

## **GREATER CAMBRIDGE PARTNERSHIP – MAKING CONNECTIONS CONSULTATION**

### **4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

- 4.2 The Panel discussed the Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership “Making Connections” Consultation at its meeting on 7th December 2022.
- 4.3 Councillor Gray complemented the Officer on the proposed response which was felt to strike to the heart of the issues and concerns shared by all. Following a question from Councillor Gray regarding the development of further park and ride sites within the district, the Panel heard that the Executive Councillor agreed with the sentiment that there is a need to remain realistic about what may be achievable within the district and within the reach of the Greater Cambridge Partnership. The Panel were assured that the enquiry regarding development and infrastructure of park and ride sites was noted and the response would be adjusted to strengthen this suggestion.
- 4.4 Councillor Martin expressed concerns over the proposed charging within the area of the Addenbrookes hospital site, particularly that those using this route are potentially at a loss of income from illness or caring for a relative, additionally it was observed that those accessing this site for long term treatment may be unable to use public transport alternatives due to vulnerable health. This sentiment was echoed by Councillors Cawley and Gardener who added that they had jointly spoken to over 25 Parish Councils who also shared these concerns. The Panel heard that whilst sympathetic to these concerns, the Executive Councillor was not clear on an alternative option for this site due to the continued growth of the area and the impact this would have on its infrastructure.
- 4.5 Following an observation from Councillor Corney that more could be made of connecting rural areas, and request to expand the response to have more emphasis on including routes from both the north and west of the district to Huntingdon. the Panel heard that the response was aiming to be realistic in its expectations of what would be achievable.
- 4.6 Councillor Gardener suggested that improvements to local bus routes with regular and reliable services from rural areas into the towns would assist in connecting residents to Cambridge without the need for additional park and ride infrastructure. The Panel heard that the public transport responsibility lies with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, as they are the Transport Authority and following a number of transport related consultations recently it remains important that we continue to share feedback and concerns from the Council. It was observed that communication between the GCP and CPCA on this matter would be helpful.
- 4.7 Following the discussion, the Panel observed that they were generally in support of the response but would like to see stronger wording regarding

waiving charges for those accessing the Addenbrookes sites and the development of park and ride sites within the district.