a Future Cities test. The competition is an opportunity to test new solutions for smart cities and accelerate the development of new technologies. Ideas developed here between public, private and academic sectors could then be sold to other cities around the world.

City deal

Representatives of the Council, along with Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, the Local Enterprise Partnership and the University of Cambridge have been engaging in discussions with Government recently to discuss the proposals for a Greater Cambridge city deal. The core focus of the proposal is on a 'GainShare' mechanism, by which the local partners would be able to retain a share of the new tax revenue generated by economic growth in the area as a result of increased and more integrated investment in infrastructure to unlock the next wave of the 'Cambridge Phenomenon'. Discussions are ongoing with Government and, if the partners are successful in negotiating a deal with Government on the basis of the framework that was previously approved by Cabinet, it will be brought back to Full Council and cannot be signed without Council approval.

A14

Development of the scheme by the Highways Agency is continuing. A range of Council's and Local Enterprise Partnerships, including some of those outside Cambridgeshire, have agreed to contribute £100m to the scheme, and detailed discussions are ongoing with Government about the ultimate funding package. More work is also needed to determine the optimum tolling strategy to raise revenue while minimising the diversion of traffic to other routes. Construction could begin in 2016. An initial public consultation on the scheme is planned from September, when the scheme proposals will be presented. In preparation for any potential public inquiry, the Highways Agency is planning to repeat origin and destination surveys that were carried out in 2005 and 2006, which were conducted around Huntingdon and. These are currently being carried out.

Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

Cabinet on the 18 June approved a draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSCSC) for consultation between 19 July and 30 September. This has been developed alongside the emerging Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Local Plans. The strategy recognises that for more travel demand to be accommodated substantially in and around Cambridge, more people will need to walk, cycle and use passenger transport for journeys. If increases in congestion are to be minimised, other modes must provide the bulk of the additional capacity needed.

To achieve this, the Draft Strategy proposes a range of measures including prioritisation within Cambridge and its fringes for bus services, pedestrians and cyclists. This would initially focus on targeted improvements to the networks to facilitate increases in these trips. In the medium to longer term, if disruption and congestion are to be reduced, it is likely that further demand management measures will be needed, which could include comprehensive scheme to manage on-street parking across the city and in fringe areas along with access controls.

Local Transport Body

A shadow Local Transport Body has been established for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Rutland to help secure devolved major schemes funding from Government for the area. Some £21m is expected to be available for the period 2015-2019. A number of meetings have taken place of the Shadow Board to begin to develop a programme of schemes for delivery, as well as agreeing governance, processes and terms of reference. A number of schemes are being progressed for detailed assessment in Cambridgeshire, including Ely Crossing, Kings Dyke crossing, Soham Rail Station, Madingley Rise bus priority and the Chisholm Trail. A number of schemes are also being assessed for Peterborough including Junction 20 A1/A47, Bourges Boulevard and a proposed Variable Message Signage package. A meeting will be held in July of the Shadow Board to discuss and agree priorities as part of developing a balanced and deliverable programme for submission to DfT by the end of July.

Section 106 (S106) Allocations

Cabinet has given approval for S106 contributions to be allocated towards a number of key schemes in Cambridge and Huntingdonshire. These include £160,000 towards a new pedestrian/cycleway linking Trumpington Park & Ride with the Clay Farm/Trumpington Meadows new school and the Busway, which will enhance accessibility in these areas and ensure that more people can walk, cycle or take a bus in this area. £200,000 is also being allocated from the St Neots Market Town Transport Strategy to help deliver a new bridge over the railway. Work is currently underway on delivering the new bridge which will greatly enhance accessibility – particularly for residents from Loves Farm – to the rail station. In addition £94,484 was recommended towards delivering the £10m Huntingdon West of Town Centre link road.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

After a successful first year of the LSTF programme, which saw the delivery of a wide range of sustainable transport projects and the provision of over £1.1m of funding from DfT, work on the 2013/14 programme is underway. Current projects underway include developing an improved travel information website along with roll out of 'Smart Travel Cambridgeshire', which is a personalised travel planning project aimed at encouraging residents in the A14 and A10 corridors to switch to alternative, more sustainable, mode of travel where appropriate.

