

County Council – Minutes

Please note a video recording of the meeting can be viewed on the Council's [YouTube channel](#):

Date: 11 February 2025

Time: 10.30 a.m. – 4.27 p.m.

Present:

Councillors:

Sebastian Kindersley (Chair)	Janet French	Lucy Nethsingha
Douglas Dew (Vice-Chair)	Ian Gardener	Keith Prentice
David Ambrose Smith	Nick Gay	Catherine Rae
Michael Atkins	Mark Goldsack	Kevin Reynolds
Henry Batchelor	Bryony Goodliffe	Tom Sanderson
Alex Beckett	Neil Gough	Josh Schumann
Mike Black	John Gowing	Geoffrey Seeff
Chris Boden	Ros Hathorn	Neil Shailer
Anna Bradnam	Anne Hay	Alan Sharp
Alex Bulat	Mark Howell	Philippa Slatter
Simon Bywater	Richard Howitt	Simone Taylor
Steve Corney	Samantha Hoy	Firouz Thompson
Steve Count	Bill Hunt	Steve Tierney
Piers Coutts	Jonas King	Susan van de Ven
Steve Criswell	Maria King	Alison Whelan
Claire Daunton	Peter McDonald	Graham Wilson
Lorna Dupré	Elisa Meschini	Andrew Wood
Stephen Ferguson	Brian Milnes	
	Edna Murphy	

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Billington, Bird, Connor, Costello, Fuller and Smith.

256. Minutes – 10 December 2024 and Motions Log

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10 December 2024 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

While noting the motions log, Members raised the following points:

- Motion 173 d) from Councillor Hunt: Reclassification of the A1421. A Member sought clarification on the star rating system. A request was made for an update to be included in the motion log for the March meeting.
- Motion 254 e) from Councillor Goldsack: Family Farm Tax. A Member asked for actions to be completed as soon as possible.

257. Chair's Announcements

The Chair made a number of announcements, as set out in Appendix A.

Councillors observed a minute silence in memory of Paula Hubbard, School Crossing Patrol Officer in Fenland.

258. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

259. Public Question Time

The Chair reported that three public questions had been received, as set out in Appendix B.

260. Petitions

No petitions had been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 9.4.

261. Greater Cambridge Busways – Waterbeach to Cambridge Transport and Works Act Order and Confirmatory Decisions

It was moved by the Deputy Leader of the Council and the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, Councillor Meschini, and seconded by the Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee, Councillor Beckett, that the recommendations, as set out in the report in the Council agenda, be approved.

Councillor Atkins moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Goldsack, as set out below:

Additions in bold

- (f) The Council will undertake and publish through the Highways and Transport Committee:**
 - i) a survey of the level of congestion and average travel times on key roads which the C2C and CSET busways seek to avoid through off-road solutions; and**
 - ii) to the extent possible, outline the potential for future growth in traffic on these roads**
- so as to be able to fully engage with resident objections and alternative schemes as part of the anticipated public inquiries.**

Following discussion, the amendment was carried unanimously.

Following further discussion, recommendations (a), (b) and (f), on being put to a vote, were carried.

[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrats, Labour, Independents, Non-aligned Independents and 12 Conservatives in favour; 3 Conservatives against; 1 Conservative abstained]

Fourteen Members requested a recorded vote for recommendations (c), (d) and (e). The recommendations, on being put to a vote, were carried.

[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrats, Labour, 2 Independents and 1 Non-aligned Independent in favour; Conservatives, 1 Independent and 1 Non-aligned Independent against]

[Voting record is included at Appendix C]

It was therefore resolved to:

- (a) Note the report, and the likely timescales for the formal consent process; and
- (b) Agree to the:
 - (i) Making of an application under the provisions of section 6 of the Transport and Works Act 1992 for an Order authorising the construction and operation of a guided transport system between Waterbeach New Town and Cambridge.
 - (ii) Seeking of a direction from the Secretary of State under Section 90(2A) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 that planning permission be deemed to be granted for the development provided for in the proposed Order for the W2C Scheme.
 - (iii) Delegation of Authority to the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board:
 - (a) To progress negotiations with any owners of interests in the affected land and other persons affected by the W2C Scheme and to make necessary arrangements to acquire land or rights within the proposed W2C Order limits whether by agreement or through the exercise of powers contained in the W2C Order;
 - (b) To progress negotiations with any affected parties or objectors to the W2C Order with the aim of avoiding, or securing the withdrawal of, any objections to the W2C Order;
 - (c) If so advised, to prepare and submit a request to the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government for a certificate under Section 19 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 that Special Parliamentary Procedure is not required on the basis that open space to be acquired compulsorily is to be replaced by suitable land provided in exchange for the open space that is subject to compulsory purchase powers; and
 - (d) To promote the W2C Order through, and participation in, any public local inquiry or other processes and procedures arising or resulting from the submission of the application for the W2C Order.

- (iv) Delegation of authority to the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board to:
 - a. Prepare for submission the necessary documents and any other evidence deemed appropriate to support the Transport and Works Act Order application;
 - b. To amend and update the application documentation to make the application ready for submission, including the seeking additional powers to affect highways, additional powers in respect of public rights of way and private means of access; provide for additional traffic regulation measures; remove land from order limits; reduce order limits, seek only new rights and/or temporary uses over land currently shown for compulsory acquisition for full title on the draft works and land plan; and update and amend plans showing the design of the W2C Scheme prior to submission of the Application;
 - c. Undertake further design development work on the W2C Scheme and progress the ongoing statutory process, including further refinements to the W2C Order and request for deemed planning permission, prior to submitting the Transport and Works Act order application and application for deemed planning permission; and
 - d. Deliver the W2C Scheme to practical completion subject to:
 - (i) the W2C Order being made and deemed planning permission granted; and
 - (ii) the approval of a Full Business Case in line with existing agreements and in accordance with internal governance and procurement requirements of the County Council as the accountable body and in consultation with the Council's Section 151 Officer, Executive Director of Place and Sustainability and Chair and Vice Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee.
- (v) Delegation of Authority to the Greater Cambridge Partnership any interest of land anticipated to be included in or affected by the W2C Order to, if so advised:
 - a. Serve formal requests for information on persons interested in land pursuant to Section 5A of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981; and
 - b. Serve on persons interest in land which may be affected by The Scheme notices to enter on to and carry out surveys or valuation of that land pursuant to section 172 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016.
- (vi) Delegation of Authority to the Council's Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Service Director for Legal and Governance, to negotiate, agree, enter into, execute and serve (where appropriate) all relevant legal agreements, notices and other documentation necessary to facilitate and underpin the progress of the W2C Order, or to instruct the Council's agents to do so, including (i) provisions to protect the apparatus of statutory authorities which may lead to ongoing liabilities (ii) to amend the W2C Order

to reduce the extent of Order Land to reflect the extent of acquisition and rights required, (iii) to settle compensation claims either by agreement or as determined by the Lands Chamber, (iv) to authorise the diversion or interference of public rights of way and means of access to the highway (v) to give due regard to the criminal sanctions, powers to create byelaws and (vi) discharge or vary existing byelaws applying to the relevant Internal Drainage Boards,- having regard to the public sector equality duty and human rights provisions outlined in this Report, and

