

County Report June 2014

Councillor John Reynolds

Papworth Hospital announcement

On 1st May HM Treasury announced that the business case for the relocation of Papworth Hospital to the Cambridge Biomedical Campus had been approved after designs for the new hospital were unveiled in December. The hospital will now work with developer Skanska to further develop these plans and prepare a final business case with the aim of construction starting at the end of 2014.

Greater Cambridge City Deal

Work is continuing to implement the Greater Cambridge City Deal announced in the Chancellor's Budget statement in March, and the deal has been approved by the Member processes of all three partner Local Authorities. The next step is to sign the deal document with Government, the date for which is to be confirmed. Work on the governance framework is ongoing; this is expected to be established by the end of 2014. Work on options for investment also continues, and this will inform the programme for the early years of the deal.

Connecting Cambridgeshire

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/government-digital-inclusion-strategy>

Three ETE teams - Connecting Cambridgeshire, Adult Learning and Skills, and Libraries - have helped to develop a new national Digital Inclusion Strategy and Digital Inclusion Charter to increase the number of people benefiting from going online. Launched recently by the Cabinet Office, the Strategy sets out the 10 actions that government and partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors will take to reduce digital exclusion by helping people develop their digital skills to use and benefit from the Internet.

The Charter brings together 40 organisations from all sectors who are committed to reducing the number of people who are offline by 25% by 2016, and a further 25% every 2 years after that. The Cambridgeshire Digital Inclusion Strategy will bring together work to address this important issue as part of the Connecting Cambridgeshire programme.

Superfast broadband roll-out

The superfast broadband roll-out programme is on track. Scheduled financial and contractual milestones to date have been met and 86 new fibre cabinets have gone live so far, bringing superfast broadband to over 15,000 homes and businesses in towns and villages across the county. There are many more to come as we move into the next phase of the roll-out which will take place between June and September 2014. Cabinets that are live or 'coming soon' can be viewed on the Connecting Cambridgeshire website 'my area pages', together with useful advice on how to get superfast broadband.

Destination Digital

Destination Digital, the project to help small businesses across Cambridgeshire use digital technology, is taking off. More than 100 businesses have applied for grants and free business support, and over £30,000 has been allocated to date to assist with their purchases of digital products and vouchers and to upgrade broadband connections.

A number of free digital training workshops and business networking events have been well attended and many more are planned for the coming months. More than 1200 people have visited the Destination Digital website which makes it easy to apply online.

The latest updates can also be found on Twitter #DestinationDigital and the Linked In Group: <http://Linkd.in/1dTYerD>

Superfast Extension Programme

The roll-out is progressing well and is on target to meet its initial plans for 98% fibre coverage by the end of 2015. A small percentage of remote premises will therefore be unable to access fibre broadband, although they will receive a minimum of 2 mbps using alternative technology where required.

Tour de France

Preparations continue for the 3rd Stage of the Tour de France, which is due to start in Cambridge and head south to Essex on the 7th July. Liaison continues with both Cambridge City Council and South Cambs District Council, and other key stakeholder groups.

More information about the transport changes which are expected on Monday 7 July for the visit of the Tour de France were published on 30th April [here](#) along with details of the [The Velo Festival](#) which celebrates cycling in Cambridgeshire through culture and sport.

Cycle Legacy Small Grant Fund: Third Round

Following two successful rounds of applications for this small grants fund, 21 projects have now been successful in their bid for the 'up to £500' grant. The third round for applications has now closed and the panel are considering applications received from the many communities and groups keen to take part. The diversity and range of events and activities submitted have really impressed the panel and they will all be advertised on the [Velo Festival web page](#) so that our communities can fully engage with all that is on offer throughout the summer.

Rogue Traders Day of Action

Working alongside Cambridgeshire Police, Trading Standards officers recently held a day of action against rogue traders. Rogue trading is when traders' cold-call houses offering a service such as paving, gardening or tarmacking, and deliberately overcharge for unnecessary or unsatisfactory services or goods. Work is often left unfinished and intimidation can be used to get payment.

This work resulted in 3 arrests as part of an attempt to tackle mis-selling, deceit and failure to give cancellation rights to customers, and part a crackdown on rogue traders who target elderly and vulnerable people.

