



Combined Authority Board	Agenda Item
31 May 2023 – Annual Meeting	9

Title:	Appointment of the Audit and Governance Committee 2023/24
Report of:	Edwina Adefehinti, Interim Chief Officer Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.

Recommendations:

A	Confirm that the size of the Audit and Governance Committee should be eight members; one member and one substitute from each Constituent Council and one independent person.
B	To agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix 1.
C	Confirm the appointment of the Member and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Committee for the municipal year 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 2.
D	Appoint the Independent Person as Chair for the municipal year 2023/24 and delegate the election of the Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee.
E	Approve the co-option of an independent member from a Constituent Council to the Audit and Governance Committee and delegations given to the Audit and Governance Committee to appoint the co-optee.

Strategic Objective(s):

The subject of this report is linked to a statutory requirement under the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 requiring the Combined Authority to establish an Audit Committee.

A well-run Audit Committee will strongly support the Combined Authority in all its strategic objectives as outlined below.

	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

1.1	The purpose of the report is to ask the Board to confirm the size and membership of the Audit and Governance Committee and to agree the political balance and the appointment of the Independent Person as the Chair for the municipal year 2023/24.
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2. Proposal

2.1	In accordance with the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017, the Combined Authority is required to establish an Audit Committee.
2.2	The Order 2017 sets out the rules for membership. The membership of the committee as a whole should reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties of the constituent councils when taken together. The balance is based on membership of political parties, not political groups, on constituent councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

3. Background

3.1	Since 2017/18, the Board has agreed that the Audit and Governance Committee should have seven constituent members: one Member from each Constituent Council, together with one Independent person. The Board are asked to agree that the size of the committee remains the same.
3.2	The implications of applying political proportionality to a seven constituent member committee are detailed in Appendix 1. Accordingly constituent councils have nominated the members and substitute members listed in Appendix 2 (to follow) for the municipal year 2023/24 based on the political balance calculation.
3.3	In previous years, discretion has been used to provide independent members a seat on both the Audit and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Recognising the process operated through the exercise of discretion in previous years to provide an independent Member with a seat but ensuring the political balance of the Committee is not compromised, it has been proposed that the Audit and Governance Committee consider the co-option of an independent member (from a constituent Council) to the Committee. The co-opted member would not be given voting rights. Should the Audit and Governance Committee agree to the co-option of an independent member, authority may be delegated from the Combined Authority Board to the Committee to appoint a co-optee. The co-option would be for the municipal year 2023/24.
3.4	In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee is reserved to the Board. The Board has previously agreed that Mr Pye as the Independent Person for the Committee should be appointed as Chair of the Committee and has previously delegated the decision of electing a Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee to take place at their first meeting. The Board are asked to appoint the Independent Person as Chair for the municipal year 2023/24 and delegate the election of the Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee.

4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix 1 – Political Balance on the Audit and Governance Committee
4.2	Appendix 2 – Nominations from Constituent Councils (to follow)

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	In accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 no remuneration is to be payable by the Combined Authority to its members.
5.2	The appointed independent person will receive an allowance of £3,068 per annum.

Legal Implications

6.1	These are dealt with in the report.
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Public Health Implications

7.1	None
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Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1	None
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Other Significant Implications

9.1	None
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Background Papers

10.1	Cambridge City Council AGM report
10.2	Cambridgeshire County Council AGM report
10.3	East Cambridgeshire District Council AGM report
10.4	Fenland District Council AGM report
10.5	Huntingdonshire District Council AGM report
10.6	Peterborough City Council AGM report
10.7	South Cambridgeshire District Council AGM report