

County Council – 16th May 2023

Public Question Time

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question:
1.	Daniel Fulton Director Fews Lane Consortium Limited	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha Leader of the Council	<p>Police and Crime Panels provide the important function of holding Police and Crime Commissioners to account for misconduct. They are tasked by Parliament with recording allegations of wrongdoing against Police and Crime Commissioners and referring serious matters for investigation by the Independent Office for Police Conduct.</p> <p>When a Police and Crime Panel, or an officer acting with its authority, fails to perform those functions, the system of accountability set forth in law by Parliament ceases to function.</p> <p>Police and Crime Panels delegate many of their most important decisions to an officer of a local authority situated within the police force area, known as the host authority.</p> <p>At present, the host authority for the Panel for the Cambridgeshire Police Area is Peterborough City Council. A week before this year's local election, an officer of Peterborough City Council refused to record a complaint about wrongdoing by the Police and Crime Commissioner. This decision was completely contrary to law.</p> <p>Since 2021, Cambridgeshire County Council, which represents over three-quarters of the population of the Cambridgeshire Police Area, has demonstrated its commitment to high standards of accountability, professionalism, and propriety. In doing so, this council has upheld the principles of our democratic tradition and has helped to restore public confidence in the integrity of local government.</p> <p>Confidence in policing demands that the host authority for the Police and Crime Panel discharge its responsibilities in accordance with the principles of public service and the rule of law.</p>

			If a request were to be made by the Panel for the county council to become its host authority, would the Leader support the consideration of such a request by the council?
	Response from:	Response to:	Response:
	Councillor Lucy Nethsingha Leader of the Council	Daniel Fulton Director Fews Lane Consortium Limited	To be provided at the meeting.
No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question:
2.	Peter Johnson	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	Potholes, we see so many with yellow paint indicators, but they remain unattended for many weeks during which time there are many people having damaged wheels, tyres, suspension, and how many cyclists and motor cyclists are thrown from their machines we will never know. It is an absolute disgrace when we report these things on the Council website time and time again, yet nothing gets done. How long should it take from being reported to being repaired and how can this process be speeded up?
	Response from:	Response to:	Response:
	Councillor Alex Beckett, Chair of Highways and Transport Committee	Peter Johnson	To be provided at the meeting.

No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question:
3.	Dr Marilyn Treacy	Councillor Elisa Meschini, Deputy Leader of the Council, the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership	<p>At 1hr41 minutes into the County Council meeting on March 21st you stated "You have been lied to today. 'This particular on-road option has never been professionally appraised.' Nonsense-it has"</p> <p>Review of the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) document library on Cambourne to Cambridge (C2C) reveals that the GCP appraised a tidal scheme with gantries and an inbound scheme, with some additional outbound sections, which included a 3m wide cycle lane duplicating the nearby Comberton greenway. We believe that these schemes were set up to fail. There is no record of the proposed Cambridge Past, Present and Future (CPPF) scheme having been appraised. Could you please direct us to the documentation for the appraisal of this particular on-road scheme on the GCP website?</p>
	Response from:	Response to:	Response:
	Councillor Elisa Meschini, Deputy Leader of the Council, the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership	Dr Marilyn Treacy	To be provided at the meeting.
No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question:
4.	Mr Allan Treacy	Councillor Elisa Meschini, Deputy Leader of the Council, the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership	<p>Given Cambridge's position as a world class academic institution, and in the knowledge that a University representative sits on the GCP board, would it not be appropriate for alarming statements made by GCP officials and Councillors in support of the C2C off-road busway to be subject to at least some scrutiny?</p> <p>For example, you heard at the last Council meeting that "Students in Cambourne are currently barred from access to post 16 education opportunities unless they have a car of their own or a lift or money for taxis.....they are currently spending three hours stuck in</p>

			<p>traffic on the A428 on public transport.” You also heard that the A428 is “One of the most congested and polluted routes in Cambridge..” and “The Local Plan needed a high quality segregated transport link.”</p> <p>These incorrect or questionable statements (and many others) were made without a shred of evidence in support yet undoubtedly influenced Councillors in the way they voted. Can I ask the Chair of the GCP for evidence supporting wild claims like these and that if none is forthcoming that Councillors are instructed to ignore the claims?</p>
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	Councillor Elisa Meschini, Deputy Leader of the Council, the Council’s representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership	Mr Allan Treacy	To be provided at the meeting.
No.	Question from:	Question to:	Question:
5.	<p>David Cairns, Transport Lead for Coton Parish Council</p> <p>[Mr Mark Abbott Chair of Coton Parish Council to present]</p>	Councillor Elisa Meschini, Deputy Leader of the Council, the Council’s representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership	<p>This question relates to item 16b. Elsewhere in this meeting Councillors will consider a motion from Councillor Sharp about repairing the roads in the county, which are in terrible state, some of the worst in the country. Councillors will have seen the many millions of pounds of additional funding needed – an increase of almost 50% on the current maintenance budget. The C2C busway will of course create new infrastructure in the county, which will also need to be maintained by the County Council. Creating a bus lane on an existing road instead of building a whole new road will, by definition, reduce the amount of maintenance needed over the longer term. Do Councillors agree it would be sensible to consider, in parallel with the TWAO process, whether an on road solution is possible, and thus reduce that long term maintenance obligation?</p>

	Response from:	Response to:	Response
	Councillor Elisa Meschini, Deputy Leader of the Council, the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership	David Cairns, Transport Lead for Coton Parish Council [Mr Mark Abbott Chair of Coton Parish Council to present]	To be provided at the meeting.

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6.	Anna Gazeley Director of Coton Orchard	Councillor Elisa Meschini, Deputy Leader of the Council, the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership	<p>On 21/03/23 Cllr Lucy Nethsingha cited the UN IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) report calling for “urgent climate action”, a reduction of greenhouse gas emission and “decarbonisation”, as justification for felling hundreds of trees at Coton Orchard.</p> <p>Studying the Cambourne to Cambridge (C2C) Environmental Statement I noted that the infrastructure (or embodied carbon) is predicted to be around 49,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) from construction of the GCP preferred route alignment, one that necessities building a new motorway bridge over the M11, while the impact from vegetation loss required for construction, as well as release of carbon sequestered within the soil is “still to be confirmed” (p130 an estimated 211,000 tonnes of soil and earth will be excavated). Modal shift to active travel and public transport is modelled as saving around 34,205 tCO₂e over the Scheme's 60-year lifetime. Meaning <i>less</i> atmospheric carbon <i>added</i> not taken away.</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>tCO₂e</td></tr><tr><td>10.3.4. Infrastructure</td><td>+49,000</td></tr><tr><td>10.3.5. 1,500 trees</td><td>-777</td></tr><tr><td>10.3.7 modal shift</td><td>-3,250</td></tr><tr><td>10.3.8. carbon savings possible</td><td>-30,955</td></tr><tr><td></td><td><hr/>+14,018<hr/></td></tr></table> <p>My question is: How does the proposed scheme represent “decarbonisation”, and taking steps towards carbon net zero targets in Cambridgeshire, given that it shows a net effect of adding over 14,000 tCO₂e even without inclusion of the figures for loss of vegetation and release of carbon sequestered in soil?</p>		tCO ₂ e	10.3.4. Infrastructure	+49,000	10.3.5. 1,500 trees	-777	10.3.7 modal shift	-3,250	10.3.8. carbon savings possible	-30,955		<hr/> +14,018 <hr/>
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	Councillor Elisa Meschini, Deputy Leader of the Council, the Council's representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership	Anna Gazeley Director of Coton Orchard	To be provided at the meeting.