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To: Jamie Burles, Managing Director  
Abellio East Anglia Ltd

2 July 2020

Dear Mr Burles,

As you are no doubt aware, the Cambridge City Council planning committee voted on 17 June that they are minded to refuse planning permission for the two buildings ('B2' and 'F2' on the CB1 masterplan) proposed to be built on Cambridge station car park.

We note with considerable concern that Abellio East Anglia (AEA) renegotiated its franchise agreement in 2018 to remove an obligation to provide an additional 1,000 cycle parking spaces at Cambridge station, citing, "There is no capacity within the leased area to install additional cycle racks." That of course is true only if the new buildings planned for the car park are built as currently designed.

As the leaseholder and custodian of the publicly owned land that underlies the car park, there is a conflict of interest between AEA's duty as a provider of a well-functioning transport interchange and its commercial ambitions to gain a return from this land.

We note that AEA has a franchise obligation to produce by the end of this year a Full Station Travel Plan, covering how it will reduce the environmental impact of travel to and from the station. In light of the Climate Change Act and evolving government policy on active travel, that plan must address the many shortcomings in the design of Station Square and approaches to it from all directions.

Decisive leadership by AEA could avert a costly and wasteful legal battle (in the event that the planning committee reaffirms its decision and Brookgate elect to appeal it). We suggest it would be opportune for you to convene a meeting before the planning committee meets again (most likely on 21 July) to reconsider the planning application. An open discussion now would give stakeholders an opportunity to review the station area and consider new ideas for how it should evolve from here. Community groups in particular have constructive ideas to share based on deep local knowledge and experience.

There is good will, plenty of imagination and a wealth of expertise available to co-create a solution that will benefit AEA, station users, the local community and the long-term future of the city. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Leigh, Leader, Smarter Cambridge Transport

Daniel Zeichner, MP for Cambridge

Cllr Nicky Massey, Executive Councillor for Transport and Community, Cambridge City Council

Cllr Linda Jones, Petersfield division, Cambridgeshire County Council

Cllr Noel Kavanagh, Romsey division, Cambridgeshire County Council

Cllr Richard Robertson, Petersfield ward, Cambridge City Council

Cllr Mike Davey, Petersfield ward, Cambridge City Council

Cllr Anna Smith, Coleridge ward, Cambridge City Council

Cllr Dan Summerbell, Trumpington ward, Cambridge City Council

Claire Ruskin, Executive Director, Cambridge Network Ltd

Michelle Hargreaves, Managing Director, Stagecoach EAST

Tony Williamson, Managing Director, Whippet Coaches Ltd

Paul Hollinghurst, Secretary, Railfuture East Anglia

Robin Heydon, Chair, Camcycle

Richard Wood, Secretary, Cambridge Area Bus Users

James Littlewood, Chief Executive, Cambridge Past Present & Future

Tariq Sadiq, Chair, The Cambridge Commons

Frank Gawthrop, Secretary, South Petersfield Residents Association

Jane Porter, Chair, Great Northern Road Residents Association

Wendy Blythe, Chair, FeCRA (Federation of Cambridge Residents Associations)

Tony Eva, Carbon Neutral Cambridge

Colin Harris, Director, Cambridge Connect