For further information on Rogue Traders, see the Council website http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20112/rogue_traders

Street Lighting PFI

Detailed engagement has started with those Parish Councils in areas where works are due to commence in the latter half of this year. Positive feedback has been received in relation to this early engagement work which aims to utilise local knowledge to get the maximum possible benefit from the Street Lighting programme for local areas.

Both the County Council client team and Balfour Beatty have been liaising with organisers of the Tour de France event to ensure that street lighting works do not affect the event. The teams have also provided assistance to the event organisers with regards to the accommodation of Wi-Fi units on Street Lighting Columns and the installation of temporary banners to promote the event.

Both current and planned works in Cambridge City continue to generate a high volume of enquires into Officers at the County Council. The County Council and Balfour Beatty are working to resolve residents' issues and are also working with Cambridge City Council regarding planned works in the city during the latter milestones of the programme. It has been agreed that the County Council will fund the refurbishment of the historic Richardson Candles and that the City and County Council will jointly fund other heritage lighting replacements on the basis of priorities set out by the City Council.

Highways Maintenance

The latest Transport Delivery Plan (TDP) for the period 2014-16 was approved by Cabinet on 15 April ([Transport Delivery Plan Cabinet Paper](#)); this 2 Year Plan begins to encompass some of the key principles of the Council's Highway Asset Management Strategy that was approved in March. This TDP is the first that begins to deliver a preventative approach for the maintenance of both carriageway and footway assets by targeting assets that are not currently in need of full structural renewal and proposing to extend the asset's whole life by arresting/delaying deterioration.

Looking ahead the aim is to produce a longer term 3 Tier TDP for the period 2015 - 18 and this will provide improved forward visibility of the Council's highway maintenance and transport improvement programme. Work has also started on developing the Council's Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan which will review how the Council undertakes its day to day road repairs; this will be published in the Autumn.

Household Recycling Service Strategy 2014 – 2019 Options Work

The Household Recycling Service Strategy (HRSS) 2014 – 2019 was approved by the County Council's Cabinet on 15 April 2014 ([HRSS 2014-2019 Cabinet Paper](#)); this sets out the County Council's strategic vision for providing recycling services in Cambridgeshire. The HRSS is a high level document that emphasises the need to work with key partners to consider a service redesign alongside achieving annual savings of £440,000 identified in the Council's Business Plan from April 2015. It also sets out the timescales for achieving objectives within a short, medium and long term timeframe.

The HRSS does not contain any decisions or solutions in relation to delivering the household recycling service but instead provides the overarching strategy to allow options to be developed. Consultation with our RECAP partners and other key stakeholders is now starting; this will take account of experiences from neighbouring and other authorities to learn from their experience in delivering similar services and savings.

Flood site works update

Work is progressing on a multi-agency approach involving the police and Environment Agency together with our Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) team to provide improved management of highways that experience regular flooding, including:

Welney Wash - Electronic flood signs have been installed at four agreed strategic sites: Wisbech Road Littleport, A10/A142 roundabout Ely, St Peter's Road March and Padgetts Road Christchurch. These signs will work in conjunction with the flood depth telemetry installed on site by Norfolk County Council.

Earith Causeway - The low section of carriageway has been raised to alleviate localised flooding and enable us to keep the carriageway open longer in inclement weather. Two upgraded lockable and removable flood gates have been installed to ensure no unauthorised vehicles enter a road closure, two electronic flood signs will be installed by the end of May, and water depth telemetry has been ordered.

Mill Lane Little Paxton - Electronic flood signs and water depth telemetry have been ordered at three agreed strategic sites; the infrastructure is in place to be installed by end of May. Two lockable and removable flood gates will be installed during the upcoming planned road closure for resurfacing. Smarter working will mean less impact on the customers.

Hinxton Ford - Two lockable and removable flood gates have been installed to ensure no unauthorised entry to the ford during dangerous flooding events.

Highways Capital Projects Delivery

Following approval at the April 2014 Cabinet Meeting planning for the delivery of the 2014/15 TDP programme of highway improvement and maintenance, we are developing the programme in conjunction with our service provider, Skanska, to minimise as far as possible disruption to road users and deliver efficiencies in the timetabling of works.

Highways resurfacing projects are currently on site or due to start imminently on the A605 Coates to Eastrea, St Neots, Eynesbury, Little Paxton, A141 Warboys and 3 sections of the A1198 between Godmanchester and Kneesworth. The Local Projects Team is currently liaising with community groups who have been successful in securing funding for this year's Local Highway Improvement initiative.

