

County Report March 2014

Cambridge City Deal

After much discussion the Government has now announced a City Deal for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire.

The key elements are

- A total package of £500m for investment in transport in the Greater Cambridge area;
- This funding to be provided in the form of grant, meaning the authorities will not have to borrow, and therefore take on much less risk
- Investment to commence in 2015/16 with a first tranche of £100m for the period 2015/16 to 2018/19;
- Two further tranches each of £200m to be paid over periods of five years from 2018/19;
- These remaining payments will be dependant on the area demonstrating that the benefits of the City Deal that we indicated in our submissions actually materialise.
- The first £200m tranche payable from 2019/20 will be dependant on a review of housing delivery over the first period and likely to require significant levels of delivery based on the projections in the two local plans (Cambridge City and South Cambs);
- The second £200m tranche payable from 2024/25 will be dependant on an assessment of whether economic growth in the area has accelerated as a result of the investment. This will most likely be the result of an independent study by an eminent team who will report to government and the local area;
- The actual length of the deal is still being considered and could extend beyond the 15 years noted above;
- Changed governance will be an element of the deal. There is not a requirement to set up a Combined Authority (the legislation to enable that doesn't yet exist anyway). This could be through for example a joint committee to make investment and other decisions between the three authorities – the aspiration and expectation remains to combine our spatial and transport planning powers;
- Government is offering that the local councils have flexibility to invest the £500m as they see fit, however, there will be a tough 'Assurance Framework' to manage the technical process by which those decisions are made that will ensure investment goes to schemes that are good value for money. This framework has been agreed with the Department for Transport.

The process from here is that subject to an indication from the three authorities that they are willing to proceed with the deal on the basis of what is currently known. The three Councils have meetings planned for Members to formally consider what is currently available on the deal – Cabinet at the County on 24th March, Strategy & Resources Scrutiny Committee at the City on 26th March and full Council on 3 April and Scrutiny at South Cambs on 3rd April.

Following these meetings, the Council Leaders will be asked to sign what is termed a "Deal Document", with Government. This will set out the terms of the deal and is non binding but sets the clear intent of all parties to conclude the deal. Further negotiation of the details will need to follow and there will need to be formal decisions of Full Council in all three authorities if a joint committee or Combined Authority is to be established.

Connecting Cambridgeshire

Connecting Cambridgeshire has officially launched its £4.5million Destination Digital scheme to help small businesses get faster broadband connections and use digital technology. Over 100 business leaders and high-tech entrepreneurs attended the launch at the Trinity Centre on Cambridge Science Park to hear how the scheme will help to boost business and the local economy. Small businesses in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire can get a £3,000 voucher to connect to better broadband, and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough companies can get a 40% discount on purchasing digital products and free advice on using digital technology. More information is available at www.destinationdigital.info or by calling 01223 706123.

The Government recently announced extra funding to extend superfast broadband coverage to 95% of the UK by the end of 2017. Cambridgeshire already has higher superfast coverage targets than neighbouring authorities and the programme is on track to deliver fibre-based broadband to 98% of the county by the end of 2015. We are awaiting further details so that we can plan whether this extra funding can be used to extend the programme. Information about the broadband roll-out is available on the 'my area' pages at www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk or by calling 01223 699285.

Highways Capital Projects Delivery

Communities and Members have been informed of the results of the Local Highway Improvement Member Panels. 85 applications have been successful from the 146 applications in securing County Council funding for community led improvements to the highways. Work includes alterations to speed limits, footway construction, installation of new pedestrian crossings and traffic calming.

Completion of Accident Remedial Works at A1301 Sawston

The traffic signals at the Cambridge Road/A1301 junction north of Sawston are expected to be switched on in early March. Commissioning of the signals has taken longer than anticipated due to an issue with cabling for the system but this is now resolved. This junction has been an identified accident cluster site and the signals will provide safer crossing opportunities for cyclists and pedestrians, and also control for vehicles turning into and out of Cambridge Road.

