

**Report of the Greater Cambridge City Deal Joint Assembly meeting
16 September 2015**

1. General Report

1(a) Questions from members of the public

We heard the following questions from members of the public:

ANTHONY CARPEN expressed interest in the Assembly assessing the City Deal's communications strategy. We felt that it made most sense to review this only after the appointment of a Communication Manager. We regretted that this had not yet occurred and expressed the hope that this would happen soon. He also asked about progress regarding the Haverhill Rail campaign since he last asked about it at the Board in January. We advised that, while we wished this campaign well, it was not part of the City Deal programme and Graham Hughes indicated that he was not aware of any further progress.

LYNN HIEATT called for public consultation on the range of traffic management models to reduce congestion which had been advanced by various local organisations such as use of electronic gates outside the city. Graham Hughes said that he expected that there would be consultation on this subject but the Board had yet to decide how and on what.

COUNCILLOR DES O'BRIEN asked for evidence on bus usage to support the expectation that investment in bus infrastructure along the A428 corridor would be matched by sufficient demand to justify viable expanded services. Graham Hughes responded that the upcoming public consultation on options for this corridor marked at an early stage in development of a project. Experience demonstrated that improved infrastructure itself changed patterns of demand, as had occurred with the Guided Busway. Before a scheme could be implemented a business case would be required which satisfied Department of Transport criteria, but this required a project option to be defined.

Further comment or discussion from the Board is invited as desired.

1(b) Assembly future programme of work

The Assembly discussed its contribution to the developing City Deal agenda. Members from all constituencies within the Assembly emphasised the importance of engagement with local people about the innovative suggestions and ideas being publicly advanced to reduce congestion in Cambridge. Noting that the Board had still to settle on what it wanted to put to a broader public consultation, members felt that it was the role of the Assembly in the meantime to sift the various alternatives, bring to the surface their benefits and disadvantages and provide recommendations to the Board. With its diverse composition, the Assembly was uniquely placed to carry this out. It agreed:

That it would investigate the leading models of transport management to reduce congestion in the city with any recommendations being passed onto the Executive Board, and asked the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to liaise with officers to pursue consideration of this issue.

The Board is invited both to note this decision and is encouraged to support it as a constructive means of enhancing public understanding in and involvement with one of the most challenging decisions facing the City Deal.

The Assembly also put in place a process of identifying other items for possible inclusion on their agenda in future. It agreed:

That members of the Joint Assembly submit any other suggestions for future discussion topics to the Chairman for consideration at future meetings.

2. Recommendations on reports to the Board

2(a) M11 Bus-only Slip Roads

Members discussed the report and noted officer advice to return to these schemes when considering Western Orbital options, the process for which would begin in December. Many members were impatient to make progress, in particular with changes to the M11 southbound exit at junction 11, which it regarded as a relatively inexpensive easy win. Some members had reservations about advancing one potential component of a Western Orbital scheme out of context with definition of a broader scheme, for which options could then be constrained and which might delay a broader scheme. The following was however agreed:

THAT the Executive Board be requested to accelerate improvements to Junction 11 of the M11 as soon as possible, as a standalone project.

We unanimously supported the officers' other recommendations, modified only to reflect our request for Junction 11:

- (a) THAT the Executive Board notes the findings of the technical report.***
- (b) THAT the Executive Board notes that the outcome of the A428/A1303 (Madingley Rise and Madingley Road) corridor and Western Orbital scheme development work will be the key determinant in considering the future recommended bus priority options set out in the report, in respect of Junction 13 of the M11***

2(b) Greater Cambridge City Deal Financial Monitoring

The following points from our discussion are drawn to the attention of the Board for confirmation:

1. A request was agreed by Chris Malyon to correct the City Deal project expenditure sheet in the report which wrongly described figures as cumulative;
2. It was also agreed that future financial monitoring reports would include a parallel explanation of the progress of staff recruitment and its impact;
3. Clarification was provided that the funding requirement for the skills project was being treated as a financial commitment like earlier decisions and it would in future be shown as such;
4. In answer to a question, Chris Malyon stated that part of the uncommitted revenue funding that remained could in principle be used to support the Assembly pursuing discussions of its own selection in relation to the development of the City Deal, subject to the decision of the Board;

5. The meaning was questioned of section 4.9 in the report on uncertainty over future revenue funding and its impact on staffing. It was clarified that all current revenue spending commitments were supported for up to 5 years by the 2015/16 contributions already made by the three councils and that staff appointments were being made in that context.

The Assembly agreed to recommend that the Executive Board:

- (a) ***Notes the financial position as at 31 August 2015***
- (b) ***Agrees to the funding of the ongoing revenue commitments, as set out in the report***
- (c) ***Agrees the proposed framework for considering new proposals to be funded from the non-project resource pool.***

2(c) Greater Cambridge City Deal workstream update

In the course of reviewing this report the Assembly requested its chair to write to the local MPs seeking their support in moving forward the parliamentary approval necessary for the formation of a Greater Cambridge combined authority encapsulating the objectives of the City Deal, as had been committed in the agreement with the government.

2(d) Greater Cambridge City Deal Forward Plan and Schedule of Meetings

This was noted.