

County Report October 2013. – County Councillor John Reynolds

City Deal

Following an exchange of letters with Treasury Minister and Cities Minister, Greg Clark, the City Deal team (comprising the County, City and South Cambridgeshire Councils, along with the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Cambridge University) continues to work up proposals for a City Deal for Greater Cambridge.

The Government has challenged the team on a number of issues and effectively we are now in a negotiation with Government on the shape and size of a deal that could deliver a step change in investment capability, a higher rate of growth in jobs and homes with benefits for the whole County and the wider LEP area, and a changed set of governance arrangements for Greater Cambridge which will deliver a more joined-up and efficient approach to the key economic issues facing a rapidly-growing city region. It is hoped that the Minister will visit Cambridge in October to help move the negotiations forward.

Connecting Cambridgeshire

Connecting Cambridgeshire has launched an online tool to help people look up 'where and when' they can expect to get superfast broadband in their area of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. New 'my area' pages have been added to the Connecting Cambridgeshire website at www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk with an A-Z list of 267 areas across the county. The pages provide broad timescales for how an area or parish fits in to multiple phases of the broadband roll-out plan. The project is on track to deliver better broadband countywide by 2015 but the roll-out is still at an early stage, so more information will be added to the 'my area' pages when it becomes available for each area. Premises in some areas may be covered by more than one phase as this is a complex roll-out involving different technologies. People who have not already done so can register their contact details to receive updates about when broadband is coming to their area by using the '[Keep Me Updated](#)' web link.

Local Transport Body (LTB)

The Shadow LTB met on 20th September to consider the future role of the LTB and how best to align with the LEP and Local Growth Funding to ensure that there is consideration of the wider geography and of the full spectrum of transport schemes, that should be considered. It was agreed that this group has a key role to play in informing the LEP in terms of transport expertise and a proposal will be taken back to the group for consideration at the next meeting in November. Madingley Rise Bus Priority Scheme and Chisholm Cycling Trail have been identified as reserve priority schemes where further work is needed to develop these, and it is intended to progress these as funding opportunities arise.

Section 106 (S106) Allocations

Some of the S106 allocations for Market Towns Transport Strategies and Corridor Area Transport Plans (which cover Cambridge and the immediate villages around it) contain significant funds and priorities for spend will need to be considered and agreed. Two workshops one for the North and one for the South corridor will be held for City and County Members in October to look at priorities for spend. For further information on the Corridor Area Transport Plans, see <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/strategies/transport-plans/atp.htm>

Cambridge Science Park Station

The planning application was submitted in July and was the subject of local consultation until mid-August. The Public Consultation is now closed. The application will now be determined by the Joint Development Control Committee.

Cambridgeshire Future Transport (CFT)

A programme of community engagement is underway and progress in the following areas is outlined below:

- **Area A (Linton/Balsham)** – The closing date for tenders for the new contracted service was 12 September, with a proposed introduction date of the 28 October, and tenders are currently being assessed.
- **Area C (Villages south of the A428)** – Meetings took place on 2 September for the West area working group and 5 September for the East area. Broad agreement on proposed solution, final details currently being worked up.
- **Area D (Villages along the A10 Corridor)** – Work continuing with recent meetings with local members and further meetings due in October to finalise proposals.
- **Areas E (A14 corridor), F (A1 corridor), and G (Harston/Great Shelford/Barrington)** - Launch of the programme in these areas is now scheduled for October.

Applications for Post 16 School Transport– On-Line Process

The Post-16 on-line application process went live on the website on Friday 9th August 2013 for intake in September 2013.

Customers have had a positive experience with the online application and payments process. Over 700 online applications (about one third of the total) have been processed which is encouraging as the County Council continues to work to a 'digital by default' approach to customer service wherever possible. Work is underway to lift the proportion of on-line applications significantly in future.

Local Growth Strategy and EU Investment Plan

Led by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the Strategic Economic Plan will be the key document when it comes to negotiating a growth deal for this area with Government and bidding for funding from the Single Local Growth Fund for the period from 2015. This will be a competitive process based on a Strategic Economic Plan which the LEP will produce, working with partners to identify the growth plans and priorities for this area. Allocations for the Growth Deal for this area won't be known until mid 2014; however, a significant element of the Growth Fund will be made up of transport funding. Discussions are being held with the LEP and a Transport Workshop will be planned across the LEP area later in October.

