

Local Plan Objectives

The Greater Cambridge area (comprising the districts of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire) is one of the fastest growing parts of the UK with this high rate of growth is expecting to continue. The draft Cambridge City Council (CaCC) and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Local Plans envisage further growth up to 2031 of 33,500 new homes (equating to a 25% rise in population) and 44,000 new jobs.

The Local Plans for South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge set out a vision, practical objectives and detailed proposals for spatial development which will both deliver economic plans and address resulting travel demand. Both local plans have been subject to public examination with hearings completing in July 2017. The Inspectors anticipate consultation on proposed modifications necessary to make the Plans sound in Autumn 2017.

South Cambridgeshire

The Local Plan Objectives relevant to the Cambourne to Cambridge Better Bus Journeys Scheme are as follows:

- **To support economic growth by supporting South Cambridgeshire's position as a world leader in research and technology based industries and education; and supporting the local economy** – It is considered that a Bus Rapid transit (BRT) system will significantly improve connectivity by improving journey Options and times between major housing and employment areas;
- **To protect the character of South Cambridgeshire, including its built and natural heritage, as well as protecting the Cambridge Green Belt** - Better public transport services will seek to reduce forecast levels of road traffic by moving people in buses which are a much more environmentally sustainable means of moving large numbers of people;
- **To deliver new developments that are high quality and well designed with distinctive character that reflects their location and which responds robustly to the challenges of climate change** - Bus infrastructure will be integrated into the design of new developments, especially around Cambourne and Bourn Airfield and will also serve the employment areas of West Cambridge and North West Cambridge; and
- **To maximise potential for journeys to be undertaken by sustainable modes of transport including walking, cycling, bus and train** – It is considered that the scheme will take advantage of the potential that undoubtedly exists along the corridor and ensure that bus-based public transport is a viable and credible alternative to the private car.

Cambridge

The Local Plan Objectives relevant to the Cambourne to Cambridge Better Bus Journeys Scheme are as follows:

- **Contribute to the vision of Cambridge as an environmentally sustainable city, where it is easy for people to make a transition to a low carbon lifestyle. This means making best use of energy (including community energy projects), water and other natural resources, securing radical reductions in carbon emissions, minimising environmental impact and being capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change.** - The delivery of significantly better bus services – as part of a wider sustainable mobility plan – will make it much easier for people to choose to live a low-carbon / low-energy lifestyle which does not rely on the private car;
- **Assist the creation and maintenance of inclusive, environmentally sustainable communities** - Bus-based public transport is an important part of inclusivity, as it is more likely to be affordable for a larger proportion of the population than car travel (which generally requires purchase and maintenance of a vehicle) and rail (where fares can often be quite high, especially at peak times).
- **Promote and support economic growth in environmentally sustainable and accessible locations, facilitating innovation and supporting Cambridge's role as a world leader in higher education, research, and knowledge-based industries, while maintaining the quality of life and place that contribute to economic success** - Bus services on the A428 corridor will, as part of a wider network for Cambridge, help to link up various employment and research establishments across the city and make travel easy by high quality HQPT;
- **Support Cambridge's vibrant and thriving centres, with a varied range of shopping facilities in accessible locations that meet the needs of people living, working and studying in, or visiting, the city and the Greater Cambridge Area.** - Improved bus services running into Cambridge along the A428, from the expanding housing areas to the west, will provide a further

boost to the retail economy by enabling more people to access the City Centre without a large increase in traffic and congestion;

- **Ensure appropriate and timely provision of environmentally sustainable forms of infrastructure to support the demands of the city, including digital and cultural infrastructure**
 - If constructed as part of major developments, PT infrastructure is able to support better bus services which can be used (for example) by new residents before their travel patterns have been too firmly set in favour of the private car. Provision of PT infrastructure and services as part of both housing and employment developments, and will therefore enable sustainable travel choices to be designed in from the start.