

**COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT TO THE WISBECH ACCESS STRATEGY
STEERING GROUP**

To: **Economy and Environment Committee**

Meeting Date: **13 October 2016**

From: **Graham Hughes Executive Director Economy, Transport
and Environment**

Electoral division(s): **Roman Bank and Peckover, Wisbech North, Wisbech South and
Waldersey**

Forward Plan ref: **n/a** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To consider the establishment of a Wisbech Access
Strategy Steering Group and to appoint two
Cambridgeshire County Councillors to the Steering Group**

Recommendation: **It is recommended that the Economy and Environment
Committee:**

**i) approve the establishment of a Wisbech Access
Strategy Steering Group and**

**ii) appoint two County Councillors to the Wisbech
Access Strategy Steering Group.**

<i>Officer contact:</i>	
Name:	Jack Eagle
Post:	Lead Transport and Infrastructure Officer
Email:	Jack.Eagle@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 703269

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Through Growth Deal Funding £1 million has been allocated to the Wisbech Access Strategy. The announcement from Government stated:

“£1m has been allocated to Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP to support the development of a package of measures to support growth and regeneration, improve accessibility and address congestion in and around the town of Wisbech. Government will provide up to a further £10.5m for scheme delivery for the Wisbech Access Strategy, on condition that the development work results in an acceptable and deliverable package of transport measures.”

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398855/13_Greater_Cambridge_Greater_Peterborough_Growth_Deal.pdf

- 1.2 Work on the Wisbech Access Strategy has already started and to date has been of a technical nature. The Strategy has now reached a stage where Councillors need to be involved as decisions need to be taken regarding schemes going forward views need to be sought regarding public engagement and consultation.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The Wisbech Access Strategy is made up of several elements and to date has consisted of the following technical work:

- Investigations into Wisbech Rail reconnection (GRIP 2 Study and Outline Business Case Complete)
http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking/68/transport_funding_bids_and_studies/3
- A47 Thorney to Wisbech Walton Highway- Initial Options Assessment (Study Complete)
http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking/68/transport_funding_bids_and_studies/2
- Wisbech Transportation Model update (ongoing)
- Wisbech Access Study- town (ongoing)

- 2.2 The Growth Deal allocated £1m for study work followed by a further £10.5m for scheme delivery of the Wisbech Access Strategy- on the condition that works results in an acceptable and deliverable package of measures. The proposed steering group would guide the development of the Wisbech Access Strategy and the schemes that would access the £10.5m

- 2.3 The scope of the Wisbech Access Study was agreed at the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Shadow Local Transport Body Board Meeting on 15 December 2014
<http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Committee.aspx?committeeID=69>.

- 2.4 The Wisbech Access Study is focused on the following areas in Wisbech:
- Cromwell Road and Elm High Road
 - Freedom Bridge Roundabout
 - Wisbech Bus Station

- New River Crossing – to west of the Town Centre
- New Western Link Road- to west of the Town Centre
- Wisbech Southern Access Road
- New A47 Junctions to access the Wisbech East and Wisbech South Development

- 2.5 The work in the above areas to date has been of a technical nature and no decisions other than technical ones have been taken. The project is reaching a stage where Councillor involvement is required. It is proposed that this is done through the creation of the Wisbech Access Strategy Steering group, an advisory group made up of two Councillors for each of the following organisations - Cambridgeshire County Council, Fenland District Council and Wisbech Town Council.
- 2.6 The details and terms of reference for the group will be agreed at the first meeting of the Steering Group. It is envisaged that the Steering Group will make recommendations to the County Council's Economy and Environment Committee and Fenland District Council's Cabinet, which would in turn make recommendations to the LEP Transport Body or Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP Board, the ultimate decision making body regarding Growth Deal Funding.
- 2.7 The proposed Steering Group will be aware of the aims of Wisbech 2020 Vision and can provide updates on progress of the Wisbech Access Strategy to the Wisbech 2020 group. The Wisbech Access Strategy will also help to deliver aspects of the Wisbech 2020 vision.
- 2.8 Members will be aware of the emerging Wisbech Garden Town proposal which is a long term plan for substantial growth and infrastructure in Wisbech. The Growth Deal funding for the Wisbech Access Strategy is to support the more immediate delivery of the growth allocated for Wisbech within the current Fenland District Council Local Plan but could also support the Garden Town proposal too. There will need to be co-ordination between the current and emerging plans to ensure that the opportunity of the growth deal funding is used to maximum effect.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- The primary focus of the Wisbech Access Strategy is to bring forward growth in the town. This is both housing and employment growth which would be to the benefit of all.
- Another aim of the Wisbech Access Strategy is to reduce congestion in the town which will have economic benefits

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- The Wisbech Access Strategy will improve access in Wisbech which will assist with providing better links to employment, health and education.
- The Wisbech Access Strategy will ensure that consideration is given to sustainable forms of transport which have health benefits.

- The Wisbech Access Study is investigating improvements to the bus station in Wisbech which will help people live independent lives by improving access to bus services.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The significant financial implications are contained within the main body of the report.

There are no other significant implications although Public Health have highlighted that through the work of the proposed Steering Group there will be public health implications and they will need to be consulted.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Sarah Heywood, "The significant financial implications are contained within the main body of the report."
Has the impact on Statutory, Legal and Risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	Yes – no significant implications Name of Officer: Fiona McMillan
Are there any Equality and Diversity implications?	Yes- no significant implications Name of Officer: Tamar Oviatt-Ham
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	Yes – no significant implications Name of Officer: Mark Miller
Are there any Localism and Local Member involvement issues?	Yes –no significant implications Name of Officer: Tamar Oviatt-Ham
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	Yes –no significant implications Name of Officer: Tess Campbell

Source Documents	Location
Cambridgeshire Long Term Transport Strategy	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_road_s_and_parking/66/transport_plans_and_policies/5
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_road_s_and_parking/66/transport_

	plans and policies
Wisbech Market Town Transport Strategy	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking/66/transport_plans_and_policies/3
Wisbech Rail reconnection- GRIP 2 Study and Outline Business Case	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking/68/transport_funding_bids_and_studies/3
A47 Thorney to Wisbech Walton Highway- Initial Options Assessment	http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/info/20006/travel_roads_and_parking/68/transport_funding_bids_and_studies/2
Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Growth Deal	https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398855/13_Greater_Cambridge_Greater_Peterborough_Growth_Deal.pdf
Fenland District Council Local Plan adopted 2014	http://www.fenland.gov.uk/core-strategy