

**South Cambridgeshire District Council
Record of Executive Decision**

This form should be used to record key and other decisions made by individual Lead Cabinet members. The contact officer will ensure that the signed and completed form is given to Democratic Services as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision has been taken.

A key decision shall not be taken unless notice of the item has been published at least 28 days before the decision is to be taken except where:

- a General Exception notice has been published under Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules and the Chairman of Scrutiny and Overview Committee has been informed in writing; or
- a Special Urgency notice has been published under Rule 16 of those Rules and the Chairman of Scrutiny and Overview Committee has agreed the decision is urgent.

Unless permission has been obtained from the Chairman of Council and the Chairman of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee that this decision may be treated as a matter of urgency under Rule 12.19 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules, this decision will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of five working days after the publication of the decision, unless called in under Rule 7 of the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules or Rule 12 of the Scrutiny and Overview Committee Procedure Rules. Where consent has been obtained to exempt the decision from call-in, this will be specified below.

Lead Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council (Statutory)
Subject Matter	Consultation response for England's Economic Heartland's Draft Transport Strategy
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Date Taken	Thursday, 24 September 2020
Contact Officer	Stuart Morris, Principal Planning Policy Officer 07514 925287 (stuart.morris@scambs.gov.uk)
Date Published	Thursday, 1 October 2020
Call-In Expiry/Exempt from call-in	Thursday, 8 October 2020
Key Decision?	No
In Forward Plan?	No
Urgent?	No

Purpose / Background
<p>Purpose</p> <p>England's Economic Heartland is consulting on a Draft Transport Strategy which runs until 6 October 2020. England's Economic Heartland is a Sub-national Transport Body – an organisation which seeks to provide strategic transport governance at a larger scale than existing local transport authorities, by grouping councils together. It represents a region which covers Swindon, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Milton Keynes, Bedford, Central Bedfordshire, Luton, Herefordshire, Peterborough and Cambridgeshire. England's Economic Heartland represents 5.1m population and 280,000 businesses and works in collaboration with government and partners in the heartland focusing on strategic infrastructure and identify investment priorities in the region. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is not a member of EEH but has Associate Member status. Cambridgeshire County Council is a member of EEH.</p>

The key principles of the Draft Transport Strategy are as follows:

- Achieving net-zero carbon emissions from transport no later than 2050
- Improving quality of life and wellbeing through an inclusive transport system accessible to all which emphasises sustainable and active travel

Supporting the regional economy by connecting people and businesses to markets and opportunities

- Ensuring the Heartland works for the UK by enabling the efficient movement of people and goods through the region and to/from international gateways.

Consultation response

A summary of the proposed consultation response is included below. The detailed response which is proposed to be submitted is included as appendix 1 to this decision.

The response has been drafted as a joint response with Cambridge City Council.

The consultation response considers the document under a number of headings which relate to topics in the Draft Transport Strategy.

Net Zero carbon to 2050

The focus in the document on achieving net zero carbon by 2050 is supported. In particular, the policies relating to delivering electrification on the East West Rail route, the focus on rail freight to reduce carbon emissions by reducing road traffic and the focus on digitalisation to reduce the need to travel are supported.

Biodiversity and Environmental Net Gain

The strategy should be more ambitious in dealing with biodiversity in the region and it is recommended that Biodiversity/Environmental Net Gain be explicitly referenced in the strategy's Key Principles.

Wellbeing and Social Inclusion

The inclusion of Improving quality of life and wellbeing through an inclusive transport system as a Key Principle of the Draft Transport Strategy is welcomed but the document should be more explicit in promoting active travel opportunities as part of strategic transport interventions.

Mobility for the Future

The document recognises the importance of strategic transport schemes such as East-West Rail and the Cambridgeshire Autonomous Metro which are supported. We note that the CAM is intended to support the Greater Cambridge sub-region as a whole rather than being a Cambridge-only scheme as referenced in the document. Further clarification is requested in relation to the Southern Arc rail link referenced in the document which suggests a rail link between Buckinghamshire, southern Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire but with no detail is provided. The reference to the M11 Junction 13 Cambridge West as a supported project is welcomed.

Rural connectivity

The strategy's focus on improving rural connectivity, both physical and digital connectivity of rural communities to jobs and services, is supported and will feed into the Key Principle of the strategy to Improve quality of life.

The role of the Local Authority

The document recognises the need to work with Local Authorities to use the opportunities created by investment in strategic transport infrastructure and services to shape the location of future economic and housing growth proposals. Both Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council have recently sought to engage with England's Economic Heartland under the Greater Cambridge Duty to Cooperate & Statement of Common Ground Proposed Approach for the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan and provided the

proposed approach for comment.

Next Steps

Once agreed by Executive Councillor for - Strategic Planning and Transport at South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Executive Councillor for Transport and Community Safety at Cambridge City Council (in conjunction with Chair and Spokes of Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee) the consultation response will be submitted to England's Economic Heartland and a record of the decisions will be published on both websites.

Declaration(s) of Interest

Record below any relevant interest declared by any executive Member consulted or by an officer present in relation to the decision.

None.

Dispensation(s)

In respect of any conflict(s) of interest declared above, record below any dispensation(s) granted by the Council's Standards Committee.

None.

Consultation

Record below all parties consulted in relation to the decision.

None.

Other Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection

Option 1: To not agree the proposed response to the consultation.

Option 2: to not seek a joint response with Cambridge City Council

Reason for rejection: the consultation offers an opportunity to feedback on proposals which could have significant impacts on planning and transport in the Greater Cambridge area.

Final decision	Reason(s)
To confirm that the response set out in Appendix 1 of this decision should be made to England's Economic Heartland's consultation on it's Draft Transport Strategy.	To provide the views of South Cambridgeshire District Council on the consultation.

Signed	Name (CAPITALS)	Signature	Date
Lead Cabinet Member	Signed copy available upon request from Democratic Services (democratic.services@scambs.gov.uk)		
Chief Officer			

Further Information

Appendices

Appendix 1: Response to England's Economic Heartland's Draft Transport Strategy consultation

Background Papers

England's Economic Heartland Draft Transport Strategy

<http://www.englandseconomicheartland.com/Documents/Draft%20Transport%20Strategy.pdf>

England's Economic Heartland Draft Transport Strategy Summary

<http://www.englandseconomicheartland.com/Documents/Draft%20Transport%20Strategy%20Summary.pdf>

