

Appendix B

Proposals to improve project process Presented to City Deal (now Greater Cambridge Partnership)

Vision

The proposals of the City Deal need to be considered as a whole. We would like to have a clear vision for all City Deal schemes and an understanding not just of their cumulative impact on Cambridge City, the surrounding villages and wider Cambridgeshire region, but also an understanding of the effect of other major current and planned development.

Schemes which are connected, such as the A428/Western Orbital, should be decided together in a 'joined-up' way and understood and communicated in parallel, not at staggered dates. Maps and diagrammatic and interactive 3D representations should be used to aid understanding, in addition to technical documents.

Schemes should not undermine the Local Plan but synthesise with long-term strategic regional thinking.

We would like the following improvements to be made to ensure fairness, transparency, and genuine community involvement at all stages of the process:

1. Assessment Criteria

Revise the assessment criteria so that for all proposals greater weight is given to their wider impacts, including:

- assessment of the impact on communities, with far more account taken of the views of local residents and small businesses.
- environmental impacts on the landscape/streetscape, including flooding, climate change, pollution, air quality and heritage issues.

2. Representation

Recognise neighbourhood and small business representatives as key stakeholders with places on the Board and Assembly and other policy-making bodies, to ensure a more equal balance between big business interests and those of the community.

Include city representatives in workshops on proposals which affect the areas where they live, such as the Greenways cycle routes.

3. Collaboration

Allow neighbourhood and small business representatives to participate in design and planning meetings with officers and consultants from the start, rather than being presented with pre-decided 'options' at the end of the process.

Improve the planning process to ensure that the Universities and the Colleges, many of them powerful landowners with their own agendas, work together with the community, not just big business, as equal partners.

Employ landscape and urban designers alongside traffic engineers as key members of design teams from the start, not just for 'mitigation'.

Take on board the feedback given, including that from conservation, cycling and residents' groups, to complete asap the revisions requested by the CD Board to the 'Design Guide for Transport Infrastructure' last June.

Use the revised Guide to ensure that quality design is at the heart of all projects.

Require County and City officers to work together on the design and implementation of transport schemes which impact city streets and open spaces.

4. Transparency and scrutiny

Recognise and manage appropriately conflicts of interest over issues such as land ownership and business interests which affect the independence of members of the City Deal Board.

Publish all conflict of interest data relating to members, officials and consultees.

Ensure all contracts are independently tendered for.

Ensure all meetings and workshops are open and transparent, with genuine community involvement, rather than relying only on the views of single-interest groups, business or CD officers.

Ensure members of the public are able to ask detailed questions scrutinising the City Deal Board in a public forum.

5. Communication

Improve publicity so that all meetings are well advertised, with sufficient notice to enable genuine representation of community views.

Improve the City Deal website so that it is fully functional and easy for members of the public to access.

Ensure that all historical City Deal and LLF documents such as presentations, minutes and reports, will remain accessible from the new web-site and that existing URLs will not disappear.

6. Presentations

Include landscape, streetscape/ and conservation detail in all proposals.

Present all schemes clearly with detailed and accurate 3D visualisation so that it is possible for lay people to understand the impact of what is proposed.

Ensure all documents are accurate and have no statements or illustrative drawings which mislead.

Include independent environmental impact assessments of all schemes, including data on capacity and the impact on the historic environment.

Ensure all data supporting assertions made by City Deal officials in their

presentations are up to date, or where they are not, make that clear.

Ensure presentations from officials to public meetings are printed out and distributed to the audience so that they can see the details on the slides.

7. Administration

Appoint a City Deal secretariat to provide administrative support to the City Deal officials themselves and to the Local Liaison Forums.

Maintain and keep up to date lists of individuals and organisations entitled to receive notifications of City Deal-related meetings, agendas and minutes, and issue such documents to all members on these lists **at the same time**. No bodies or persons to get privileged or early information.

Ensure all agendas for public meetings (including LLFs) are issued at least 2 weeks before the meetings and that resolutions for consideration and adoption at public meetings are circulated with the agendas in advance of the meetings.

Ensure venues for all meetings are properly set up, with sufficient number of working microphones and clearly visible presentation capabilities.

Publish minutes for all meetings within 2 weeks.

Wendy Blythe
Chair, FeCRA

14th July 2017