- (vii) Authorise the Greater Cambridge Partnership to submit the W2C Order application, and the application that a direction be given that planning permission be deemed to be granted together with all supporting documents, and to prepare such further documents and applications as may be required to support those applications.
- (c) Note the submission to the Secretary of State of both the Cambourne to Cambridge and Cambridge South East Transport schemes.
- (d) In respect of the Cambourne to Cambridge Scheme, for the purposes of section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as applied by section 20 of the Transport and Works Act 1992), the resolution of the Council that was passed at a meeting of the Council held on 21 March 2023 to approve the submission of an Application for an order (which was submitted on 12 November 2024) is confirmed by this resolution.
- (e) In respect of the Cambridge South East Transport Scheme, for the purposes of section 239 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as applied by section 20 of the Transport and Works Act 1992), the resolution of the Council that was passed at a meeting of the Council held on 22 October 2024 to approve the submission of an application for an Order (which was submitted on 9 January 2025) is confirmed by this resolution.
- (f) The Council will undertake and publish through the Highways and Transport Committee:
 - i) a survey of the level of congestion and average travel times on key roads which the C2C and CSET busways seek to avoid through off-road solutions; and
 - ii) to the extent possible, outline the potential for future growth in traffic on these roadsso as to be able to fully engage with resident objections and alternative schemes as part of the anticipated public inquiries.

262. 2025-30 Business Plan and Budget

It was moved by the Chair of the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee, Councillor Nethsingha, seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee, Councillor Meschini, that the recommendations, as set out in the report, and the change to recommendation c) set out in the addendum circulated to Members on 6 February and published on the Council's website, be approved.

The Chair invited the leaders of the groups to make their opening statements on the Business Plan.

The Chair then invited amendments to the overall budget proposal.

Councillor Goldsack moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Count, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

- b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**

- I. **Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£6m**
- II. **Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	Peat soil damaged roads
Description	Specific ringfence to maintenance of roads on the peat soil damaged roads list
2025-26 Allocation	£6m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour; Liberal Democrats, Labour, Independents and 1 Non-aligned Independent against; 1 Non-aligned Independent abstained]

[Voting record is included at Appendix D]

Councillor Bywater moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Gardener, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

- b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**

- I. **Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£3m**
- II. **Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	Highways improvements in and around Sawtry and Stilton
Description	Allocate £3.0m for a package of highways improvements in Sawtry and Stilton. Including white lining, highways resurfacing and LHI
2025-26 Allocation	£3m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour; Liberal Democrats, 8 Labour, Independents and 1 Non-aligned Independent against; 1 Labour and 1 Non-aligned Independent abstained]

[Voting record is included at Appendix E]

Councillor French moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Hoy, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

- b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**

- I. **Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£0.7m**
- II. **Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	Signage and lining
Description	To bring signage and lining up to standard in Fenland in order to introduce Civil Parking Enforcement
2025-26 Allocation	£0.7m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour; Liberal Democrats, Labour, Independents against; 1 Non-aligned Independent abstained]

[Voting record is included at Appendix F]

Councillor Hoy moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Tierney, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

- b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**

- a. **Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£1.2m**
- b. **Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	Allocation to Road Safety Partnership
Description	Allocation to the road safety partnership for the installation of speed cameras on Churchill Road Wisbech
2025-26 Allocation	£1.2m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives and 1 Non-aligned Independent in favour; Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independents against]

[Voting record is included at Appendix G]

Councillor Gardener moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Bywater, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

- b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**
 - I. **Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£4.25m**
 - II. **Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	Active travel routes and flood mitigation.
Description	£4.0m of funding towards 2 active travel (cycle) routes from Tilbrook to Kimbolton (Kym Valley Way project) and Ellington to Brampton (link in with existing cycleway at Brampton Hut.). As well as £250,000 for Pond creation along the Alconbury Brook, to mitigate flooding in Alconbury & Alconbury Weston
2025-26 Allocation	£4.25m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives and 1 Non-aligned Independent in favour; Liberal Democrats, 8 Labour, 2 Independents against; 1 Labour and 1 Independent abstained]

[Voting record is included at Appendix H]

Councillor Hunt moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Sharp, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

- b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**

- I. **Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£0.46m**
- II. **Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	Lining and roundels in East Cambridgeshire.
Description	Revitalising white and yellow lines and roundels that require the most work, on the following highways of A10, A1123, A1421 and A142
2025-26 Allocation	£0.46m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour; Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independents against]

[Voting record is included at Appendix I]

Councillor Ambrose Smith moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Goldsack, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

- b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**

- I. **Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£5.8m**
- II. **Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	Projects and vital works in and around Littleport
Description	<p>Littleport Rail Station: The creation of a safe pedestrian and vehicular access to the Station from Station Road.</p> <p>Littleport Ely A10 bypass: The surface was left bumpy when work was completed along the full length of the bypass. A full road resurface has not materialised as expected and this finance will provide the budget for that.</p> <p>Littleport to Ely Cycle/Pedestrian way: Sustrans have come up with a variety of routes and costings, this will provide funding to take this to the next step.</p>
2025-26 Allocation	£5.8m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour; Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independents against]

[Voting record is included at Appendix J]

Councillor Criswell moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Bywater, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

- b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**

- I. Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£0.45m**
- II. Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	Drainage and resurfacing work.
Description	This allocation is to support drainage and resurfacing work on Parkhall Rd Somersham, High Street to Trundle following drainage investigation and design work already planned
2025-26 Allocation	£0.45m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour; Liberal Democrats, 8 Labour and Independents against; 1 Labour abstained]