Cromwell Museum

A report reviewing options for alternative management for the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon was published on 25 April. The report, carried out by an independent consultant using grant funding for the Arts Council England's Renaissance programme, recommended that an independent charitable trust is created to manage the Museum in the existing building.

Rock Road Library, Cambridge

New facilities will soon be available to the public at Rock Road Library. Part of the library will be equipped as a community room, making it easier for local people and groups to hold activities, events and exhibitions. Meanwhile, a new garden door will link the volunteer-run library garden directly with the relocated children's library. The library will be closed for the improvement work from Monday 6 May - Friday 16 May.

Ely Southern Bypass

The Planning Application has been submitted and committee date was set for the 18 March. However, on the 21 February 2014 a decision was published by the Court of Appeal in which issues that are also relevant to the bypass application and decision making process were considered. In addition on 6 March 2014 guidance on the National Planning Policy

Framework (NPPF) was published which among other things set out how local authorities should approach applications relating to heritage assets. Having considered the court's decision the planning authority requested that the project team review the application in light of the concerns relating to the implications of the Court of Appeal decision, and have been given the opportunity to submit further supporting documentation to ensure that the case has been made with full reference to the decision in that case and the new NPPF guidance.

Most notable of the court cases is the Barnwell Manor Wind Energy Ltd v East Northamptonshire District Council case, in which the Court of Appeal upheld a High Court judgement that overturned the decision of a planning inspector on the grounds that he did not give sufficient weight to the impact on the setting of a historic property.

The project team has taken legal advice on the impact of these rulings in respect to the objections to the application which has recommended that further work is undertaken to review some aspects of the application. Based on this advice the project team has now held an initial discussion with the independent heritage expert, started a review of the deliverability of the underpass option and started reviewing the sustainability of a "do nothing" scenario to determine the scope of further work that may be necessary. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in May when further legal advice will be taken if necessary.

Also at the end of April a joint letter from Sir James Paice, MP for South East Cambridgeshire, Cllr. James Palmer, leader of ECDC, the Very Reverend Mark Bonney, the Dean of Ely and Paul Day, Managing Director of Turners of Soham was sent to the Secretary of State requesting that he calls in the application for determination.

The letter highlights the benefits of the scheme in respect of removing congestion and providing for economic growth in the area and suggests that there is a strong case for the bypass that outweighs the environmental impact highlighted by English Heritage and other local objectors. Although the decision may be called in, this is not a statutory requirement. A call in would trigger a public inquiry which would delay a decision for a considerable time, possibly around a year.

Cycle City Ambition (GC3) Schemes | South Cambridgeshire links to employment sites and rail stations

Works are underway to construct a new foot / cycleway from Whittlesford station to Granta Park alongside the A505. Work is also underway on a new route linking Babraham Research Campus to Cambridge, for which the Research Campus has paid £200,000 towards scheme costs. The existing narrow path on the A10 south of Cambridge has been widened and resurfaced providing a much better route for pedestrians and cyclists in the Foxton, Shepreth and Melbourn area. Volunteers helped to reinstate and re-seed the grass verge. Work to construct a new path from Swavesey to Buckingway Business Park and Cambridge Services will be starting soon. All of these schemes are funded from the Dft Cycle City Ambition fund totaling £4.1million.

Bikeability cycle training

Nearly 4,000 pupils from Cambridgeshire schools have received Bikeability cycle training in the 2013/14 financial year, an increase on previous years. The on and off road training is delivered by Outspoken and by Witchford School Sports partnership and is wholly funded by Dft funding.

Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF)

Construction of the bike friendly roundabout on Penne Road / Radegund Road is underway after consultation decided in favour of crossing facilities. Travel for Work partners have received their reports from the annual travel survey, which will highlight how their staff are travelling to work and what activities could be promoted to increase sustainable travel. Counters to record usage and variable message signs to assist with traffic management are installed at Longstanton and St Ives Park & Ride sites.