Waste PFI

Through the Waste Infrastructure Delivery Programme (WIDP), the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) are looking at Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contracts with a view to reducing costs across these contracts. There have been some initial meetings between the County Council, CIPFA and Defra with a view to looking at the Council's waste PFI contract and opportunities for savings.

The Council is working with District RECAP partners to develop an Optimum Service Design for waste collection services within the RECAP partners' area to ensure that the impact of diversion of material between the different waste streams upon the Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) process and treatment / disposal costs is fully understood and factored against collection savings.

AmeyCespa have outlined a proposal for an outlet that had been found for Compost Like Output (CLO) and with agreement from the Council, a contract can be in place. AmeyCespa have provided an initial cost for the CLO to be collected from the Waterbeach site for £73.50 a tonne and this will be guaranteed for a year. The Council will be checking this rate to see if it could be reduced further. It was noted that this contract is only for one year and that this would need to be looked at again next year. Prior to April, AmeyCespa would pay the £1.50 charge so that the price to the Council would remain the same as landfill tax (£72.00 per tonne) until April when the landfill charge increases to £80.00 per tonne.

Highways Maintenance

The Highway Asset Management Strategy has been finalised. The Strategy informs the 2014/16 Transport Delivery Plan which sets out the works programme; this is due to go to Cabinet for approval on 15 April 2014. Work on developing the Councils Highway Asset Management Plan will start in April and this will incorporate a review of the Councils service standards and reactive maintenance intervention levels.

Grand Depart Trophy to tour Cambridgeshire.

The official Tour de France 'Grand Depart' trophy was taken around the County for five days at the beginning of March and offered a chance for school children and members of the public to see it. The Trophy stopped off at schools and community locations across Fenland, East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire.

Cycle Legacy Small Grant Fund: First Round Update.

The first round of applications for this small grants fund generated keen interest amongst communities in Cambridgeshire, resulting in many creative, diverse and imaginative cycling ideas from a wide range of interested groups, organisations and individuals from across the county. The four applications successful in their bid for the 'up to £500' grant were the Cambridgeshire Young Carers 'Tour de Jeune Soignant'; Willingham Wheels 'Fen Edge Mass Exodus'; Museum of Cambridge 'Upcycling Academy'; and Cambridge Cycling Campaign 'Reach Fair Ride 2014'. The third round for applications closes on 11 April.

Real Deal – Keeping Local Markets Free of Fake and Counterfeit Goods

At the heart of the Real Deal campaign, which Cambridgeshire is embracing, is a [national markets' charter](#) setting out key principles for traders. Signing up to the charter demonstrates commitment to safe and fair trading at local markets. It sends a clear message to consumers that the market is a safe, trustworthy place to shop, whilst the message to traders will be 'if you trade in fake or unsafe goods you are not welcome here'.

Funding for new Sawston Community Hub

Funding of £1.25million has been allocated to create a community hub in Sawston. The hub will provide a new home for the library following a serious fire which closed the library in 2012, as well as for Children's Centre and Locality Team services. The library is currently operating from a temporary building installed at Sawston Village College. Plans are still to be confirmed, however it is envisaged that the new community hub, close to the original site of the library, would include multi-purpose rooms which would allow for flexible use of space.

Better Bus Area Fund (BBAF)

Work is well underway to finalise projects aimed at improving accessibility and use of buses in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire. A new system is in place to avoid the congestion caused by over-ranking of taxis in St Andrews Street. Feedback has been positive during the testing phase and we are working with taxi drivers to fine tune the system for full-time operation soon. New audio announcements have been added to busway vehicles and further adjustments have been made following the feedback from recent trials. These adjustments will improve the timings of the announcements particularly in the town environments.

A new drop off area for minibuses has been constructed at Trumpington Park and Ride site which will help to ease congestion during term times. Improvements are also being made to key routes such as Histon Road to facilitate improved accessibility for buses and safety by removing some street parking. A Traffic Regulation Order to stop parking on Jesus Lane came into operation in February. This will ease congestion caused in this locality and improve bus journey times through the city.