[Voting record is included at Appendix K]

Councillor Sharp moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Hunt, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**

- I. **Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£6.8m**
- II. **Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	LHI pot, and initiate three junction improvement projects.
Description	Increase the LHI budget by £4.8m to fund more road safety schemes within villages and allocate £2.0m to take forward these three junction improvement projects. Improve the junctions of (1) Brinkley Road and Six Mile Bottom Road and (2) Duchess Drive and Park Road (between Cheveley and Woodditton). (3) of Newmarket Road and High Street in Cheveley.
2025-26 Allocation	£6.8m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour; Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independents against]

[Voting record is included at Appendix L]

Councillor Corney moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Count, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**

- I. **Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£0.8m**
- II. **Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	Highways around Ramsey
Description	To allocate £800k towards improvements to the peat soil damaged roads, their linage and grip cutting around Ramsey.
2025-26 Allocation	£0.8m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour; Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independents against]

[Voting record is included at Appendix M]

Councillor Boden moved an amendment, seconded by Councillor Hoy, as set out below:

Additions in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough.

- b) To approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan, **with the following amendment:**

- I. **Decrease 2025-26 CPCA grant budget allocation to capital scheme C/C.3.004 (Pothole Funding) by -£6.7m**
- II. **Create new capital scheme in Place and Sustainability with following information:**

Title	Roads Maintenance
Description	To ringfence £6.7m specifically to Carriageways (Structural and surface treatments) from the £8.1m monies currently to be allocated to the Highways Committee for determination of spend.
2025-26 Allocation	£6.7m
Funding Source	CPCA grant

Following discussion, the amendment upon being put to the vote was lost.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives in favour; Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independents against]

[Voting record is included at Appendix N]

The Chair opened the debate on the main Business Plan and invited the Chairs of the Policy and Service Committees, if they wished, to speak.

Following further discussion, the motion, upon being put to a vote, was carried:

- a) Approve the Business Plan for 2025-30 including supporting budget, consultation responses and other material, in light of all the planning activities undertaken to date.

(Appendix 1 to the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee report of 28 January 2025)

- b) Approve the directorate budget allocations as set out in each directorate table in section 3 of the Business Plan
- c) Approve a total county budget requirement in respect of general expenses applicable to the whole county area of £1,208,125,000
- d) Approve a recommended county precept for council tax from district councils of £420,866,224.13 (to be received in equal instalments in accordance with the fall-back provisions of the Local Authorities (Funds) (Amendment) Regulations 1995)
- e) Approve a council tax increase for each band of property, based on the number of 'Band D' equivalent properties notified to the county council by the district councils (247,475.2), reflecting a 4.99% increase (2.99% in the basic council tax precept, and 2% in the adult social care precept):

Band	Fraction	County council tax charge
A	6/9	£1,133.76
B	7/9	£1,322.72
C	8/9	£1,511.68
D	9/9	£1,700.64
E	11/9	£2,078.56
F	13/9	£2,456.48
G	15/9	£2,834.40
H	18/9	£3,401.28

- f) Approve the Capital Strategy as set out in section 5 of the Business Plan including: i. Commitments from schemes already approved ii. Expenditure on new schemes in 2025-26
- g) Approve the Treasury Management Strategy as set out in section 6 of the business plan, including:
 - i. The council's policy on the making of the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) for the repayment of debt, as required by the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008
 - ii. The affordable borrowing limit for 2025-26 (as required by the Local Government Act 2003)
 - iii. The investment strategy for 2025-26 and the prudential indicators as set out in appendix 1f - Section 6 of the Business Plan
 - iv. The delegation to the Executive Director of Finance and Resources contained in the Treasury Management Strategy to alter the council's counterparty and lending list in the conduct of the council's treasury management operations
- h) Authorise the Executive Director of Finance and Resources, as the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the council, to make technical revisions to the Business Plan, including the foregoing recommendations to

the county council, so as to take into account any changes deemed appropriate, including but not limited to:

- i. The final tax base, forecast council tax and business rates receipts for 2024-25 from the billing authorities
- ii. The final Local Government Finance Settlement from the Government alongside other grant announcements, outside of the settlement, primarily based on treatment proposed in this report
- iii. Changes to the accounting code for the Treasury Management Strategy.

[Voting pattern: Liberal Democrats, Labour and Independents in favour; Conservatives against]

[Voting record is included at Appendix O]

263. Item for determination from Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee Treasury Management Report Quarter Two Update 2024-25

It was moved by the Chair of the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee, Councillor Nethsingha, and seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee, Councillor Meschini, that the recommendations from the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee, as set out on the Council agenda, be approved.

Following discussion, it was resolved unanimously by affirmation to note the Treasury Management Quarter Two Update for 2024-25.

264. Constitution and Ethics Committee recommendations – Proposed changes to the Constitution

It was moved by the Chair of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor Dew, and seconded by the Vice-Chair of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, Councillor Kindersley, that the recommendations from the Constitution and Ethics Committee, as set out in the report in the Council agenda, be approved.

Following discussion, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) approve the proposed restructure of the Council's constitution, as set out in the report to the Constitution and Ethics Committee on 28 January 2025 (Appendix 3);
- b) approve the proposed amendments to Chapter P3B-7 (Audit and Accounts Committee) of the Council's constitution, attached at Appendix 2 of this report; and
- c) authorise the Service Director: Legal and Governance to take all steps necessary or incidental to implement the changes to the Constitution detailed in this report.

265. Questions

- (a) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Council Procedure Rule 9.1)

Three questions were submitted under Council Procedure 9.1 of the Council's Constitution, as set out in Appendix P.

- (b) Written Questions (Council Procedure Rule 9.2)

No questions were submitted under Council Procedure Rule 9.2.

Chair

County Council – 11 February 2025

Chair's Announcements

People

Paula Hubbard

It is with deep regret that the Chair reports the recent death of Paula Hubbard. Paula was a School Crossing Patrol Officer in Fenland. The Council's thoughts are with her family, friends and colleagues at this very sad time.

Messages

Huntingdon Civic Carol Service

The Chair attended The Mayor of Huntingdon, Councillor Karl Brockett's Civic Carol Service in All Saints Church, Market Square in Huntingdon.

The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire's Business Conference

The Chair attended The High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire's Business Conference – Making Cambridgeshire the first Modern Day Slavery Free County.

