

FAO: The Members of the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board  
Cllr Neil Gough  
Cllr Lewis Herbert  
Cllr Elisa Meschini  
Claire Ruskin  
Professor Phil Allmendinger

**By email only**

25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear GCP Executive Board Members,

**Concerns about Cambridge South East Transport Project (CSET)**

We are writing to you as elected representatives, Parish Councillors and leaders of local transport and environmental groups ahead of your Executive Board Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

Last Thursday, we met to share our thoughts and concerns about the Greater Cambridge Partnership's CSET busway and carpark project. During our meeting, it became clear that there is a very broad consensus on three fundamental points:

- The southeast Cambridge corridor needs fast and reliable public transport links, but **the CSET Busway proposal is not the solution**. We have various objections to the scheme including its unacceptable impact on the Gog Magog Hills and Granta Valley, its poor value for taxpayers' money and its failure to meet the transport needs of local people. We are all agreed that the current proposal should not proceed.
- We must plan and invest in the delivery of **an integrated transport network for our whole region**. CSET, as a stand-alone project, does not meet this objective.
- **Public trust and confidence in the GCP are seriously low**. We believe the GCP is failing to listen to the voices of local people and failing to use the knowledge and expertise of residents, their representatives and specialist groups.

In response to these concerns, we urge the GCP Executive Board to **defer making a decision on progressing the CSET scheme** to a Transport and Works Act Order application. Instead, we ask the GCP Executive Board to demonstrate strong leadership by instructing officers to:

1. Publish the complete Environmental Impact Assessment on the preferred route and viable alternatives before the September meeting of the GCP Joint Assembly.
2. Engage urgently with the CSET Local Liaison Forum, the Combined Authority and other relevant stakeholders to review what further measures could be included in Phase 1 (i.e. 'quick wins'). Specifically, we urge the GCP to work with these organisations to design and consult on in-highway bus priority measures along the A1307 where these could be less environmentally damaging and a cheaper and more deliverable solution in the short-term.

3. Work with the Combined Authority to commission improved bus services along the A1307 and A1301 corridors.
4. Provide a full and detailed response to the i-Transport report on the Shelford Railway Alignment and an updated appraisal of this option that quantifies the heritage and landscape impacts vs the GCP's preferred route.
5. Update and publish the business case for CSET, taking into account the reduction in parking spaces at the proposed car park in Babraham and any post-Covid changes to commuting patterns.
6. Work with the Combined Authority to develop a long-term integrated transport strategy for the region, including access and connections within Cambridge city, that optimises the use of existing transport corridors and examines the option of reopening a rail link between Haverhill and Cambridge and integration with East West Rail.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Browne, Member of Parliament for South Cambridgeshire  
Cllr Sam Davies, City Councillor for Queen Edith's  
Cllr Peter Fane, District Councillor for Shelfords and Stapleford  
Cllr Sheila Bolden, Chair, Little Abington Parish Council  
Cllr Kevin Cuffley, Chair, Sawston Parish Council  
Cllr Howard Kettel, Chair, Stapleford Parish Council  
Cllr Stuart Laurie, Chair, Babraham Parish Council  
Cllr Malcolm Watson, Chair, Great Shelford Parish Council  
Colin Harris, Chair, Cambridge Connect  
Alan James, Chair, CPRE Cambridgeshire and Peterborough  
Edward Leigh, Chair, Smarter Cambridge Transport  
James Littlewood, CEO, Cambridge Past Present and Future  
Peter Wakefield, Vice-Chair, Railfuture East Anglia

cc. Rt Hon Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for Transport  
Rt Hon Steve Barclay, Chief Secretary to the Treasury  
Dr Nik Johnson, Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough