

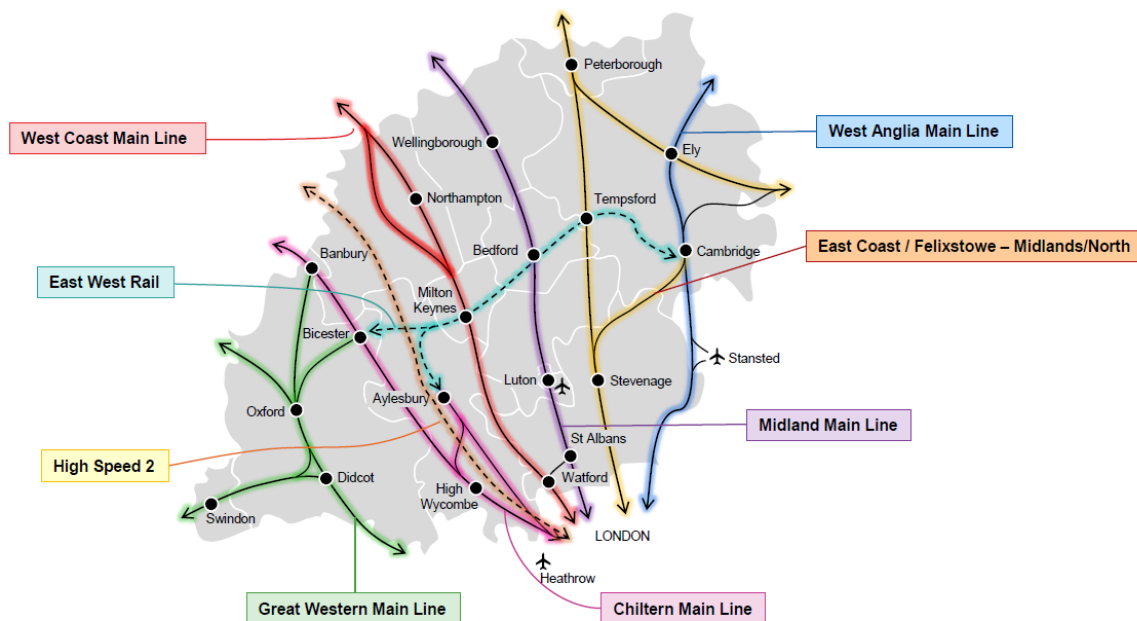
Draft Rail and Connectivity Strategy Scope

Purpose

The purpose of the Rail and Connectivity Strategy is to comprehensively outline the Combined Authority's policy on rail operations within the CPCA area. This includes setting strategic directions for both national rail and local rail services, ensuring they meet the needs of our communities. The strategy aims to enhance connectivity, improve service efficiency, and support sustainable economic growth by integrating regional transport systems and fostering collaboration between various stakeholders in the rail industry. Through this detailed framework, the Combined Authority seeks to provide clear guidance for future rail developments and investments, ultimately benefiting residents and businesses in the region. The strategy will build on good practice of existing authorities such as West Yorkshire Rail Strategy and other key documents such as Rail Strategy for Southwest and carefully considering our own local issues and plans are embedded.

Background

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) area covers a centralised location within the national rail network and key rail commuter and freight lines. This is outlined within the figure below.



The Combined Authority has allocated funding for the development of Local Transport and Connectivity Plan (LTCP) sub-strategies, including the Rail and Connectivity Strategy. The Rail and Connectivity Strategy will also be interconnected with other strategies, such as the Freight Strategy,

Active Travel Strategy, and Bus Strategy. It is proposed that these strategies work closely together to ensure integration and maintain the cohesive vision established by the LTCP.

Areas of Focus

The areas of focus will be ;

- Potential improvements at rail stations and new interchanges, including but not limited to the development of mobility hubs and enhanced accessibility to and from the stations.
- Enhancing first mile - last mile connectivity at railway stations, with opportunities for improved integration with public transport and active travel options.
- Allows the Combined Authority to champion government for rail improvements, as demonstrated in the cases of Ely and Haughley Junctions.
- Continuing to monitor, influence and where necessary challenge major railway infrastructure projects, such as East West Rail.
- Contributing to the development of a standardised fare structure and integrated rail ticketing system across public transport. The Rail and Connectivity Strategy should:
 - Further develop the ambitions for consideration of first mile last mile consideration as part of rail travel within the region and how these could be met and actions required to achieve these goals.
 - Outline the benefits of national and local rail travel on the individuals, businesses, the environment, and wider region.
 - Review the national guidance and legislation along with consideration of the move toward Great British Railways and consider how they can be applied to our region.
 - Explore Rail travel through the England's Economic Heartland, Transport East, Cambridgeshire County Council, Peterborough City Council and Greater Cambridge Partnership rail reviews for their areas
 - Consider Rail travel from both an infrastructure perspective and a behavioural change perspective.
 - Consider equality, cycle groups and equestrians within the whole of the strategy.
 - Review and develop Rail travel across the region and into neighbouring authorities.
 - Working with Network Rail to consider and evaluate the removal of existing road/rail crossings and at grade pedestrian crossings of rail infrastructure the region and have a specific review and section dedicated to reporting on the safety and future mitigation of each of these locations.
 - Layout how we are going to monitor and evaluate rail travel and rail freight initiatives.
 - Consider funding opportunities.
 - Provide a high-level action plan for active travel in the region.
 - Include diversity and inclusion

Key Stakeholders

- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Peterborough City Council
- Cambridge City Council

- Network Rail
- Train Operating Companies
- Rail Freight operating companies
- South Cambridgeshire District Council
- Huntingdonshire District Council
- Fenland District Council
- East Cambridgeshire District Council
- Active travel campaign groups
- Groups representing people with disabilities.
- Equestrian Group
- Active Travel Specialist Advisory Board
- England's Economic Heartland
- Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership
- Cambridge Shared Planning
- Transport East
- Mobility impaired groups

Programme

The aim is to commence the project within the 2024/25 financial year and achieve completion within the following two financial years. This effort will involve collaborative consideration with Cambridge City Council (CCC), Peterborough City Council (PCC), District Councils, England's Economic Heartland (EEH), and Transport East. It will encompass comprehensive evaluations of local and national rail routes, railway stations, and accessibility. These evaluations will be integrated with both local and national policies and objectives to ensure alignment and maximise effectiveness in improving rail infrastructure and services across the region.

Delivery

Key Deliverables are:

- A Rail and Connectivity Strategy that has been agreed by stakeholders and shows a clear plan for the future with a series of recommendations to be considered.
- An evaluation of current Rail Network and infrastructure and areas of concerns and areas of opportunities for future growth, development and health benefits that covers the whole of the region and into neighbouring Authorities. This will include an agreed action plans which will be developed as part of the consultation and development of this scope
- Public engagement on the draft strategy
- Engagement with key stakeholders
- EQIA completed on the strategy