Better Bus Area Fund (BBAF)

The BBAF, provided by DfT, has allowed local partners – including bus operators – to work together to improve traffic flow, road safety and bus journey times in and around Cambridge. A number of key projects within this fund will be out for public consultation

during July, including plans to improve traffic flow on Histon Road, Jesus Lane and Mitcham's Corner.

Cambridge Science Park Station

The new Station interchange is expected to bring multiple benefits, including improved access to the railway network from the north side of Cambridge, improved access to the key employment centres at the Science Park and other business parks on the northern fringe, direct interchange with the Busway, and opening up a significant area of land for economic development. The planning application for the interchange will be submitted shortly.

Energy

The planning application being considered by the County Council, as Waste Planning Authority, for an Energy Innovation Centre to serve Addenbrooke's Biomedical Campus was approved by the Planning Committee in late June. The plans include the incineration of clinical waste and biomass energy from waste boilers. Whilst the combination of technologies is new this type of local Combined Heat and Power (CHP) facility may become more common in the future on major development sites.

Ely Southern Crossing

Public consultation on the preferred option was completed in March and the results showed 62% of the respondents supported the proposal for a Southern bypass with 24% opposition and 14% expressing no preference. The results will feed into the planning application and the submission is nearly complete. However, a requirement for additional ecological/environmental information to support the planning application has been identified, which has delayed the submission.

Soham Station

The Council has been working with East Cambridgeshire District Council and Network Rail to build a case for re-opening Soham Station and increasing the frequency of services between Ipswich and Peterborough to hourly. Work has just been completed to scope out the potential for a new station, which shows positive early signs in terms of demand for a station and likely revenue generation for operators. The study forecasts that the station could generate up to £490,000 per annum in revenue if there is an hourly service. The next stage is to develop a business case for the funding of the projected £6m capital cost of building the station, and the provision of additional services on the route. This will then be presented to DfT for consideration for inclusion in the next rail franchise for the Greater Anglia area.

Must Farm boats on display to the public

The Hansen's clay quarry at Must Farm near Whittlesey has made several significant finds, including nine Bronze Age boats, dating from 1200 - 800BC, alongside weapons, fish weirs, eel traps and other objects. This site is part of the same landscape as Flag Fen on the prehistoric Nene estuary, and includes several other locations in the area. Officers have brokered a deal for this material to become part of the Flag Fen collection, which will allow the boats and other materials to be best displayed alongside other finds on a site already known for this period. As part of this, work will be undertaken with local schools, museums and libraries in north Cambridgeshire to include them as part of a wider network of the story of the Flag Fen basin.

Travel for Work Partnership (TfW)

In the last year the team has recruited 34 new organisations employing over 5,500 commuters to TfW membership. TfW employer membership now consists of 139 employment sites (including many Business and Science Parks) employing over 71,000 commuters. TfW has developed new incentives and support to help employers engage with promotion and facilitation of sustainable transport for commuting and business travel using the LSTF resources.

These include a Workplace Sustainable Travel Grant scheme, that match funds workplace infrastructure such as cycle shelters, changing facilities, car share spaces etc. and an electric pool bike scheme. The 2013 Travel Survey in October will be the first chance to see the effect of this increased engagement with the employer community.

Waste Private Finance Initiative (PFI)

Repairs are underway on the Mechanical and Biological Treatment (MBT) facility at Waterbeach, and Amey Cespa indicates that the plant should be online by December. All other parts of the site are still operating as normal and officers will keep stakeholders and communities informed. The re-use centre at Witchford is opening in July. 'Re-imagine' – a social enterprise and Community Interest Company based at Witchford - will operate a scheme based on the national scrap store concept, promoting re-use of materials.