Holocaust Memorial Day Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

The Chair raised the flag to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, accompanied by Deputy Lieutenant Major Tim Breitmeyer. The theme for this year's remembrance was 'For a Better Future'.

Progress Pride Flag Raising at New Shire Hall

The Progress Pride Flag is being flown for the month of February to mark LGBTQ+ History Month, the Chair and Deputy Lieutenant Major Tim Breitmeyer raised the flag at the start of the month to mark this.

Visit to Orchard Park Community Primary School

The Chair attended the opening of The Core community room at Orchard Park Community Primary School, a project funded by the Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund.

Citizenship Ceremonies

The Chair attended eight Citizenship Ceremonies and The Vice-Chair attended two Citizenship Ceremonies at New Shire Hall welcoming over 300 new citizens.

Visit to Huntingdon Commemoration Hall

The Vice-Chair attended Huntingdon Commemoration Hall for a photo opportunity to promote a grant that was provided to the Hall by the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee, via the Cambridgeshire Priorities Capital Fund, to pay for energy efficiency renovations.

Holocaust Memorial Day in Peterborough

The Vice Chair attended St Johns Church on Cathedral Square in Peterborough for a service led by The Mayor of Peterborough, Councillor Cav. Marco Cereste to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

Public Question Time

1. Question from Mrs Sarah Nicholas, Cambridge Past, Present and Future to the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, Councillor Meschini:

Morning, Councillors. Cambridge Past, Present and Future have persistently asked the GCP to properly compare the traffic models, costs and environmental impacts of the busways being built through the countryside against in-highway bus priority schemes. Waterbeach to Cambridge is no exception. When the option of bus lanes adjacent to the A10 was considered, the poor performing section was on the approach to the A14 roundabout. This is because of the delays caused by the traffic lights at the roundabout and queuing traffic. The centre and northern sections perform much better for bus lanes because there are no junctions or roundabouts on this section that would require a bus stop. It was the poor performance of the southern section which led to the bus lane option being discarded in favour of a road through the countryside. However, following changes to the scheme, the preferred alignment now goes to the Milton Park and Ride next to the A10, after which the buses would travel west along Butt Lane, thus avoiding the A14 roundabout.

An alternative is therefore to have an in-highway bus lane along the A10 to the Park and Ride and thereafter follow the route as set out by the GCP. This would avoid irreversible harm to two miles of countryside, and yesterday I sent Members a map showing the two routes. We are confident in arguing these points to the inspector at a public inquiry. We urge you not to repeat the mistakes of the C2C and the CSET busway applications without proper assessment and understanding of the alternatives.

Therefore, before you decide whether to proceed with the building of £110 million road through open countryside, I ask you to defer your decision and request officers to undertake a reassessment of the bus lane option along the A10 to Butt Lane. Thank you.

Response from the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, Councillor Meschini:

Thank you Chair and thank you Sarah for coming. I appreciate that you are here, perhaps instead of James, who I appreciate is still unwell; do pass him my best wishes.

Thank you for your continued engagement with the scheme. We have had many conversations on this issue. As you know, it is the DfT requirement that we should undertake a full assessment of on-road solutions before we decide whether something should go off-road, and this has been done. The work that has been done and is detailed in the environmental assessment and other documents that are alongside the submission that would be made today, if the vote goes a particular way. Bus lane options to the north of Butt Lane would not meet the project objectives and these are: to deliver more reliable public transport journey times and to provide additional sustainable transport capacity to support, not the traffic that is there now, but the economic and housing growth along the corridor.

There are *[Chair: Councillor Meschini, can I ask you to move your console closer to you because there are Members who are having difficulty hearing your golden words. You can sit down.]* I'll sit down, that's fine. *[Chair: Thank you]*

So, there are junctions under signalled pedestrian crossing along the A10, all of which would need upgrading and most likely signalising alongside any widening on the A10. This would add

congestion on the A10 and it would add unreliability to the bus journey times. There are also significant pinch points that would create difficulty with regards to building, impacting properties and cost. So, we have looked at the online options for the A10 and they have been considered very appropriately, but unfortunately, they're not suitable for the scheme as it currently stands.

Supplementary question from Mrs Sarah Nicholas:

Thank you, a very short supplementary question. So, the evidence that we've been directed to that this option has been reviewed is the Options Appraisal Report and the Outline Business Case. The Options Appraisal Report is dated September 2020, yet it was not until after the 2023 consultation that a decision to route the busway along Butt Lane was made. The Options Appraisal Report does not assess a hybrid route of bus lane and busway. Will the application documents include an updated Options Appraisal Report? Thank you.

Response from the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, Councillor Meschini:

I will check whether there will be any update to the documents. The physical constraints do not change as to whether it's 2020 or 2023, the A10 hasn't changed and therefore even if the appraisal were to be updated, I sincerely doubt that the results would be any different; but we will write to you with the answer.

2. Question from Mrs Melanie Lombardi, on behalf of Landbeach Parish Council, to the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, Councillor Meschini:

The question is what are the County Council going to do to mitigate anti-social behaviour on the "maintenance path" of the busway. There are numerous motor vehicles driving on the Mere Way which is a cycle path. There is no CCTV or security and because of this the cycle path is being used as a race track, which in turn is very imitating for users, Landbeach residents are scared to use the cycle path. We have reported these problems to Urban&Civic, district councillor and the police and it keeps happening on a daily basis. Landbeach Parish Council are very concerned that the bus way maintenance path will invite the same behaviour unless it is monitored to deter this activity. We feel the County Council must consider this issue as it will affect Landbeach Village.

Written response from the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, Councillor Meschini:

Mrs Lombardi, thank you for the question. I know this has been raised as part of the Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly and Executive Board process.

The County Council would acknowledge the issues raised in relation to mis-use of the Mere Way bridleway and will take full consideration of measures required to prevent such behaviours occurring on the maintenance path of the Waterbeach to Cambridge busway as the design is developed in more detail at the next stage of the process. Indeed, we will be building on the measures that the County Council are developing to address the Mere Way issues.

Solutions will include heavy duty physical barriers at points where the maintenance path intersects with the public highway, to prevent vehicles accessing the track. Other measures could include CCTV positioned at strategic location and/or further physical measures at intervals along the route that look to either slow down cyclists or create additional separation between users. The W2C project will look to tackle this issue using means that are consistent

with the other Busway projects, including clearly defined legal restrictions for use of the maintenance track, appropriate signage and exploring enforcement opportunities.