Sitting alongside the Strategic Economic Plan, the EU Structural and Investment Funds Strategy will include proposals that could be part funded from the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund, which will also be devolved to the LEP. The indicative allocation for Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP for the period 2014-20 has been announced as €75.5m.

A draft bid is to be submitted to Government by 7th October and the final will be submitted by end of January 2014. The LEP

Strategic Development – Growth Sites Alconbury Weald

The promoters of the Alconbury Weald site have submitted a revised outline planning application for 5,000 homes on this strategic development site which itself could accommodate more housing than the planning application seeks permission for. There is also a level of information on the first phase of development for almost 900 homes. Cabinet agreed a response at their 10 September meeting providing clarity around the infrastructure and funding formula needed to address plan for this scale of growth.

This Council's comments made in relation to the draft Huntingdonshire Local Plan will be very important material for planning consideration for this application which is due to be considered by Huntingdonshire District Council in October.

Northstowe

Following the Planning Committee approval in March, work on concluding the S106 legal agreement negotiations for the first phase of development of 1,500 new homes is programmed to be completed in October and the planning permission then issued. Work on the phase 2 development proposals is likely to progress early in 2014.

Increase in Pets entering Country without valid Rabies Vaccination

From 1st January 2013 the UK harmonised its pet travel controls with Europe allowing pet dogs, cats and ferrets to enter the UK from approved routes without undergoing quarantine, provided certain requirements were met. Since then the County Council's Supporting Businesses and Communities Team (SBC) have seen an increase in pets that have been imported without a valid Rabies vaccination, most of which have been from Eastern Europe.

To help minimise the threat of a Rabies outbreak, SBC has provided comprehensive training to vets across the county and established an alert system for them to report suspected cases.

Since there may also be cases that the team is not made aware of because an animal does not come into contact with a vet, SBC is planning an educational campaign focused on residents who originate from Eastern Europe to make them aware of the requirements. We have found that in many cases these residents have tried to comply, but have had the animal incorrectly/incompletely vaccinated before bringing them into the UK. The Service is also leading on a piece of regional work examining the practices of online pet importers to ensure vaccination requirements are being met.

£253,000 clawed back from Rogue Traders

Following a successful prosecution of a gang of rogue traders last year which saw them sentenced to 28 years in prison, Supporting Businesses and Communities (SBC) has now successfully confiscated the proceeds of their crime, amounting to £253,000. It follows a three year investigation by SBC's Financial Investigations Unit which used its powers under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 not only to trace the gang's assets, but also to uncover almost 100 victims who had been targeted by the gang but remained silent out of fear.

Rogue trading has a devastating effect on older people in our communities, not only costing many their life savings, but also leaving them feeling scared and vulnerable in their own homes. In this case SBC are able to use the money recovered to recompense the surviving victims, reducing their financial loss, but the emotional harm remains. SBC's work to combat rogue traders continues, with further gangs currently under investigation.

Winter Maintenance Volunteers

Network Management has just completed refresher training for winter maintenance volunteers. The volunteer's grit agreed footway routes of local parishes using a manual grit spreader. Sessions were held at various highway depots both in the afternoon and evening. The training consisted of basic health and safety, an equipment check, and the importance of recording information logs. There was good feedback from volunteers which will allow us to make improvements to this initiative going forward.

Provisional Results Early Years, KS1, KS2 and KS4 2013

National data has not yet been fully released so these results are both provisional and without comparators. However, early indications suggest a mixed picture overall.

Early Years: this appears to be at least adequate and possibly good. The percentage of children achieving a 'Good level of Development' in Cambridgeshire is 51% (52% nationally) and the average points score is the same as national, at 33.

Year 1 Phonic Screening Check has improved on the previous year and remains above the national figure for 2012.

KS1 results have provisionally improved this year. In Writing and Maths Cambridgeshire performance is provisionally above the national level; in Reading performance is provisionally in-line with the national level.