Stepping Stone Project

Stepping Stone is one of 44 projects nationwide to attract funding from Sport England's 'People, Places, Play Inclusive Legacy Programme'. Following a successful £50,000 bid the Council has engaged Action for Children to support adults and young people with a physical, sensory or health need to engage in regular sports activities within mainstream sports settings, clubs or organisations. The project aims to work directly with individuals offering advice, training and funding. It is hoped that as many as 200 people will acquire the skills, confidence and knowhow to access sport and become involved either as a participant, club member, coach, referee or administrator.

Open July

One year on from the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games, a wide range of events have been organised in Cambridgeshire under the title 'Open July'. There will be a variety of events taking place around Cambridgeshire from sport to the arts, culture to the countryside and recycling to cycling. The 'Open July' programme has been organised by several partners and contributors, with the family activities, taster sessions and participatory events open to all.

Together for Families Programme

This programme is responsible for delivering the national troubled families initiative in Cambridgeshire. There is a target of 805 families to identify and work with by March 2015 – to date 270 families. The project team are actively promoting a process of professionals identifying families. The aim is that all families in the programme will have one Lead Professional, who is able to coordinate the interventions of all agencies involved with that family, and that there is one Family Plan to respond to all the needs of that family. The resources available through the programme have been used for two main purposes. Firstly to expand the Family Intervention Partnership team to provide a dedicated resource to the most complex families – around 150 of them. Secondly to provide training and coaching support for other professionals who take on the Lead Professional role.

The Children and Families Bill and Code of Practice

The draft Bill and related indicative Code of Practice are currently at the committee stage in the parliamentary process and have significant implications for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It will extend the Special Educational Needs system from 0-25 years, provide the opportunity for personal budgets for those who wish to have them, and replace the current Statement of Educational Need with a new Education, Health and Care Plan. The Bill places great emphasis on the importance of joint commissioning across Education, Health and Social Care and the need to provide better integrated and more accountable services for children and young people with SEND. In addition, it places a new statutory duty on Local Authorities to publish a 'Local Offer' of information about the services they provide. Subject to Parliamentary approval, the SEND reforms will need to be implemented from September 2014. In Cambridgeshire the SEND Project Board will have oversight of the changes.

Autism Education Trust

The Council has been selected as the new East region hub for autism training by the Autism Education Trust. Training will be delivered across the region in partnership with Spring Common Special School, which has recently received accreditation from the National Autistic Society for their autism provision. The training will be at three levels - from autism awareness to training Special Needs Co-ordinators and specialist teaching staff in schools.

Consultation on changes to the way the Care Quality Commission regulates, inspects and monitors care

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published 'A New Start', a consultation on how it intends to inspect social care and health services in future. The document sets out changes to the way the organisation will work, acting on the recommendations of the report into abuses at Winterbourne View, the report into the failings at Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust, and the Government's document 'Patients First and Foremost'. The CQC summarises the changes as follows:

A shift from a focus on 'Yes/No' compliance and an unclear bar to 'professional intelligence-based judgements' and clear ratings.

A move from 28 regulations and 16 outcomes to five key questions.

A shift from CQC being 'part of the system' with responsibility for improvement to being clearly on the side of service users with providers and commissioners responsible for improvement.

A move from generalist inspectors to specialists, teams of experts and longer, more thorough, people-focused inspections.

A move from corporate body and registered manager held to account for care quality to individual board members also being held to account.

The Strategy and Partnerships service in CFA is preparing a response to the consultation, which closes on the 12 August.

All standards met in Cambridge Supported Living Scheme

The Cambridge Supported Living scheme provides support to 16 adults with learning disabilities in their own homes. A recent routine inspection in May by the CQC found all standards were met. They spoke with five people who were provided with support by the agency, and all said they were very satisfied with the care and support they received. A sample of care plans showed that people's preferences were taken into account about how they liked their care and support to be delivered. All 12 registered services remain compliant with CQC on standards inspected.