Draft Long-term Transport Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Refresh of the Local Transport Plan

Cabinet approved a draft Long-term Transport Strategy for consultation in April; further information will be published regarding events in early June and at the same time consultation on the Local Transport Plan will take place. The draft Strategy supports growth in Local Plans and includes an action plan setting out key infrastructure requirements for our transport network to enable efficient & reliable travel between key destinations. As well as improvements to rail, bus, walking and cycling, a key ambition is to improve accessibility on the strategic network and address constraints on the A14, A428, & A10 & A47.

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. Views will be sought on the Draft Strategy ahead of the strategy being finalised.

Funding for cycle logistics activity

The County Council is to be a partner in a cycle logistics project that has secured EU funding from the Intelligent Energy Europe programme. The project, *Cyclelogistics Ahead*, aims to reduce energy consumption and emissions from freight transport by pursuing zero emission logistics solutions in urban centres. The project will run for three years and the County Council will receive over £70,000 to explore and develop strategies that enhance the efficiency of urban logistics.

March to Wisbech railway line

Studies investigating the case for reopening the railway between March and Wisbech have now been published and results looking encouraging. The work to investigate potential patronage and revenue generated by this rail link concluded in December 2012 and is available.

Eastern England Agri-tech Initiative

The County Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) were together awarded £3.2m for this scheme last autumn from the government's Regional Growth Fund programme. The last 6 months has been spent establishing the necessary resource, governance and management structures to run the new Agri-Tech programme and this consists of 3 key elements; a £2m Small & Medium Sized Business Growth fund to support any Agri-tech business to grow and create jobs, a £0.54m Research & Development fund to support the development and commercialisation of new technologies and processes relating to agriculture and a £0.5m capital fund for the creation of an Innovation Centre.

The aim of the Innovation Centre will be to provide a focal point for cluster activity, bringing researchers and industry together, holding trials and tests for the application of new agri techniques and technologies, and offering opportunities for schools and young people to get involved in and learn about the sector. A competition has been held to identify viable proposals for the centre and two possible winning bids will be assessed at the end of April to identify a winner, one to be based at Chatteris and one near Soham.

Housing Related Support for Older People (HRSOP)

The Housing Related Support Service for Older People (HRSOP) is a new service to support older people to live independently. Initially the new services will focus on meeting the support needs of older people living in sheltered housing schemes, and it is planned that from January 2015 the service will be available to older people living in the wider community. In South Cambridgeshire the new service is already available to older people irrespective of their housing tenure.

Examples of the type of support provided include advice to help people make informed decisions, options to reduce the risk of social isolation and support to people to maximise their income. Details of the support providers are below.

District	Support Provider
Cambridge City	Cambridge City Council
East Cambridgeshire	Sanctuary Housing Association
Fenland	Centra (formerly known as Circle)
Huntingdonshire	Luminus
South Cambridgeshire	South Cambs District Council

Transforming Lives

A new strategic framework for adult social work and social care in Cambridgeshire has been created which will 'transform the lives' of the individuals, families and communities within Cambridgeshire, will ensure that we are meeting our legislative duties and are able to respond to future national agendas and will reduce demand, enabling us to work towards making the savings that are required. Transforming Lives presents an opportunity to develop a model of adult social work and social care which is markedly different from the current model of social work and social care in Cambridgeshire. It is increasingly proactive, preventative and personalised and will enable the residents of Cambridgeshire to exert choice and control and ultimately continue to live, to the fullest extent possible, healthy, fulfilled, socially engaged and independent lives.

The Better Care Fund (BCF) update

The Better Care 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. The Cambridgeshire plan will be finalised and it has been agreed that members will be appointed to the Cambridgeshire Executive Partnership Board in the Autumn; this will provide whole system leadership and coordinated multi-agency oversight of health and social care service transformation for older people and vulnerable adults in Cambridgeshire through a Section 75 Agreement.

Looked After Children (LAC) Placements Strategy

Approximately £5.6m of savings has been achieved between 2011 and 2014 through delivery of work streams and effective commissioning of placements. The Strategy has now reached a critical point in its delivery as there has been a change in the trend and the last six months has seen a sharp increase in the number of looked after children. The LAC population for February was at 498, the highest level since 502 in October 2010 (and near the all-time high of 508). Cambridgeshire is still below the LAC rates of our statistical neighbours and the national average, and work is underway to consider the implication of this increased demand on budgets.