3. Question from Ms Anna Gazeley to the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, Councillor Meschini:

Chair, Councillors, I wish to highlight several significant developments since you originally resolved on the 21st of March 2023 to submit the Cambourne to Cambridge Transport Works Act Order. You are being asked to confirm that decision today, but in the nearly two years since much has changed. Irrespective of the final routing into Cambridge, East West Rail will include a station at Cambourne undermining the very justification for C2C. Meanwhile, existing transport services could be improved now through targeted enhancements to bus provision at far lower cost and environmental impact. The county announced a £32 million budget shortfall for 2025/26, yet remains fiscally responsible for likely funding gaps both in the build and annual maintenance of C2C. The planned Maddingley Hill Service Reservoir expansion, crucial to addressing water scarcity in the county, directly conflicts with the proposed route. A Tree Preservation Order is now in place and Coton Orchard has been designated a County Wildlife Site since you last voted. The engineering plan submitted as part of the Transport Works Act Order show a highly constrained entry to Grange Road, raising concerns over whether buses can even make the turn. Operators such as Stagecoach have not confirmed they will run the service, and Andy Campbell says there's no easy onward route from this point. The Secretary of State has received over 300 expert objections spanning multiple disciplines and political affiliations, while petitioners now exceed 23,000.

My question in light of these unresolved issues and the considerable changes since 2023, can Councillors be fully confident that the application submitted on the 12th of November 2024 remains wholly consistent with the one originally approved? Given the evolving financial, environmental and strategic landscape, would it truly be in the county's best interest to confirm a resolution that locks the Council into a course of action that may no longer be necessarily financially responsible or even operationally viable? Thank you.

Response from the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, Councillor Meschini:

Thank you, Chair, and thank you Anna for coming. There's a lot there and I only have two minutes so I'm going to do a bit of rattling through. Number one, the application is consistent with what we voted for. This would be a contravention of the DfT guidance and therefore it would make the application invalid if that was not the case.

On East West Rail, they have multiple times in this debate, we had it last time, they have confirmed that the proposals complement, they do not contradict. They complement Cambourne to Cambridge and it is important to remember that East West Rail have just completed a non-statutory consultation which will inform a future statutory consultation at a point to be determined. As such, the scheme remains unfunded and unconsented, and construction and opening are many years into the future. Also, when it is built, it does not serve Bourne airfield or Cambridge West, which are the two key development sites that Cambourne to Cambridge was conceived to serve.

We do have a very restrained budget, as indeed will become very clear later, but it is very important to remind ourselves that the Cambourne to Cambridge busway is fully funded from the Greater Cambridge City Deal, and this sits entirely outside of the County Council's operational budget. There has been no overspend on previous projects, despite the fact that many people seem to want to make some up, and there will be no overspend on this one and if there was it would sit with the City Deal. The project team will continue to work with Anglian

Water to ensure there is no conflict with the reservoir currently being planned and the Cambourne to Cambridge scheme will be planned in accordance with that. We have undertaken a full environmental assessment which has assessed the impact of the scheme. The surviving portion of the orchard has recently been designated as a County Wildlife Site and more recently South Cambridgeshire District Council has indicated that they intend to protect the surviving original trees with a TPO. This does not impact the assessment that has been undertaken. It will impact the assessment that the Secretary of State decides to undertake. The existing bus system [*Chair: Thank you, Councillor Meschini.*]

Supplementary question from Ms Anna Gazeley:

Councillors today you are being asked to vote on three GCP busways, committing the county to underwriting half a billion pound. So, let's be absolutely clear, I am asking about C2C, the £200 million scheme that cuts through Coton Orchard and Madingley Hill Farms only to grind to a halt at Grange Road.

My question again, after two years and all that has changed since you signed off on the draft order, do you still believe the scheme is justified and remains in the best interest of your constituents? This is where responsibility lies. Kicking the can down the road to a public inquiry won't change the facts. It simply dumps the fight on to charities and communities, while the decision-making power you were elected to exercise is handed over to Westminster. Meanwhile, the cost still falls on the residents of this county, not just today, but for generations to come. I have no need for Councillor Meschini to respond. The vote will make clear where each councillor stands, and I trust it will be properly recorded.

Response from the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board, Councillor Meschini:

Thank you, and I am sure to most of that the answer is yes.

To go back to the point of cost, as I was about to say, when my time ran out, sorry about that, the existing Huntingdon busway stands as a lesson as to how profitably the services can be run. It has an annual patronage of 2.5 million journeys. It's a lot of people. It will be run profitably, as indeed these busways tend to do, and it will create a lot of opportunities for people that currently have none.

Vote – Agenda Item 6 - Recommendations c, d and e

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con		X				HOWELL M	Con		X		
ATKINS M	Lib Dem	X					HOWITT R	Lab	X			
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem	X					HOY S	Con		X		
BECKETT A	Lib Dem	X					HUNT B	Con		X		
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem	X			
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind		X		
BLACK M	Lab	X					KING MARIA	Lib Dem	X			
BODEN C	Con				X		KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem	X					MCDONALD P	Lib Dem	X			
BULAT A	Lab	X					MESCHINI E	Lab	X			
BYWATER S	Con		X				MILNES B	Lib Dem	X			
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem	X			
CORNEY S	Con		X				NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem	X			
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab	X			
COUNT S	Con		X				RAE C	Lab	X			
COUTTS P	Lib Dem	X					REYNOLDS K	Con		X		
CRISWELL S J	Con		X				SANDERSON T	Ind	X			
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem	X					SCHUMANN J	Ind	X			
DEW D	Lib Dem	X					SEEFF G	Lib Dem	X			
DUPRE L	Lib Dem	X					SHAILER N	Lab	X			
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con		X		
FRENCH J	Con		X				SLATTER P	Lib Dem	X			
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con		X				TAYLOR S	Ind	X			
GAY N	Lab	X					THOMPSON F	Lib Dem	X			
GOLDSACK M	Con		X				TIERNEY S	Con		X		
GOODLIFFE B	Lab	X					VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem	X			
GOUGH N	Lib Dem	X					WHELAN A	Lib Dem	X			
GOWING J	Con		X				WILSON G	Lib Dem	X			
HATHORN R	Lib Dem	X					WOOD A	Lib Dem	X			
HAY A	Con		X				Total	30	21	7	0	2
Total	31	14	11	0	6		Complete Total	61	35	18	0	8

