



A number of my constituents have contacted me to voice their concerns about the City Deal proposals.

I think everyone accepts transport and congestion solutions for the wider Cambridge region are a necessity. However like many of you, I am unhappy with the report published 21st September recommending ongoing development of a full outline business case for option 3 and 3a as the preferred routes. A previous meeting of the City Deal Assembly made some sensible recommendations to further look at option 4 instead of option 3, but I am still deeply concerned that option 3a is still in the mix. City Deal projects in my opinion are being driven by the spending deadline rather than a strategic vision – we need to go back to the drawing board and look at the bigger picture.

With the Devolution Deal expected to be signed in a matter of weeks, it seems sensible to me to look at extending the City Deal spending deadline into the devolution period so the infrastructure funding from both can be combined. I am having those conversations with the Secretary of State, Savid Javid, and hope that an agreement can be reached to enable us to develop a wider more creative strategic vision, rather than the piecemeal projects that are coming forward at the moment.

I do not and will not support the current recommendations for route 3 or 3a for the Cambourne to Cambridge bus route and will continue to object in the strongest possible terms. We absolutely need a joined up approach and I am hopeful that the Secretary of State will see the benefit of merging the investment capital already agreed for infrastructure in Cambridgeshire to create an innovative, cost effective, deliverable solution going forward.

You might be aware that I submitted a statement regarding my concerns to the City Deal Executive Board and spoke at the meeting on 13 October. You can read my statement by clicking on the attachment below. You might also wish to read the coverage of the meeting by the Cambridge News which you can find by following the link [here](#).

You can also watch my speech to the meeting [here](#), or watch the full sitting of the public questions [here](#).

[Heidi Allen MP Written Statement to the City Deal Executive Board 13.10.16.pdf](#)