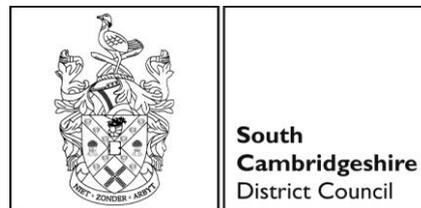


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18 February 2022

To: Chair – Councillor Anna Bradnam
Vice-Chair – Councillor Peter Fane
All Members of the Council

Quorum: 12

Dear Councillor

This is a supplement to the previously-published agenda for the meeting of **Council** on **Tuesday, 22 February 2022**, containing those items which had not been received by the original publication deadline.

Yours faithfully

Liz Watts

Chief Executive

Agenda

Pages

6. Questions From the Public

To answer any questions asked by the public.

The deadline for receipt of public questions is midnight on Wednesday, 16 February 2022.

The Council's scheme for public speaking at remote meetings may be inspected here:

[Public Speaking Scheme \(Physical Meetings\)](#)

Two questions have been submitted and accepted for this meeting, as follows.

- (a) From James Littlewood, on behalf of Better Ways than Busways

In July the GCP Executive Board gave approval for the Cambridge South East Busway Scheme to be submitted to the Department for Transport. Since then, there have been some significant changes in relation to this scheme:

Firstly. The Preferred Option for the next Local Plan is to include an extension of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus next to the A1307. Therefore, there would be significant economic and transport benefits arising from routing new public transport infrastructure to serve both the existing and the new area of the Biomedical Campus. The new area of the Campus will not be

served by the GCPs proposed busway. However, one of the options that was consulted on in 2018 would serve the campus extension. This will have a significant bearing on the Benefit Cost Ratio of the option that was discounted by the GCP in 2018.

Second. We have reviewed the decision made by the GCP in 2018 to discount a route in the A1307 corridor in favour of a route through open countryside. It is clear that one of the major deciding factors was that the A1307 corridor options could not form part of the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro (CAM). The CAM has now been dropped and so there is no longer a policy requirement for fully segregated routes. Given that CAM was a major factor in reaching a decision on preferred routes, there is a requirement to review that decision. We also note that the Local Transport Plan is no longer being “refreshed” and will be a more significant review, which won’t be completed until this autumn.

Thirdly. A Planning Inspector has recently granted permission for a new development on the edge of Stapleford, this includes the creation of a new park. The Busway would run through or adjacent to this park. The impact of the Busway now has to be assessed in terms of impact on that park rather than the impact on private agricultural land. In other words, the negative impact of the Busway has increased.

Fourthly. Plans for Cambridge South Station have progressed and the permission will be granted for that scheme well ahead of the busway. This means that Network Rail’s scheme is likely to proceed first and therefore the busway works will have to fit around or be delayed by Network Rail, given that they plan to use some of the same work compounds and will both be working in the same area of the Biomedical Campus. This creates a risk of further delay, compared to alternative options.

Finally. There is a growing awareness of the carbon emissions created by large infrastructure projects such as the busway. Alternative options require less infrastructure and therefore will have a better carbon budget. As a Council you have pledged to reduce emissions as fast as possible.

We have carried out some preliminary work to consider an alternative busway within the A1307 corridor. This would involve adding sections of bus lane to the road to avoid localised congestion, as well as creating a new section of busway between the Babraham Road Park & Ride and the Biomedical Campus, which would serve the proposed expansion of the Campus. This route would then join the route currently proposed by the GCP.

This alternative would provide similar journey times and reliability as the proposed off-road busway but can be delivered at significantly less cost, more quickly and with less damage to the countryside. Due to the expansion plans of the Biomedical Campus it would also deliver higher economic and transport benefits.

Will the Council use its position on the GCP to ask the GCP at its March meeting to formally revisit the decisions that it made in 2018 and 2021 and also ask for a full assessment of an optimal scheme in the A1307 corridor as a viable alternative?

I am CEO of Cambridge Past, Present & Future but I am making this request on behalf of Better Ways than Busways which is an umbrella group of parish councils, NGOs and others who believe there is a better viable alternative to the scheme being proposed.

(b) From Ben Shelton

Many residents in Stapleford and Shelford found out through the media that the water supply to households may have been dangerous which naturally caused panic and concern. When did the administration first become aware of this serious issue?

15. Membership of Committees and other bodies

To note and, where required, to endorse:

- a) appointments in any bodies;
 - i. The Leader proposes the endorsement of Cllr Peter Fane as Chair of Planning Committee.
- b) changes in the membership of committees and substitute appointments which have been made in accordance with the wishes of the Leader of the political group to which the seat concerned has been allocated;
- c) any changes in the membership of outside bodies;
- d) any changes to appointments made by the Leader of the Council.

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