Cambridgeshire History Centre

Discussions had been underway with the University of Cambridge about a possible partnership project to provide new accommodation for Cambridgeshire Archives. However, the timescales and priorities of the University could not be aligned to meet the Council's pressing need for new archive storage so the partnership project will no longer be pursued. Options are now being investigated for our own standalone solution that can be achieved within the deadline set by the National Archives. Alongside this, the budget agreed recently by Council allocates £6 million of funding towards replacement accommodation, and there is also potential for additional external funding.

Cromwell Museum

Following debate at the recent Council meeting, a decision to withdraw funding to the Cromwell Museum has been deferred for an extra year to give more time for plans to be developed to find alternative management solutions. Grant funding from the Arts Council is being used to carry out work to review and test the viability of finding an alternative operator for the Museum.

Cambridge Science Park Station Interchange

The resolution to grant planning permission for the Cambridge Science Park Station Interchange was subject to the signing of a number of planning obligations which are currently under negotiation with the three local authorities involved. Once the S106 has been completed the planning decision notice can be issued. A number of pre-commencement planning conditions need to be approved by the Planning Committee before works start on-site.

Ely Southern Bypass

Further supplementary environmental information to complement the project's Environmental Statement has been submitted to the planning authority and has been the subject of a further round of consultation. Planning officers are preparing a report on the application with a recommendation for consideration by Planning Committee, scheduled for 18 March 2014. There have been objections to the impact on the heritage of Ely, including one from English Heritage, and it is possible that the decision could be called in by the Secretary of State to be determined at a public inquiry.

Foxton Level Crossing

Proposals to close the level crossing on the A10 at Foxton are being developed by Network Rail. Scheme options will be assessed by Network Rail under its Governance for Railway Investment Projects (GRIP) process. The County Council is supporting the initiative and officers are engaged with Network Rail to ensure that the best all-round solution is reached.

Cycle City Ambition (GC3) Schemes | Hills Road and Huntingdon Road

A public consultation on £1.8m plans for cycling improvements to Hills Road and Huntingdon Road in Cambridge was launched on 4 March. The consultation runs until Monday 7 April and asks for views on proposals to create wider and safer cycleways, which could be segregated from other traffic and introducing a new type of bus stop to the city for the first time. Schemes are part of a £4.1 million investment in cycling in and around the city of Cambridge funded by the Department for Transport's Cycle City Ambition Fund.

On Hills Road a new cycle lane is proposed on both sides of the road between the junctions with Long Road and Cherry Hinton Road. On Huntingdon Road a new cycle lane is proposed city-bound between Girton corner and Oxford Road which may be extended to run all the way into the city centre. The plans, drawings, visuals and a video of how the new road layout will look, together with a feedback form are online at: <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk>

Cambridgeshire Future Transport (CFT)

Area A	Linton, Fulbourn, Balsham
Area B	Whittlesford, Hinxton
Area C	Villages south of the A428
Area D	A10 Corridor
Area E	A14 Corridor
Area F	A1 Corridor and A14
Area G	Harston, Great Shelford
Area H	St Ives, Ramsey, Whittlesey
Area I	St Neots, Brampton
Area J	Isleham, Fordham
Area K	Chatteris, March, Wisbech
Area L	Gorfield, Leverington
Area M	Melbourn, Bassingbourn

Areas A, B, C and D: Tenders are currently being assessed for services in area C. Area D services tenders being prepared. Monitoring of implemented services began in February to assess how the services are performing.

Areas E, F and G: The community engagement phase has ended and working group meetings have begun to discuss the survey findings and other data. The first working group held 25 February (for area E) was pleased with the comprehensive data provided. A lively and informed discussion followed around possible transport solutions for the project area.

Areas H, I and J: The community engagement phase began in January, with a transport questionnaire that is available online and being distributed in hard copy by parishes (where preferred). A series of community drop-in events will take place during March in key locations across the project areas. Meetings may also be held with some key community groups. The community engagement phase will end on 28 March, to be followed by data analysis and Working Group meetings.

