

Culture and Tourism

To:	Housing & Communities Committee
Meeting Date:	11 January 2021
Public report:	Yes
Lead Member:	Councillor Chris Boden, Lead Member for Housing and Chair of Housing & Communities Committee
From:	Roger Thompson, Director of Housing & Development John T Hill, Director of Business & Skills
Key decision:	No
Forward Plan ref:	N/A
Recommendations:	<p>The Housing & Communities Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Invite the Combined Authority Board to amend Chapter 10 [Housing & Communities Committee] of the Constitution so as to delete the words “(a) Culture and Tourism” in paragraph 3.2.9 and replace “(b)” with “(a)”.b) Invite the Combined Authority Board to note that culture and tourism would continue to form part of the Business Board’s remit to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area.c) Invite the Business Board to provide comment to the Combined Authority Board on the recommendation at (a).
Voting arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report briefs the Committee on the culture and tourism functions of the Combined Authority, which are currently allocated to the Housing & Communities Committee, and recommends that the Combined Authority Board be invited to make the necessary amendments to the Constitution to remove those functions from the terms of reference of the Committee. Those functions would continue to form part of the remit of the Business Board.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 at Article 10 states:

10. The functions of the constituent councils specified in the following provisions are exercisable by the Combined Authority in relation to the Area—

(a) section 144 of the Local Government Act 1972 (the power to encourage visitors and provide conference and other facilities): and

- 2.2 Section 144 of the Local Government Act 1972 states:

144.— Power to encourage visitors and provide conference and other facilities.

(1) A local authority may (either alone or jointly with any other person or body)—

(a) encourage persons, by advertisement or otherwise, to visit their area for recreation, for health purposes, or to hold conferences, trade fairs and exhibitions in their area; and

(b) provide, or encourage any other person or body to provide, facilities for [...], conferences, trade fairs and exhibitions or improve, or encourage any other person or body to improve, any existing facilities for those purposes.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1) above, a local authority may contribute to any organisation approved by the Secretary of State for the purposes of this subsection and established for the purpose of encouraging persons to visit the United Kingdom or any part thereof.

- 2.3 This function has been allocated to the Committee and the terms of reference of the Committee, as set out in Chapter 10 of the Constitution include the following:

3.2. The committee shall exercise the Combined Authority's functions for the following:

[...]

3.2.9. Oversee the development and approve all other housing and community programmes and projects not reserved to the Combined Authority Board including but not limited to those relating to:

- (a) *Culture and Tourism*
- (b) [...]

- 2.4 The role of the Business Board, as a Local Enterprise Partnership, is to help determine local economic priorities and lead economic growth and job creation within the local area. The recovery projects set out in the Local Economic Recovery Strategy include “£145k investment support for Kick-Starting Visitor Economy to Recover & Adapt”. The Covid-19 pandemic has a major impact on visitor numbers due to the imposition of travel restrictions and social distancing as part of national lockdowns and local restriction tiers.

The Business Board have also approved from the Local Growth Fund (LGF) 2 further projects focused on the recovery in the two City centres, the Peterborough Builds Back Better project at £800k and the Cambridge Visitor Welcome 2021 project at £710k; both these projects focus on increasing COVID safe access to the city centre and access to the hospitality and leisure trade in both cities.

Also the COVID Capital Grant scheme run in summer 2020 awarded a £30k grant to Visit Cambridge to support Tourism, this project is being taken forward by Cambridge BID (Business Improvement District).

The Business Board is also awaiting publication of funding prospectus by MHCLG for the new Shared Prosperity Funding in pilot 2021 and full programme of SPF awarded from 2022 onwards, this funding will replace LGF, European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund which currently have supported Culture and Tourism projects and programmes. Once these prospectuses are released the Business Board will consider the current pipeline of projects locally and will develop a pipeline of potential projects including tourism and hospitality

The Strategy includes the following priority:

Retail, Hospitality and Leisure: Helping firms to deal with the continuing and long-term social distancing and behaviour change, especially in the Visitor Economy.

- 2.5 The recommendation is that the Combined Authority Board be invited to amend the Constitution so as to remove the culture and tourism functions from the Committee’s terms of reference while noting that support to the visitor economy would continue to form part of the remit of the Business Board. The recommendations also include the Business Board being invited to comment on the recommendations.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 The legal implications are set out in the body of the report. Decisions relating to the amendment of the Constitution are reserved to the Combined Authority Board.

- 4.2 If the proposed amendments to the Constitution are made then responsibility for the Combined Authority's discretionary functions under section 144 of the Local Government Act 1972 would rest with the Combined Authority Board.
- 4.3 The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Parts 2 and 3 of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings)(England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

5. Appendices

- 5.1 None

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 The Combined Authority's Constitution at

<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Transparency/Constitution-Final-2020-11-06-for-website.pdf>

- 6.2 The Local Economic Recovery Strategy at

<https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Uploads/Local-Economic-Recovery-Strategy-Final-Version1-01092020.pdf>