Major boost for apprenticeships in homecare

The Council has been successful in gaining a grant from Health Education, East of England to establish an apprenticeship scheme for workers in the commissioned homecare sector. The funding can be used to offer free qualifications and training to apprentices, as well as for the provision of salary support for potential employers of apprentices. The aim is to attract a number of apprentices into the homecare sector over the next 12 months. The new scheme will soon be launched formally.

Induction for Community Navigators

Community Navigators are volunteers who support older people in their communities by providing information on the services available in Cambridgeshire. This can include guidance on healthcare, social care and welfare benefits, as well as on locally organised activities. Quality and Workforce Development has been helping Community Navigators with the delivery of a three-phased induction. Phase 1 is based on Care Network Cambridgeshire's organisational induction and deals with the role of a Community Navigator. Phase 2 – which has just been rolled out – gives an overview of values and principles, social care responsibilities and development opportunities. Phase 3 will start in the near future and subject experts (e.g. in dementia, autism, mental health, stroke etc.) will be involved in the content and delivery of the training.

Joint Project with Youth Offending Service - Cambridge North Locality

A Young People's Worker and a Youth Offending Service Prevention Worker have joined forces to provide a weekly programme called PEPSY (Positive Engagement and Participation of School Youth), targeted at young people who have started to offend. The programme will work on their attitudes to offending and aim to understand the impact of their behaviour on the wider community through a series of positive activities.

Improving the Council's website

Public engagement is taking place during July to help improve the Council's website. The first exercise will ask customers how the website should be organised so that information they need is found easily and quickly. The online exercise is available until the 8 July at https://cambsc.org.uk/optimalworkshop.com/treejack/navigationjune2013?utm_source=camweb. The second exercise will ask customers to input into the new designs of the website. Further information on how to engage can be found on www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk.

Registration Service Annual Report

Each year the Registration Service is required to submit an Annual Performance Report to the General Register Office, Local Government Delivery Partnership Unit. The 2012/13 report has been assessed and feedback has been received. This is extremely complimentary and includes the following comments:

*It is pleasing to note the high levels of service and statutory compliance achieved by the local authority.

*There was excellent attainment across the range of statutory and operational standards, due in no small part to the hard work of staff and managers. In particular, there was good compliancy with high customer satisfaction ratings and waiting times for informants and registrations of births continue to exceed the national standard.

*We note the work undertaken to address death registrations by networking with the coroner and bereavement services.

*It is pleasing to see the emphasis placed on ensuring that staff are fully trained, competent and developed.

Presumption of Death Act

The Presumption of Death Act received Royal Assent in May. This aims to support families of missing people by putting in place the legal framework for a certificate of presumed death, which will help families deal with the array of legal and financial issues that need to be resolved when a person is missing and presumed dead. This certificate will be equivalent to a death certificate in its legal power. Under current law families of missing people have no way to make alternative arrangements until their loved one can be presumed dead. This can be years after they went missing. These proposals would fill that gap by creating a temporary status so a guardian can manage the property and affairs of the missing person. A consultation with detailed proposals will be launched later this year with a view to the new arrangement being introduced in April 2014.

Local Elections 2014

The Government has laid before Parliament a draft of the Local Elections (Ordinary Day of Elections in 2014) Order 2013. If Parliament approves the draft and the Order is made, the date of local elections in 2014 will move from 1 May to 22 May, the date of the European Parliamentary elections. It is now for both Houses of Parliament to consider the draft Order. The Order must be approved and made by 31 October 2013 if the date of the 2014 local elections is to be moved.

Public County Council meetings in July **Date Time Meeting Location**

16 July 10:30 County Council Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

17 July 10:30 Joint Development Control Committee: Cambridge Fringes The Guildhall, Cambridge, CB2 3QJ

17 July 10:00 Shadow Local Transport Body Board TBC – Cambridge or Peterborough

18 July 14:30 Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

18 July 14:00 Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel Pathfinder House, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN

23 July 14:00 Planning Committee Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

23 July 14:30

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

24 July 10:00 Pension Fund Board Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

25 July 10:30 Resources and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

25 July 14:30 Audit and Accounts Committee Shire Hall, Cambridge, CB3 0AP

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