Up to date information for each area can be found on at the following link:
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/cft/area-details.htm>

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

Bike It Officers have been working with 24 schools as part of a planned programme of activities designed to get more young people cycling and walking more often. Results from the Bike It Annual Report show more pupils are cycling three or more times a week, more are never being driven to school and 67% of teachers in these schools have seen a decrease in car use. Key community members and organisations have been trained as bike mechanics to support a community project that will provide workshop space, affordable bikes and training opportunities to residents. Work continues to develop an appropriate sustainable business model. Celebration events to promote the new routes and signage at Milton Country Park have taken place as part of All Ability Cycling.

Long Term Transport Strategy for Cambridgeshire

Cambridgeshire Long Term Transport Strategy is being finalised as a draft for consultation later in May. This Strategy has been produced by working with Members across the County to ensure that we can plan in an integrated way for sustainable growth and ensure that our transport network can accommodate the travel demand. This draft strategy seeks to deliver an improved integrated network to enable efficient and reliable travel between key destinations. As well as improvements to rail, bus, walking & cycling, a key ambition is to improve accessibility on the strategic network & address constraints on the A14, A428, A10 and A47. The strategy supports growth in the Local Plans and includes an action plan setting out key infrastructure requirements. There is recognition that not all challenges can be addressed at the same time, and further work will be needed over time to develop and identify deliverables. As such, the action plan is a living document which can be reviewed and updated regularly

Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

The final draft of the Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire will be considered by the Joint Strategic Transport and Spatial Planning group on the 6 February, before going to Cabinet on 4 March for final approval. The strategy represents 18 months of close work with Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to develop a transport strategy that supports the development aspirations set out in their respective Local Plans. Over 76% of respondents agreed with the strategy's overall approach of increasing the use of sustainable transport while maintaining traffic levels at a similar level to now when the draft strategy was consulted on in summer 2013.

Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Strategic Economic Plan (SEP)

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Board submitted the draft SEP to Government in December 2013 which sets out the LEP's vision for economic growth in this area, and includes objectives and priorities for supporting growth and continued economic prosperity for this area. A Ministerial meeting was held to provide feedback to the LEP on 24 February on their draft SEP. Ministers supported the vision for the area and are keen to see what the key deliverables are for 2015/16 in order to do a Growth Deal with the LEP. Transport is a key priority for the SEP; other priorities include digital connectivity and skills. The County Council is leading the development of a transport programme to inform the LEP. The Shadow Local Transport Body (LTB) has been working with the LEP to develop a draft programme from 2015 – 20 as a means to negotiate a local growth deal with Government.

The transport programme is to be reported back to the LTB on 7 March for recommending to the LEP for inclusion in their SEP and is seeking investment for major schemes, local projects, local sustainable transport and trunk road/major rail schemes. It is expected that the final programme will accompany the SEP for submission to Government by 31 March. Assessment of the SEP and negotiation of the Growth Deal is expected to be completed and Local Growth Fund allocation confirmed by July 2014. The SEP transport investment programme will complement but not duplicate the Greater Cambridge City Deal investment.

Flood and Water Management

In February this year the Cambridgeshire Catchment experienced the heaviest rainfall since records began. Officers in the Flood and Water Team are responding to, and are supporting communities in Tadlow, Doddington, Brampton, March, Linton, West Wickham, Caxton End, Eltiseley, Great Shelford, Great Wilbraham, Girton, and Yaxley affected by the recent flooding. The Flood and Water Team has also supported highways colleagues in dealing with issues related to Earith, Little Paxton and Welney.

Agri-Tech

The funds secured from the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) will support a grant scheme for small business growth and a prototyping fund, both of which have now been launched. There is also £500,000 available to support the creation of an Agri-Tech Innovation Centre that will provide a physical location for the sector and a place to bring together the science and farming communities; two proposals are currently being assessed. Project Manager, Martin Lutman, has been appointed by the LEP to promote the scheme to businesses.