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Goldsack Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X					HOWELL M	Con	X			
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X				HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X				HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X				HUNT B	Con	X			
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind			X	
BLACK M	Lab		X				KING MARIA	Lib Dem		X		
BODEN C	Con	X					KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X				MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X				MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X					MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X					NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab		X		
COUNT S	Con	X					RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X				REYNOLDS K	Con	X			
CRISWELL S J	Con	X					SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X				SCHUMANN J	Ind		X		
DEW D	Lib Dem		X				SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X				SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X					SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X					TAYLOR S	Ind		X		
GAY N	Lab		X				THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X					TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X				VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X				WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X					WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X				WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X					Total	30	6	20	1	3
Total	31	11	15	0	5		Complete Total	61	17	35	1	8

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Bywater Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X					HOWELL M	Con	X			
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X				HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X				HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X				HUNT B	Con	X			
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind			X	
BLACK M	Lab		X				KING MARIA	Lib Dem		X		
BODEN C	Con	X					KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X				MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X				MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X					MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X					NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab			X	
COUNT S	Con	X					RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X				REYNOLDS K	Con	X			
CRISWELL S J	Con	X					SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X				SCHUMANN J	Ind		X		
DEW D	Lib Dem		X				SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X				SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X					SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X					TAYLOR S	Ind		X		
GAY N	Lab		X				THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X					TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X				VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X				WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X					WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X				WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X					Total	30	6	19	2	3
Total	31	11	15	0	5		Complete Total	61	17	34	2	8

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor French Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X					HOWELL M	Con	X			
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X				HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X				HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X				HUNT B	Con				X
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind			X	
BLACK M	Lab		X				KING MARIA	Lib Dem				X
BODEN C	Con	X					KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X				MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X				MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X					MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X					NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab		X		
COUNT S	Con				X		RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X				REYNOLDS K	Con				X
CRISWELL S J	Con	X					SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X				SCHUMANN J	Ind				X
DEW D	Lib Dem		X				SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X				SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X					SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X					TAYLOR S	Ind		X		
GAY N	Lab		X				THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X					TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X				VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X				WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X					WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X				WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X					Total	30	4	18	1	7
Total	31	10	15	0	6		Complete Total	61	14	33	1	13

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Hoy Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X					HOWELL M	Con	X			
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X				HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X				HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X				HUNT B	Con	X			
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind	X			
BLACK M	Lab		X				KING MARIA	Lib Dem				X
BODEN C	Con	X					KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X				MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X				MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X					MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X					NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab		X		
COUNT S	Con				X		RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X				REYNOLDS K	Con				X
CRISWELL S J	Con	X					SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X				SCHUMANN J	Ind				X
DEW D	Lib Dem		X				SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X				SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X					SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X					TAYLOR S	Ind		X		
GAY N	Lab		X				THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X					TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X				VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X				WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X					WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X				WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X					Total	30	6	18	0	6
Total	31	10	15	0	6		Complete Total	61	16	33	0	12

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Gardener Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X					HOWELL M	Con	X			
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X				HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X				HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X				HUNT B	Con	X			
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind	X			
BLACK M	Lab		X				KING MARIA	Lib Dem				X
BODEN C	Con	X					KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X				MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X				MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X					MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X					NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab			X	
COUNT S	Con	X					RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X				REYNOLDS K	Con				X
CRISWELL S J	Con	X					SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X				SCHUMANN J	Ind				X
DEW D	Lib Dem		X				SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X				SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X					SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X					TAYLOR S	Ind			X	
GAY N	Lab		X				THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X					TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X				VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X				WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X					WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X				WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X					Total	30	6	16	2	6
Total	31	11	15	0	5		Complete Total	61	17	31	2	11

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Hunt Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X					HOWELL M	Con	X			
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X				HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X				HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X				HUNT B	Con	X			
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind				X
BLACK M	Lab		X				KING MARIA	Lib Dem		X		
BODEN C	Con	X					KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X				MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X				MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X					MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X					NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab		X		
COUNT S	Con	X					RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X				REYNOLDS K	Con				X
CRISWELL S J	Con	X					SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X				SCHUMANN J	Ind				X
DEW D	Lib Dem		X				SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X				SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X					SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X					TAYLOR S	Ind		X		
GAY N	Lab		X				THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X					TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X				VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X				WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X					WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X				WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X					Total	30	5	19	0	6
Total	31	11	15	0	5		Complete Total	61	16	34	0	11

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Ambrose Smith Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X					HOWELL M	Con	X			
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X				HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X				HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X				HUNT B	Con	X			
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind				X
BLACK M	Lab		X				KING MARIA	Lib Dem		X		
BODEN C	Con	X					KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X				MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X				MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X					MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X					NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab		X		
COUNT S	Con	X					RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X				REYNOLDS K	Con				X
CRISWELL S J	Con	X					SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X				SCHUMANN J	Ind				X
DEW D	Lib Dem		X				SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X				SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X					SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X					TAYLOR S	Ind		X		
GAY N	Lab		X				THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X					TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X				VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X				WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X					WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X				WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X					Total	30	5	19	0	6
Total	31	11	15	0	5		Complete Total	61	16	34	0	11

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Criswell Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X					HOWELL M	Con				X
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X				HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X				HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X				HUNT B	Con	X			
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind				X
BLACK M	Lab		X				KING MARIA	Lib Dem		X		
BODEN C	Con	X					KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X				MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X				MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X					MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X					NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab			X	
COUNT S	Con	X					RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X				REYNOLDS K	Con				X
CRISWELL S J	Con	X					SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X				SCHUMANN J	Ind				X
DEW D	Lib Dem		X				SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X				SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X					SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X					TAYLOR S	Ind		X		
GAY N	Lab		X				THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X					TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X				VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X				WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X					WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X				WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X					Total	30	4	18	1	7
Total	31	11	15	0	5		Complete Total	61	15	33	1	12

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Sharp Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote	COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X				HOWELL M	Con				X
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X			HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X			HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X			HUNT B	Con	X			
BILLINGTON K	Con				X	KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X	KING JONAS	Ind				X
BLACK M	Lab		X			KING MARIA	Lib Dem		X		
BODEN C	Con	X				KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X			MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X			MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X				MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X	MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X				NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X	PRENTICE K	Lab		X		
COUNT S	Con	X				RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X			REYNOLDS K	Con				X
CRISWELL S J	Con	X				SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X			SCHUMANN J	Ind				X
DEW D	Lib Dem		X			SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X			SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X			SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X				SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X	SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X				TAYLOR S	Ind		X		
GAY N	Lab		X			THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X				TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X			VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X			WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X				WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X			WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X				Total	30	4	19	0	7
Total	31	11	15	0	5	Complete Total	61	15	34	0	12