KS2: the new benchmark for Key Stage 2 is achieving L4+ in Reading, in Writing and in Maths. Results have provisionally declined this year in Reading and in Maths but are unchanged in Writing. Cambridgeshire's performance is provisionally in-line with the national level in Reading and below the national level in Writing and in Maths.

Disappointingly performance of pupils in receipt of FSM continues to be a concern although writing and maths have improved or stayed the same reading has declined.

At KS4 the overall picture appears to be good, or very good. Key Stage 4 Attainment (5+ GCSE A*-C, including English and Maths) is 61.1% (whereas nationally we think it might have dropped below its last year's level of 59.4%).

Future of Older People's Services

The Older People's Assessment and Care Management and Discharge Planning functions transferred to the Council on 1 October and 180 staff transferred from Cambridgeshire Community Services to the Council. A structure is in the process of being finalised and will be put in place on an interim basis with a view to reviewing it at a later stage to make sure it is fit for purpose.

The management structure from 1 October 2013 includes:

- Head of Mental Health –
- Head of Service Development –
- Head of Operations –
- Service Development and Care Placement Manager –

Work is underway to ensure that new arrangements are put in place to enable staff transferring to take a more active role in management of budgets and this is particularly important in light of the current predicted overspend of older people.

Community Budgets for Older People

The Public Service Board for Cambridgeshire has committed to jointly develop a model of support for older people that delivers integrated working between Health, Social Care, Housing and other services.

Whilst partners are not seeking to formally pool budgets, it is hoped that by more flexibly aligning funding and services, outcomes can be improved for older people whilst reducing the overall cost to the public sector. A working group has been established which is investigating opportunities for aligning services that will support older people's independence and reducing their reliance on high-cost ongoing services. Possible solutions to be explored include more coordinated signposting to support available in the community; and the possibility of joint assessments and a combined support plan between organisations for people who are at risk of requiring social care.

In School Support Review

Over the course of 2013/14, and the next financial year 2014/15, the In School Support Service needs to achieve savings of £200,000. This represents approximately a third of the current budget. A preliminary consultation on our initial plans to review the In School Support Service was launched on 28th February 2013. Staff, unions and schools were consulted extensively during this period and the feedback that received has helped to shape the proposals outlined in the formal consultation. It is proposed that the core purpose of the new Inclusion Service would be to work with young people, schools, teachers and parents/carers to improve educational outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people aged between 11-18 years. The formal consultation launched on Monday 30th September and will run for 37 days during which time we intend to consult closely with staff, schools, union representatives and other key stakeholders..

Review of Adoption Partnership with Coram

Just over two years ago the council entered into a two year adoption partnership with the voluntary organisation Coram, recognised as a national centre of excellence for adoption. The main purpose of the partnership was to further improve decision-making and minimise delays in the adoption process.

An independent evaluation of our two-year adoption partnership with Coram has just concluded. The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the impact of the partnership in meeting the objectives and outcomes set out in the original agreement, and to help us consider what the future arrangements should be for adoption services within Cambridgeshire. The evaluation report puts forward a range of options for the future of the adoption partnership. These will be considered in detail at the next Adoption Partnership Advisory Group in October 2013.

Together For Families

The national target for Cambridgeshire is to identify and turn around 805 families who meet the national criteria for troubled families. The three criteria relate to crime/anti social behaviour, education issues and worklessness.

Families were initially identified through a data matching process. Families are now being identified directly through professionals involved with (or aware of) families they believe meet the criteria. Once it has been confirmed that a family meets the criteria for the programme, a Professional is identified from any partner agency to act as a Lead Professional for the whole family, co-ordinating the activity of other agencies.

Strategic vision for the Together for Families Programme

Whilst the Government initiative tasks the Programme to work with 805 families, it is important that the investment supports wider reform towards Whole Family working. It is for this reason much of the investment is focused towards developing and supporting our existing workforce. The Together for Families Steering Group is leading the development of a 'Community Budget' Model to create a common agreement and framework for the delivery of the Team Around the Family model and Lead Professional role.

New Vaccination Programmes

Two new vaccination programmes - shingles vaccination for older people aged 70 and 79, and childhood nasal spray influenza vaccination for two and three year olds were launched this September.