Collective Switching

The first auction took place on 18 February and the successful companies include:

- * Ovo Energy has won all the online billing contracts.
- * British Gas has won the Dual Fuel paper billing contracts.
- * Green Star Energy has won the Electricity Only paper billing contracts.
- * Scottish Power has won all the prepayment contracts.

The next auction will take place early June and registration will open April 2014.

Mobilising Local Energy Investment (MLEI) Project

A procurement process for securing an energy services company to deliver energy performance contracting for schools and public buildings has started. Schools have been contacted and are signing up to be pilots for the scheme.

The Better Care Fund (BCF)

The Better Care Fund (BCF) - formerly known as the Integration Transformation Fund - was announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement 2013. The Fund will create pooled budgets in each upper-tier local authority area, between health and social care services, starting from

April 2015. It is important to note that this is not 'new' investment from Government, but a re-allocation of money that is currently spent on existing health and social care services.

Cabinet received a report on the background to the fund on 17 December. At its meeting on 13 February, the Health and Wellbeing Board were asked to approve the 'first cut' action plan for use of the BCF, which was submitted to Government on 14 February.

The plan is based on the Vision and Principles previously discussed by Cabinet and agreed by the Health and Wellbeing Board, and it draws on extensive engagement with partner organisations – 118 proposals have been submitted by partners for use of the fund. The plan is organised around three main areas of work:

1. Things that we are statutorily obliged to do, such as meeting the requirements of the new Care and Support Bill.
2. Transformation of existing services, considering the use of the BCF funding alongside transformation of all of our services, rather than 'bolting on' an extension to existing services funded by the BCF.
3. Stimulating innovation by supporting ideas that are genuinely new and offer a lot of promise, driven by evidence of what works, and with clear mechanisms for managing risk if schemes do not deliver.

Improving Financial Governance in Older People's Services

Demographic pressure has resulted in greater demands and waiting times in Accident and Emergency departments. Since early autumn, this issue has received considerable national political and media attention, culminating in the Prime Minister providing personal assurances that the four hour waiting target would be met for 95% of patients.

However in the four acute hospitals that serve Cambridgeshire residents we have seen unprecedented numbers of attendances and admissions of older people (e.g. in Addenbrookes, we have seen in excess of 100 over 85s admitted each week since September. This is a 10% increase on the previous year).

The County Council has been called upon to do all within its powers to support NHS colleagues to manage the flow of patients from the acute hospitals into the community. Managers and staff have participated in strategic and operational meetings in all four hospital systems, including in some cases several teleconferences each day. Additionally, extensive work has been undertaken and resource expended to respond to the challenge of complex hospital discharges. This has placed a significant burden on the Council's management and staffing capacity and is reducing our ability to meet an already challenging agenda.

The sustainability of the current approach has been raised with NHS Chief Officers. The Council's commitment to strategic activity – including initiatives such as 'discharge to assess' - remains strong in order to find longer term, sustainable solutions. The Council has been praised by the CCG Clinical Lead for maximising its efforts and for the positive impact this has had. For example, bed days lost to delayed transfers of care have been reduced by 24% in the Addenbrookes system in the current year, compared to the previous year.

Mental Health Service User and Carers' Views on Keeping Well and Personalisation

The move to personalisation and choice in social care is a key to a future mental health social care strategy, and key to its success are the service users and carers themselves. During February, CCC Adult Mental Health in collaboration with Health Watch and the SUN network set up an on-line questionnaire asking service users, carers and the public what keeps them well, what do they need in the community and how can personalisation be delivered in mental health services.

The responses will be reviewed at the end of March and it is intended to use the feedback to inform the Adult Mental Health Strategy and the delivery of the Transforming Lives: a New Model of Social Work and Social Care.

Website: <http://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/join-conversation-about-local-mental-health-social-care-support>

Looked After Children Sufficiency Statement

The Sufficiency Statement 2014 sets out Cambridgeshire's strategic response to ensuring sufficient accommodation for the children in our care. It outlines our core principles; care is high quality, as close to the child or young person's home as possible, available when needed and cost effective. It provides full consideration of our sufficiency duty and allows focus on the key issues for development of provision.