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Corney Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X					HOWELL M	Con				X
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X				HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X				HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X				HUNT B	Con	X			
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind				X
BLACK M	Lab		X				KING MARIA	Lib Dem		X		
BODEN C	Con	X					KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X				MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X				MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X					MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X					NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab		X		
COUNT S	Con	X					RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X				REYNOLDS K	Con				X
CRISWELL S J	Con	X					SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X				SCHUMANN J	Ind				X
DEW D	Lib Dem		X				SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X				SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X					SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X					TAYLOR S	Ind		X		
GAY N	Lab		X				THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X					TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X				VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X				WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X					WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X				WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X					Total	30	4	19	0	7
Total	31	11	15	0	5		Complete Total	61	15	34	0	12

Vote – Agenda Item 7 – Councillor Boden Amendment

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con	X					HOWELL M	Con				X
ATKINS M	Lib Dem		X				HOWITT R	Lab		X		
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem		X				HOY S	Con	X			
BECKETT A	Lib Dem		X				HUNT B	Con	X			
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem		X		
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind				X
BLACK M	Lab		X				KING MARIA	Lib Dem		X		
BODEN C	Con	X					KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem		X				MCDONALD P	Lib Dem		X		
BULAT A	Lab		X				MESCHINI E	Lab		X		
BYWATER S	Con	X					MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem		X		
CORNEY S	Con	X					NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem		X		
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab		X		
COUNT S	Con	X					RAE C	Lab		X		
COUTTS P	Lib Dem		X				REYNOLDS K	Con				X
CRISWELL S J	Con	X					SANDERSON T	Ind		X		
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem		X				SCHUMANN J	Ind				X
DEW D	Lib Dem		X				SEEFF G	Lib Dem		X		
DUPRE L	Lib Dem		X				SHAILER N	Lab		X		
FERGUSON S	Ind		X				SHARP A	Con	X			
FRENCH J	Con	X					SLATTER P	Lib Dem		X		
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con	X					TAYLOR S	Ind		X		
GAY N	Lab		X				THOMPSON F	Lib Dem		X		
GOLDSACK M	Con	X					TIERNEY S	Con	X			
GOODLIFFE B	Lab		X				VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem		X		
GOUGH N	Lib Dem		X				WHELAN A	Lib Dem		X		
GOWING J	Con	X					WILSON G	Lib Dem		X		
HATHORN R	Lib Dem		X				WOOD A	Lib Dem		X		
HAY A	Con	X					Total	30	4	19	0	7
Total	31	11	15	0	5		Complete Total	61	15	34	0	12

Vote – Agenda Item 7

COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote		COUNCILLOR	Party	For	Against	Abstain	Absent / No Vote
AMBROSE-SMITH D	Con		X				HOWELL M	Con				X
ATKINS M	Lib Dem				X		HOWITT R	Lab	X			
BATCHELOR H	Lib Dem	X					HOY S	Con		X		
BECKETT A	Lib Dem	X					HUNT B	Con		X		
BILLINGTON K	Con				X		KINDERSLEY S	Lib Dem	X			
BIRD G	Lab				X		KING JONAS	Ind				X
BLACK M	Lab	X					KING MARIA	Lib Dem	X			
BODEN C	Con		X				KING SIMON	Con				X
BRADNAM A	Lib Dem	X					MCDONALD P	Lib Dem				X
BULAT A	Lab	X					MESCHINI E	Lab	X			
BYWATER S	Con		X				MILNES B	Lib Dem				X
CONNOR D	Con				X		MURPHY E	Lib Dem	X			
CORNEY S	Con				X		NETHSINGHA L	Lib Dem	X			
COSTELLO A	Con				X		PRENTICE K	Lab				X
COUNT S	Con		X				RAE C	Lab	X			
COUTTS P	Lib Dem	X					REYNOLDS K	Con				X
CRISWELL S J	Con		X				SANDERSON T	Ind	X			
DAUNTON C	Lib Dem	X					SCHUMANN J	Ind				X
DEW D	Lib Dem	X					SEEFF G	Lib Dem	X			
DUPRE L	Lib Dem	X					SHAILER N	Lab	X			
FERGUSON S	Ind	X					SHARP A	Con		X		
FRENCH J	Con		X				SLATTER P	Lib Dem	X			
FULLER R	Ind				X		SMITH M	Con				X
GARDENER I	Con		X				TAYLOR S	Ind	X			
GAY N	Lab				X		THOMPSON F	Lib Dem	X			
GOLDSACK M	Con		X				TIERNEY S	Con		X		
GOODLIFFE B	Lab	X					VAN DE VEN S	Lib Dem	X			
GOUGH N	Lib Dem	X					WHELAN A	Lib Dem	X			
GOWING J	Con				X		WILSON G	Lib Dem	X			
HATHORN R	Lib Dem	X					WOOD A	Lib Dem	X			
HAY A	Con		X				Total	30	17	4	0	9
Total	31	13	9	0	9		Complete Total	61	30	13	0	18

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Council Procedure Rule 9.1)

Questions to the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Board, Councillor Nethsingha, and the Council's Appointees on the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Bradnam and Councillor Goldsack.

Question from Councillor Bulat to the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Board, Councillor Nethsingha:

I would like to ask a question on the Combined Authority. So, I welcome the Mayor's decision last week to progress with franchising following the recommendations from the Transport Committee as well as the CPCA Board following that. But I'm concerned that the last seven routes that were supposed to be subsidised by the mayoral precept under the plan for bus improvements are delayed, and this included a range of routes including the express Cambridge to Huntingdon, the Soham to Cambridge for example, and a number of important routes for our county. While I welcome the Mayor freezing the precept, in a way recognising those delays, I am concerned that we do have a system at the moment whereby operators could pull out last minute, therefore making communities lose out in the process. I heard very mixed messages on this situation. So, my question is, does the Leader think the situation would be avoided or be any different within the franchise system and when do we expect those last seven routes to be operational, if we have a timeline on that? Thank you.

