

Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board

Thursday 18th March 2021
4:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Set out below is a summary of the decisions taken at the meeting. The wording used does not necessarily reflect the actual wording that will appear in the formal minutes of the meeting.

1. Executive Board Membership

The Executive Board noted the appointment of:

- (i) Councillor Nicky Massey as Cambridge City Council's representative to the Executive Board;
- (ii) Councillor Lewis Herbert as Cambridge City Council's substitute representative to the Executive Board; and
- (iii) Councillor Ian Bates as Cambridgeshire County Council's representative to the Executive Board.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Phil Allmendinger.

3. Declarations of Interest

Andy Neely declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in relation to the Quarterly Progress Report (agenda item 8) due to his involvement with Cambridge&.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the previous Executive Board meeting, held on 10th December 2020, were agreed as a correct record, subject to the addition of Councillor Tim Bick (Chairperson of the GCP Joint Assembly) and Mayor James Palmer to the list of those present at the meeting, and the Vice-Chairperson agreed to sign a copy when possible.

5. Public Questions

Six public questions had been accepted by the Vice-Chairperson who had agreed that the questions would be received at the start of the relevant agenda item.

6. Feedback from the Joint Assembly

The Executive Board received a report from the Chairperson of the GCP Joint Assembly, Councillor Tim Bick, which summarised the discussions from the Joint Assembly meeting held on 24th February 2021.

7. Public Transport Improvements and City Access Strategy

The Executive Board resolved to:

- (a) Agree to support a significant uplift in use of sustainable transport as part of a green recovery, through:
 - Continuing to deliver projects in the next three months which enhance sustainable transport options, including maintaining the existing experimental active travel schemes and delivering a second phase of schemes, finalising a freight pilot, expanding the electric bus pilot, increasing cycle parking, co-funding an e-cargo bike pilot and rolling out new playstreets;
 - Committing to a further £20m prioritised package of cycling improvements, addressing missing links in the cycle network, as part of the GCP's wider cycle network programme;
 - Delivering enhancements to existing Park&Ride and future travel hubs, including:
 - providing £1.3m of funding for the expansion of the Babraham site;
 - expanding secure cycle parking, responding to additional demand in the next 3-6 months;
 - agreeing and adopting the travel hub design principles at Appendix 2 to guide the development of future sites, ensuring these are flexible, modern, multi-modal interchanges;
 - Providing EV charging facilities at all park & ride/interchange sites;
 - Incentivising use of public transport, when it transitions from central government support, by delivering a package based on the outlined 'future bus concept' including lengthening operating hours and increasing bus frequencies, and progressed in discussion with CPCA and operators.
- (b) Agree to prioritise road space for sustainable transport and make it a more competitive choice, by discouraging car use through:
 - Delivering the smart traffic signals pilot using the latest technology, including artificial intelligence, to ease congestion and reduce vehicle idling, starting this month;

- Developing, with the County Council, a revised network hierarchy for Cambridge that prioritises sustainable modes of transport by the autumn;
 - Continuing to support the development of the Cambridge city centre Supplementary Planning Document to enhance the public realm and reallocate roadspace to sustainable modes;
 - Implementing a programme of road-space reallocation to deliver a revised hierarchy, building on schemes delivered through the active travel fund;
 - Developing and implementing an integrated parking strategy by the autumn, with the City and County Councils, to more effectively manage the use of on and off street parking to reduce congestion on the network;
 - Funding the delivery of civil parking enforcement in South Cambridgeshire to tackle local parking problems.
- (c) Agree to work with bus operators, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, the County Council and City Council to reduce emissions by moving to zero emission services within the central area of Cambridge by 2025 and switch to Euro VI standards in the short term, including an appraisal of options which limit access to public transport vehicles, coaches, HGVs and taxis not meeting emissions criteria.

8. Quarterly Progress Report

The Executive Board resolved to:

- (a) Note progress across the GCP programme;
- (b) Approve the preferred bidder for the GCP's new skills service, as outlined in section 9 of the report; and
- (c) Approve the multi-year budget strategy outlined in section 17 of the report, including the detailed GCP budgets for 2021/22, noting that the budget strategy will continue to be updated annually.

9. Electricity Grid Reinforcement: Update and Next Steps

The Executive Board resolved to:

- (a) Note and comment on progress made in developing the proposals for electricity grid reinforcement;
- (b) Note the problematic operation of the electricity market, and lobby for change whilst continuing to work on the project due to the likely timescales for any change in the operating environment;
- (c) Support an application to UK Power Networks as the local electricity Distribution Network Operator, as outlined in Section 6 of the report;

- (d) Support initial market testing to explore the interest in and capabilities of market operators as outlined in paragraph 6.3 of the report; and
- (e) Approve additional funding of £200k to support this work.

10. Chisholm Trail Project: Implication for Future GCP Project Management Arrangements

The Executive Board resolved to:

Note the proposed changes to future GCP project management arrangements.

11. Date of Future Meetings

The Executive Board noted that the next meeting was due be held on Thursday 1st July 2021, start time to be confirmed.