

CPRE Campaign Strategy - Oxford to Cambridge Corridor

For the past year CPRE Bedfordshire have participated in the Oxford to Cambridge Corridor Working Group with representatives from the Oxfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Buckinghamshire branches, supported by National Office. The Working Group was established to enable branches to;

- share information about developments on the corridor strategy,
- work collaboratively on assessing the implications and impacts on the countryside
- co-ordinate responses to consultations and campaigning activity

In January this year the Working Group met with representatives from Jacobs Engineering Group who are working on behalf of Highways England. Senior staff from Jacobs delivered a presentation on their progress with bringing forward options for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway, focusing on development of the corridor between the M1 and M40 motorways. A copy of the presentation can be found on <http://bit.ly/CPREBedsOxCam>

A consultation on the Corridor options (see table below) took place during March to May 2018 and a joint response from the CPRE Working Group was submitted to Highways England. Whilst the response highlighted CPRE's opposition to the expressway proposal on principle due to a range of negative environmental impacts, Option C was the option that CPRE decided was the "least worst".

We are concerned to learn, through a Freedom of Information request, that Central Bedfordshire Council have expressed a preference for Option A, taking the view that this option is the most attractive in terms of journey time savings and best performing in terms of socio economic benefits. CPRE Bedfordshire takes the view that this option is unacceptable as it presents particular threats to the countryside in the area between Woburn, Woburn Sands and north of Leighton Buzzard which includes the Greensand Ridge.

You can find the Working Group's response to the corridor consultation on <http://bit.ly/CPREBedsOxCam>

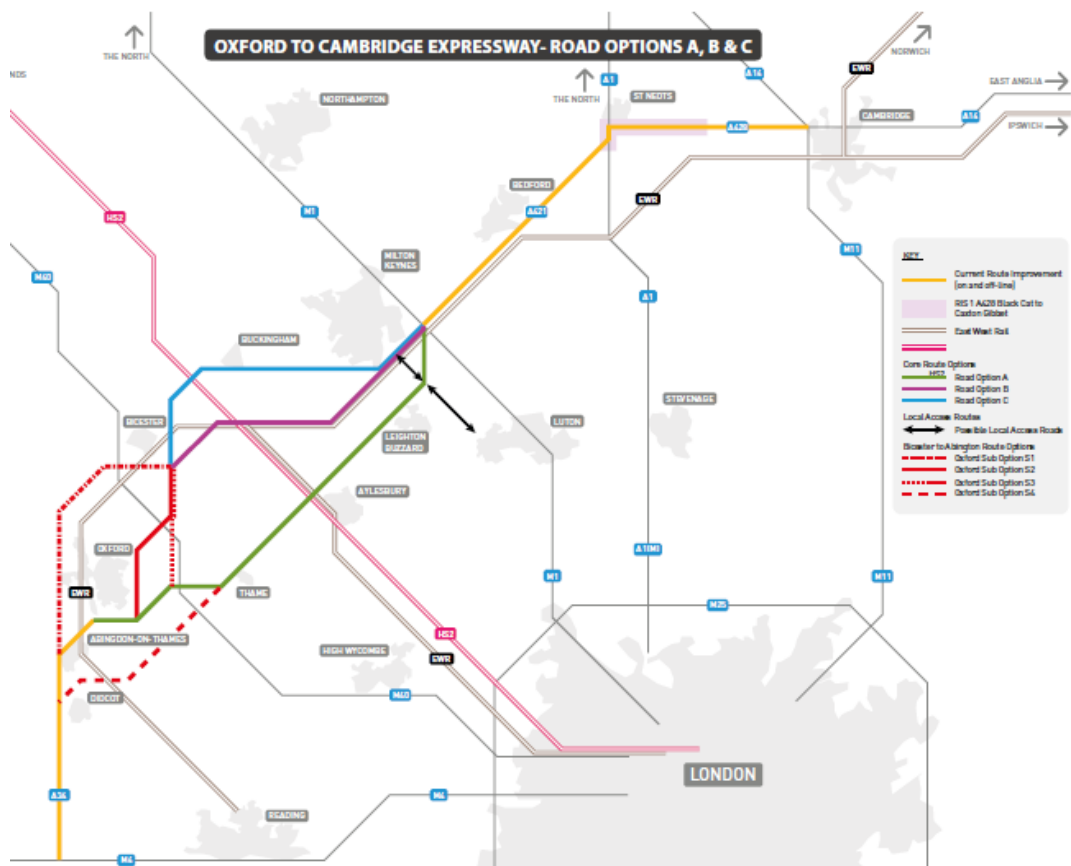


Figure 5-2:
Shortlisted
Intervention
Options

The Working Group held an Ox-Cam Campaign Planning Workshop on 24th April supported by National Office. The purpose of the day was to develop a joint approach to campaigning on the Ox-Cam Arc strategy, aimed at raising awareness of the scale of plans amongst residents and parish councils and to ensuring that CPRE branch campaigning activity is well co-ordinated and effective. The outputs from the day will be progressed at the next Working Group meeting in June.

Paul Jenkins

05/06/2018