Further information is available on the NHS Choices websites below:

<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/pages/shingles-vaccination.aspx>

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/vaccinations/Pages/child-flu-vaccine.aspx>

Youth Offending Service

Cambridgeshire's Youth Offending Service has been told by the Youth Justice Board that for quarter 2 they are in the top 25% of performance for Youth Offending Services across the country. This puts them in the top 17 out of 162 services across England and Wales from the performance indicators on first time entrants, re-offending and custody. This is the first time the YOS has entered the top 25% since the old Youth Justice Board league tables were removed some years ago and is encouraging news following on from the positive 2012 Inspection outcome. In discussion with the team, management team and Youth Justice Board it is believed that this positive performance can be attributed to the hard work and positive culture amongst the team, rigorous performance and audit monitoring systems and strong risk and vulnerability management process.

Greater Cambridgeshire Local Nature Partnership

The Greater Cambridgeshire Local Nature Partnership (GCLNP) recently held their 'Call to Action' Conference at Girton College with Tony Juniper as keynote speaker and over 80 local groups and organisations in attendance.

The Conference brought together a wide range of organisations that are involved in either the management of Cambridgeshire's natural environment or benefit from it. This was reflected in the four themes of the conference; Green Economy, Sustainable Land Use Management, A Natural Health Service and Reconnecting People with Nature. The aim of the day was to seek consensus on an action plan for the GCLNP to deliver a protected and enhanced high quality natural environment over the next five years; recognising the wider benefits that the natural environment can provide.

Business Plan

Work on the Business Plan for 2014/15 is progressing at full speed. In September, we launched our public consultation on the budget with face to face interviews and telephone interviews being conducted as well as having the survey available on line for completion by residents, businesses and the voluntary sector.

See

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CMSWebsite/Apps/Consultations/Recent.aspx>

In October, a further Business Planning Workshop will be held with Cabinet, Group Leaders and the Corporate Leadership Team on plans for 2014/15 as they get progressed on both capital and revenue plans. .

Local Economic Assessment

Cambridgeshire's economic assessment monitors business, economic and employment statistics across the Greater Cambridge functional economic market area. The latest annual update took place in the early part of 2013 and the updated documents are now available on the Cambridgeshire Insight website: <http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/economy/localeconomicassessments>

Our local economic assessment is comprised of a suite of documents including a countywide assessment divided into three sections, and seven local profiles. The Business section shows that the national trends of increasing employment and falling wages can also be seen in Cambridgeshire's labour market. Combining this reduction in earnings with increasing inflation rates means that the income of the average person in the county is reduced and consequently their usual standard of living may now be less affordable. Whilst this has put a strain on households, it does however mean that firms are more able to retain their existing workforce and also to create new employment opportunities.

The Place section looks at the future housing requirements of the Cambridge housing market area and includes a summary of the assessment of housing needs from the Research and Performance Team's Population, Housing and Employment Forecasts Technical Report 2013:

Democratic Services

A Workshop open to all Members was held on 10 September to progress the work to create a new Committee system for the County Council to be in operation from May 2014. The session was well attended and led to a lively debate which helped considerably in gaining a greater consensus on plans in many areas as well as highlighting some areas where more work will be required to get to an agreed solution. The next stage is to develop the plans in much greater detail for the Constitution and Ethics Committee on 8 October.

Date	Time	Meeting	Venue
10th	10.00 am	Pension Fund Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge
10th	2.00 pm	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority	Fire Service HQ, Brampto Road, Huntingdon PE29 2NA
15th	10.30 am	COUNTY COUNCIL	Shire Hall, Cambridge
16th	10.30 am	Joint Development Control Committee: Cambridge Fringes	Shire Hall, Cambridge
17th	2.00 pm	Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Board	Shire Hall, Cambridge
23rd	2.30 pm	Resources and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
25th	10.00 am	Cambridgeshire Schools Forum	Shire Hall, Cambridge
29th	10.00 am	CABINET	Shire Hall, Cambridge
30th	10.00 am	Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee (provisional)	South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne CB23 6EA
31st	10.30 am	County Advisory Group for Archives and Local Studies	Wisbech & Fenland Museum, Museum Square, Wisbech PE13 1ES

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