Response from the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Board, Councillor Nethsingha:

Thank you very much for the question. So, I think there has been considerable frustration, not to say rage, about the way in which Stagecoach have behaved over the bidding for those routes and then expecting that they would be able to bid at one level and get a much higher value for the contract when it actually happened and that is an outrageous way for them to have behaved. It is also deeply frustrating. In terms of when those routes are likely to be on the roads, I think May is probably the nearest that it's going to be. The franchising process will take much longer than that, but it will in the end mean that we are not left at the mercy of commercial providers behaving in a deeply unpractical and possibly unethical manner, in the way that happened. So, it will improve that in the longer term, it will not make a short-term improvement to the speed with which those routes are able to come forward, and I know just how many people are very, very much looking forward to having those buses on the roads. Thank you.

Supplementary question from Councillor Bulat:

Just to say thank you, I think it's very important we have this on the public record, especially seeing some of the misinformation circulated as we approach election time. Thank you.

Response from the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Board, Councillor Nethsingha:

I just want to echo the point that Councillor Bulat has said about the fact that there is a great deal of misinformation out there on this topic, but also on a number of others, and the more people can try and make sure they get their information from reliable sources, the better that will be. Thank you.

Question from Councillor Thompson to the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Board, Councillor Nethsingha:

Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to inquire about currently on the busway as you know, we have a crisis. We don't have buses; the buses are really full. One of the biggest complaints that I get is that Stagecoach does not open its middle doors, which is really interesting because that would help with the flow through, and the on-boarding and the Tiger passes and everything else. It's something I keep on raising, but I get nowhere with. I'm hoping you know, situations like this could improve with the bus franchising, but I'm hoping in the meanwhile if that is something that CPCA could pick up, you know, little things do matter for residents. It might be a health and safety issue, but I'm not quite sure. The problems that they have raised in the past that they can't open all the doors at all the bus stops because there isn't enough pavement, but on the busway, this is not the case. Thank you.

[Chair: Councillor Thompson, this is not strictly speaking a matter for the Combined Authority, but I am sure Councillor Nethsingha will have some positive comments to make.] Thank you.

Response from the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Board, Councillor Nethsingha:

Thank you. I think that it probably would be possible to make it so that when the contracts for franchising are put forward, they require particular mechanisms and ways of working. I really hope that when we come to working with bus operators over franchising, it will not be necessary to write every little detail into those contracts, because we will be able to have a collaborative relationship with the bus providers and bus companies in our area to try and build a really successful integrated transport system. I think that's what everybody in the area would like and is working towards. We don't seem to have that relationship at the moment and that's frustrating, but I think it's worth working towards. I think the County Council itself has a role to play in that, as the owner of some of those strategic assets, and I think we need to work closely with the Combined Authority now that that franchising decision has been made, to make sure that we are using our assets as effectively as possible in a way that enables the Combined Authority and the County to work together to support that kind of integrated transport which will be of great benefit to our residents.

Question from Councillor Count to the Council's Appointees on the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Bradnam and Councillor Goldsack:

So, my question is, just a moment ago we heard Councillor Nethsingha being asked about the problems with the procurement of the bus services and the missing ones, and my area is affected by it by one of those and the blame was laid fairly, squarely, on the shoulders of Stagecoach. So, I'd like to ask Mark, Councillor Mark Goldsack, as a Member of the O&S Committee, does the O&S Committee share the view of Councillor Nethsingha, that Stagecoach is the only person to blame or is there anything going on to actually get to the bottom of what has gone wrong? Thank you.

Response from the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Goldsack:

Thank you. Yeah, in relation to the question asked by Doctor Bulat of the Leader, I nearly came in then, but thanks for Steve for asking the question. On behalf of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, we have voted for a full review of bus procurement methods because, whilst I am in agreement with Councillor Nethsingha of the situation of Stagecoach's behaviour, there is firm belief at the O&S Committee that that's not the only issue here. I can share one example with you, it is alleged by another bus company, a smaller bus company, that they weren't allowed to bid for this because the service had to be provided using brand spanking new buses, which actually precludes

the bidding of many of the existing bus companies because they haven't got the cash to go and buy brand spanking new bus companies for small one off services. So, we have got a full enquiry from the O&S, details of which will come out at the next meeting to have a look at the whole aspect of bus procurement, which is I must say has been welcomed by the CPCA officers in terms of what it may uncover and find. And I'm hoping we uncover and find some improvements for the next round for the franchising exercise.

Response from the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Bradnam:

Thank you, Chair. Thank you Councillor Goldsack for giving a very good summary of what was said at the last meeting and just to be clear that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a very clear remit to improve the quality of papers going forward to the Board and I think we've been doing that. It is also notable that the best value notice that had been applied to the Combined Authority has now been lifted and that's partly due to the hard work that's gone into a much stronger monitoring and oversight capacity at the Combined Authority. And yes, absolutely, we're looking at all of the aspects of improving bus service delivery.

Supplementary question from Councillor Count:

Thank you very much both for your responses. Just, you know, one of the things you may want to check out is the other rumour circulating that an insistence on double decker buses when one of the road routes goes under a single decker bridge. I mean, you know, who could make these things up, but that's what I'm being told. But I'd also like to add from my particular area, Christchurch is lacking a service because of this. But when Christchurch found out, they weren't, nobody discussed anything with them. A whole parish council was left out of discussions of you're going to get a service and I know it's the same I believe in Isleham who Councillor Goldsack represents. We discovered that actually their desire was a bus to Upwell, which is in a neighbouring county, but when they asked the Combined Authority to actually speak to them after this franchise had failed to materialise for a bus service, that wasn't their priority but a priority. They were told no, it doesn't work outside. And I'd ask that if you're going to improve the procurement to look at that as well, talk to your parishes, talk to your residents before deciding what's good for them. And then if it does fall outside the county, see how to make it happen, not dismiss it because it's an inconvenient truth. Thank you.

Response from the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Goldsack:

I'm afraid I'll come back very quickly and that is to say that part of the remit is cross-border, cross county border bus supply because it affects every border of Cambridgeshire, so that's Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire, Suffolk, Norfolk, et cetera, et cetera. Lincolnshire. So we are, that is part of the remit of the investigation that there will be an undertaken.

Response from the Council's Appointee on the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Bradnam:

Councillor Goldsack has covered it very thoroughly, but certainly cross-border transport links are being considered because it is recognised we do not live in isolation and necessarily public transport needs to go between our counties. Thank you.