

County Councillor Report for Parishes, September 2020 2020 - Cllr Anna Bradnam

Health

The last update from Liz Robin, Director of Public Health for Cambridgeshire dated from before the demise of Public Health England. It is expected there will be a period of consultation before the terms and conditions for the new Health Protection Board are known. Whilst the new Board will be protection-oriented, it won't have the focus on improvement that the PHE has.

If anyone is concerned that Test and Trace protocols are routinely not being observed in pubs or restaurants, let me know and I'll convey to Liz Robin for Environmental Health to investigate.

We have asked for clarification on what practices GPs are being required to follow in face to face patient consultations. Through the Covid shut-down children's immunisations have fallen behind. We hope to receive an update in September. The County's contract for Counselling services ends in June 2021 and must be recommissioned. It is likely that County will join with Peterborough and make the Clinical Commissioning Group the lead commissioner. In October my colleagues hope for reports on NHS dental services, which have been reduced to emergency services only at many practices.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

The CPCA has appointed Simon Wright OBE to deliver the Mayor's Cambridge Autonomous Metro project. He is a civil engineer, with experience of delivering multi-million pound infrastructure projects such as Crossrail between 2014 and 2018. He is currently involved in the restoration of the Houses of Parliament. His role in CPCA is to challenge and improve how CAM is delivered. Let's hope he delivers a functional CAM in due course. The CAM Special Purpose Vehicle is a separate, wholly owned delivery company, being set up to deliver the CAM. A Chair and Board will be appointed at the CPCA Board meeting on 30 September.

Transport – A10

The CPCA Board meeting on 5 August considered the Strategic Outline Business Case Report which presented the 7 options (A-G) for the A10 upgrade which had been the subject of early public consultation. It was resolved to: a) Approve the Strategic Outline Business Case and agree in principle to proceed to Outline Business Case, subject to the outcome of funding discussions with the Department for Transport; b) Note the views of residents and businesses in response to the Virtual Public Exhibition.

That report considered **five cases** (for the project). **Strategically**, intervention is needed to support growth and reduce congestion. **Economically**, they assessed the options to establish the benefit cost ratio (BCR). Almost all of the 7 options had BCR over 2 which would qualify for investment; dualling options A-F have BCRs over 4 "very high value". Only Option G (junctions only) offered "medium" value (BCR 1.9). **Financially**, it concluded that the majority of the money should be sought from central government. **Commercially** they are considering ways of procuring delivery of the project and the **Management** case anticipates a scheme open to the public by 2028 and options for procurement and project management will be developed further in the OBC stage. The feedback received through the early public consultation will be taken into account. **Next steps** – Each of the five cases (**strategic, economic, financial, commercial and management**) will be developed for the OBC, taking into account public feedback and undertaking more detailed traffic modelling of the current seven options to enable a shorter list of options to be taken forward to formal public consultation before the selection of a preferred option.

The government has said it will support the next stage of work on the A10 junctions but no figure has been put on that yet. A decision on the Combined Authority's Local Large Majors (LLM) bid for dualling is said to me "imminent". Officers expect that the Combined Authority would make a local contribution or up to £2 million to preparing the OBC. There will be a formal public engagement during the OBC stage.

The Combined Authority is working closely with the Greenways project and the CAM. I am relieved that following the public consultation, even though the interchange with the A14 was not within the scope of the SOBC, the CPCA has set up a working group "to include Highways England, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Greater Cambridge Partnership to take forward work on the interface between the A10 business

case and the Milton interchange of the A14. They have identified this “as an important interdependency in the SOBC work and the Combined Authority will give it close attention in collaboration with partners as the work progresses.” The next meeting of the Combined Authority Board is on 30 September.

Transport - Buses

We note that one of the unexpected outcomes of the changes to Stagecoach Busway services is that from Sunday the direct link between Cambridge and Alconbury has been cut and anyone wishing to go to Alconbury will need to change at St Ives. It is also harder to get to Addenbrookes Hospital. When it is complete, this will be the location for Council meetings, which residents are entitled to attend.

Police

Acting Police and Crime Commissioner Ray Bisby is offering a virtual briefing session for parish, town and city councillors in the South Cambs area on **Wednesday 2 September 18:30-20:00**.

Please email cambs-pcc@cambs.pnn.police.uk if you are a representative of a parish or city council who would like to join the meeting and a Microsoft Teams meeting invitation will be sent to you.

Schools and Education

The government issued guidelines about returning to early years’ providers, schools and colleges on 21 August. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term>

Early years – Parents are encouraged to take up places their children are entitled to. You can check if your child is eligible for any of the free childcare entitlements on the [Childcare Choices](#) website. These are worth on average £2,500 a year to parents of 2 year olds and up to £5,000 a year to parents of 3 and 4 year olds.

Schools and colleges - There is very strong encouragement for young people to return to schools and colleges, with reference to enforcement orders and fines for those who don’t. Of course schools and child carers have been working hard to put in place measures to keep employees and children safe. Currently no face coverings are needed in school but this is being kept under review. It is recognised that some children may be unable to attend in line with public health advice because they are self-isolating, have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves or are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19). If your child is unable to attend school or college for these reasons, ask your school or college what support they can provide for remote education. Shielding advice for all adults and children was paused from 1 August. This means that children and young people can return to school or college if they are on the shielded patient list or have family members who are shielding.

Energy saving offer

The County Council has joined forces with District Councils and Solar Together to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions. Home owners in Cambridgeshire will soon have an opportunity to club together to buy and install solar panels at a reduced price. From 1 September households and small and medium sized premises can register for free and without obligation for the group-buying scheme by visiting www.solartogether.co.uk/cambridgeshire When you register online for a complete solar PV system, applicants will be asked questions about their house, roof, and electricity usage. The County Council will then arrange an auction with pre-vetted installers on 6 October. The auction is a reverse auction, meaning the lowest bid wins. The winning bid sets the price for all solar systems and battery systems. All installers are pre-vetted and must comply with certain criteria to guarantee the quality of the offer.

After the auction applications will receive a personal recommendation based on their registration details. They then have six weeks to decide if they want to take up the recommendation and proceed with an installation.

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