There are 495 children and young people in the Council's care as of 10/1/2014. A recent benchmarking exercise identified that we have less children and young people placed with council run/managed provision and more placed out of county than both our statistical neighbours and our neighbouring authorities.

End to End Review in Older People's Service - Phase 1 Report

The objective of the review is to support the Older People's Service in improving outcomes for older people. The first phase of the review involved developing an overview of the end-to-end system currently in place to build a picture of how the system is currently operating and to identify a number of themes for further exploration and review. The work undertaken so far has identified three themes for further exploration as part of Phase 2, the review, which include the customer journey, planning and feedback and waste.

Children in Need

The complexity of work with families within the service remains high. February has seen an increase in the number of children subject to child protection plans moving into the Fenland area from other Local Authorities and subsequent assessment by Cambridgeshire has resulted in care proceedings being initiated. It is felt likely that Fenland may see an additional increase of families moving into the area due to the availability of more affordable housing.

February has seen an increase in the completion of core assessments within Children in Need. The units have worked hard to address all outstanding assessments and this has affected the number of assessments reported as completed within timescale for this month. However, there are currently no core assessments showing as out of timescale within the service. This demonstrates that children are receiving a timely and thorough assessment of need.

The number of children in Cambridgeshire currently subject to a child protection plan is beginning to stabilise; there are 375 children subject to child protection plans. We continue to evaluate the significant rise in children becoming subject to child protection plans in the autumn of last year with specific focus on the outcomes for these children.

There are currently no children subject to a child protection plan who are overdue a visit by their social worker and all children in Cambridgeshire subject to a child protection have been seen in the last 28 days.

PinPoint

PinPoint, the parent led service supporting parental participation and feedback was hosted within Young Lives. The Council has ensured the continuation of the service and as a short term measure Children's Links the infrastructure organisation commissioned by the Council is providing a lead body function. PinPoint is in the process of registering with the Charity Commission as a standalone organisation. The County Council intends to continue funding and supporting pinpoint to access other funding sources to support its work.

Mental Health Delayed Transfers of Care

Although not as prevalent as acute hospital transfers, there are mental health delayed transfers of care. These play a part in the overall system and improving performance in this area increases capacity within CPFT beds. Therefore a joint CCC/CPFT task and finished group is being established to check data and reporting, follow up each case and work towards safe and appropriate transfer of care. There are many challenges in this area, such as access to specialised beds for complex needs, but it is expected that working collaboratively will ensure that these patients are not overlooked and all efforts are focused on their safe transfer of care.

Older People's and Older People's Mental Health: Improved Working Together and Refreshing the Interface Agreement

Council officers have been working with Older People's teams within CCC and CPFT to improve the pathways and processes between the two services. This is expected to improve financial accountability and decision making, ensure a smoother pathway for older people and improve performance against standards for assessment, plans and reviews. This work has just commenced and will continue throughout 2014/15.

Voice Matters wins the Eastern Region Award

Our Children in Care Council - Voices Matter has won the eastern region V inspired award for volunteering for their work as members of the council. They have been put forward for the national finals. Look East BBC News has asked if they could undertake a news item on this achievement. Our care leavers' film - Finding My Way has been nominated for the British Film Institute Future Films Award. There is a showcase of all the nominated films on the 21 February 2014. A group of the young people who made the film will be attending the event..

Date	Time	Meeting	Location
25	10.30	Council	Shire Hall, Cambridge
26	10.00	Northstowe Joint Development Control Committee	South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne CB23 6EA
27	14.00	LGSS Joint Committee	Stanton House, Stanton Way, Huntingdon PE29

As your County Councillors I am here to help you. Please feel free to contact me with comments, questions or concerns. I hope I can help but, if not we probably know someone who can."

Yours, John Reynolds, Cambridgeshire County Councillor.

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