

Greater Cambridge Citizens' Assembly

How did we get here? Progress and timeline

Overview

Since Greater Cambridge's first ever Citizens' Assembly was held last year, the Greater Cambridge Partnership has been working to adopt the bold vision the Assembly called for in order to cut congestion, improve air quality and transform the way people travel around Greater Cambridge

The below sets out the progress already made and future events and milestones. You may also want to look at the [GCP's response to the recommendations](#) (also attached) to remind yourself of what you said, and what GCP have committed to doing.

Timeline of events:

September/October 2019 – The Greater Cambridge Citizens' Assembly met over two weekends and developed recommendations to the GCP in response to the question "How do we reduce congestion, improve air quality and provide better public transport in Greater Cambridge?"

November 2019 – [the final report](#) of the Citizens' Assembly is published

January/February 2020 – the Joint Assembly and Executive Board consider this report in their respective meetings (postponed from December due to the General Election). In addition to the main report, they also examine the results of detailed technical work undertaken through the 'city access' project looking at the issues of congestion, public transport, air quality and carbon emissions, and the impacts of potential solutions.

The Executive Board agree to proceed with a series of short term measures. These are:

- Improve bus frequencies and operating hours on core network
- Phased programme of city-centre road closures
- Develop an integrated parking strategy to encourage shift from cars to public transport, walking and cycling
- Expanded electric bus pilot – additional route(s)
- Targeted fare pilot for bus travel
- Freight pilot for city centre – working with the university and Business Improvement District
- School and community road closures, including car free day
- Additional cycle parking infrastructure – city centre/Cambridge Biomedical Campus
- Electric bike and cargo bike lease schemes for businesses and residents



May-July 2020 – GCP Joint Assembly and Executive Board consider and agree the response to the Citizens’ Assembly. This response is published in July and sets out how the GCP has heard the Citizens’ Assembly to “be brave and take action”. The response sets out that the GCP:

- Supports the vision set out by the Citizens’ Assembly and will seek to bring forward proposals to meet it;
- Is taking forward a series of short-term interventions, prioritising those that respond to the Covid-19 context;
- Will build on this initial response by developing packages of longer-term measures, for consideration by Joint Assembly and Executive Board in November and December;
- Agrees with the principles that public transport should come first, that measures should be fair, and that money raised should be ringfenced for transport in Greater Cambridge and wider area;
- Will keep participants engaged and updated, and report regularly on progress.

The impact of the pandemic inevitably shapes part of this response including the decision to focus on short term interventions:

- More time will be required to understand the impacts of the pandemic on the longer term public transport and travel patterns picture
- Key themes from the Assembly have become even more relevant in this context, for example creating space for people and supporting active travel
- Six road closure points were committed to and subsequently delivered by GCP. A further four closure points are currently being developed. This is part of a wider programme of road space reallocation led by the County Council as the Highway Authority. Further information on this programme of works [can be viewed here](#)
- The above road closures have been introduced on an experimental basis which aligns with one of the key messages from the Assembly to consider trial measures

September 2020 – next week’s follow up workshop will ask members of the Citizens’ Assembly to reflect on their priorities and recommendations, particularly following Covid-19. Thoughts and feedback will be written up by Involve in a report and used to inform decisions made by the GCP’s Executive Board at the end of the year.

November/December 2020 – the Joint Assembly and Executive Board will consider further immediate interventions and potential longer-term packages of measures, informed by the report from the workshop. They will consider a report on progress implementing the response to the Citizens’ Assembly through a ‘one year on’ report.