

Independent Audit of the Cambourne to Cambridge Better Public Transport Project

Terms of Reference

The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GPC) has instigated an independent audit of the key assumptions and constraints underpinning the selection of the preferred route for the Cambourne to Cambridge Better Public Transport Project.

An independent person (Phil Swann) has been commissioned to steer the audit and present the results to the GPC Board. Phil Swann will commission an independent transport expert to carry out the audit.

The audit will focus on the assumptions and constraints that underpinned the analysis that led to the selection of the preferred route and the elimination of alternative options, including the northern options. The objective is to test the robustness of those assumptions and constraints and determine whether they remain appropriate in the context of the current strategic frameworks and the East West Rail plans.

The Outline Business Case (plus its appendices) will be the key document to be reviewed and the transport expert will be given access to other material held by the GCP that she or he considers relevant. Representative groups will have an opportunity at the start of the process to ensure that the expert is aware of evidence previously submitted they consider is relevant to the audit. The expert will also be able to request additional information from the Local Transport Authority and local representative groups.

The first stage of the audit will comprise the production of a statement of the assumptions and constraints. This statement will be published and will form part of an invitation to representative groups to submit further written representations on the assumptions and constraints and their application throughout the process. All comments and evidence will be submitted in written form.

The output of this process will be an audit report including the expert's conclusions on the continuing validity and appropriateness of the constraints and assumptions. Phil Swann will be responsible for ensuring that the results of the audit are reported to the board and to local representative groups in a fair and transparent way. He will keep the board and local representative groups informed of progress throughout the process.

The proposed timetable for the review is:

7 January: announcement of appointment of independent person

w/c 11 January: discussion of draft terms of reference and process

w/c 1 February: publication of terms of reference and process. Brief for potential transport expert drafted and issued

w/c 22 February: transport expert appointed

w/c 15 March: publication of statement of assumptions and constraints and invitation to representative groups to submit further written representations

w/c 29 March: deadline for submission of written representations

w/c 3 May: deadline for completion of Audit

w/c 17 May: independent person prepares covering report and presentation on the Audit.

All key documents will be made available on a special section of the GCP website which is under the editorial control of the independent person. They will include:

- The terms of reference, process and proposed timetable;
- The brief for the independent transport expert;
- The name and other details of the independent transport expert;
- The statement on the constraints and assumptions and the invitation to submit further written comments;
- The audit report, covering report and presentation.

All communication about the audit should be sent to C2Caudit@sharedintelligence.net