We are investigating potential factors that could be behind this rise in numbers and considering how we can address this as part of the Strategy. A draft revised action plan was presented to CFA Management Team on 19 March and new governance arrangements have been put in place to enable closer scrutiny of progress and ensure the links to different pieces of work are formally acknowledged. Following CFA Management Team's comments, the draft action plan is being updated and new work streams scoped. A key focus of the future work under the Strategy is to understand why a significant proportion of children in our care are not known to other services prior to becoming LAC.

Children missing from home, care or education

Children's Social Care and Enhanced and Preventative Services are continuing to work on a revised dashboard of information to inform us of how many children in Cambridgeshire go missing from home, care or are missing from education. This is timely given revised guidance from the Department of Education. We are interested in the reasons why children go missing and any potential risk factors associated with their missing episode, such as child sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and or drug and alcohol misuse, and consideration is also being given to the impact of the return interview which is held 72 hours following their return. This is ongoing work which is being shared within directorates and the LSCB.

Increase in Scarlet Fever

There has been a recent national and local increase in notifications of scarlet fever to Public Health England, above seasonal expected levels. During periods of high incidence, there may also be an increase in outbreaks in schools, nurseries and other child care settings. Scarlet fever was once a dangerous disease in the UK, but antibiotic treatment means it is now much less serious. Around 3-4,000 cases are diagnosed each year in England with 80% occurring in children under ten years old. It is most common in children between the ages of two and eight years, with four year olds most likely to develop the illness. Although scarlet fever is usually a mild illness, patients can develop complications such as an ear infection, throat abscess (quinsy), pneumonia, sinusitis or meningitis in the early stages and acute glomerulonephritis and acute rheumatic fever at a later stage. Prompt treatment with appropriate antibiotics significantly reduces the risk of complications developing. Public Health England have provided local authorities with briefing materials to send to schools and nurseries, so that they are aware of the correct action to take if there are cases of scarlet fever at the school.

NHS health checks in local authorities

Diabetes UK has released a report on NHS health checks which are now commissioned by local authorities through the public health budget. NHS Health Checks, cardiovascular risk assessments for people between the ages of 40 and 74 years, are an important and integral part of Type 2 diabetes prevention. It is estimated that Health Checks could prevent 4,000 people a year from developing diabetes if fully implemented. PHE, the Local Government Association and NICE are taking steps to support local authorities to fully implement the NHS Health Checks programme by providing guidance and facilitating learning between authorities. Recent publications include a quality improvement framework a marketing toolkit and summary of NICE guidance to support Health Checks.

Public Health England report on mortality from air pollution

Estimates of the number of deaths in UK local authorities that can be attributed to long term exposure to particle air pollution have been published by Public Health England (PHE). The figures are calculated by modelling annual average concentrations of man-made particles less than 2.5 microns in diameter, known as PM_{2.5} and their impacts on health. For the first time, the PHE report estimates the number of deaths that can be attributed to particle air pollution in all local authorities in the UK. It builds on figures produced for the Public Health Outcomes Framework which estimate the percentage of deaths associated with long term exposure to particulate air pollution in local authorities in England.

Chief Medical Officer for England Annual Report

The Chief Medical Officer for England published her latest annual report on the state of the public's health, at the end of March. Most of the data is from 2012, so the report's title refers to this year. Areas of concern for the CMO outlined in the Annual Report include obesity and the normalisation of overweight, associations between deafness and blindness and dementia, alcohol consumption and its portrayal in popular media and road safety for cyclists and pedestrians

Public County Council meetings in May

DATE	TIME	MEETING	VENUE
15th	10.00 am	Planning Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
20th	10.00 am	General Purposes Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
20th	2.00 pm	Adults Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
27th	10.00 am	Economy and Environment Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge
27th	2.00 pm	Local Government Shared Services Joint Committee	Stanton House, Stanton Way, Huntingdon PE29 6XL
29th	2.00 pm	Health Committee	Shire Hall, Cambridge

All or part of these meetings are likely to be held in private on the grounds that they are considering exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed.

Visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk for more information about the meetings, including agendas and reports, access arrangements and facilities for people with special mobility or other needs, and how to make your views known to the Council. Alternatively contact Democratic Services on 01223 699184 or email democraticservices@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

To give your points of view on any of these issues contact me by email at; j.e.reynolds@ntlworld.com

As Your County Councillor I welcome hearing from you on these and/or any other issues that affect our community."

Yours *John Reynolds*

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