



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Monday, 19 June 2023

Time: 11.00

Location: Council Chamber, Fenland District Council

Members Present:

Cllr Martin Smart	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Tim Griffin	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Mark Goldsack	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Anna Bradnam	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Charlotte Cane	East Cambs District Council
Cllr David Brown	East Cambs District Council
Cllr Anne Hay	Fenland District Council
Cllr Elisabeth Sennitt-Clough	Fenland District Council
Cllr Jon Neish	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Martin Hassall	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Mohammed Haseeb	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Andy Coles	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Judith Rippeth	South Cambs District Council
Cllr Aiden Van de Weyer	South Cambs District Council

Officers:

Rob Bridge	Chief Executive Officer
Nick Bell	Director Corporate Services
Kate McFarlane	Head of Policy & Executive Support
Reena Roojam	Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Edwina Adefehinti*	Interim Monitoring Officer
Jodie Townsend*	Governance Improvement Lead
Jules Ient*	Senior Policy Advisor
Anne Gardiner	Governance Manager (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)

*Denotes attendance via Zoom

1. Apologies for absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Maureen Davis substituted by Cllr Elisabeth Sennitt Clough and Cllr Michael Atkins substituted by Cllr Anna Bradnam.

2. Election of Chair

- 2.1 Nominations were invited for the position of Chair of the Committee. Councillor Cane was proposed by Cllr Van de Weyer and seconded by Cllr Griffin, and Cllr Coles was proposed by Cllr Goldsack and seconded by Cllr Neish. Cllr Cane and Cllr Coles both gave a short speech to members outlining their suitability for the role.

A vote was taken with 8 votes cast for Cllr Cane and 6 votes cast for Cllr Coles.

2.2 RESOLVED:

That Cllr Cane be elected Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023-24.

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Cllr Cane took the Chair and thanked Members for electing her.

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3. Election of Vice Chair

- 3.1 Nominations were invited for the position of Vice-Chair of the Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Hay and seconded by Cllr Goldsack that Cllr Coles be elected as Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations and upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

3.2 RESOLVED:

That Cllr Coles be elected Vice-Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023-24.

4. Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 No declarations of interest were made.

5. Public Questions

- 5.1 There were no public questions.

6. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Action Log

- 6.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 were approved as a correct record and the Action Log was noted.

7. Co-Option of Independent Member

- 7.1 The Committee received the report which requested the members consider the co-option of an independent member (and substitute) from a Constituent Council.

- 7.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- The guidance from Centre for Governance Scrutiny referenced within the report advised that co-opted independent members should be selected from local people with expertise.

- Co-opting an independent member from one of the constituent councils should be done based on a skill or experience that the Committee required and it was for the Committee to determine whether there was a skills gap and until that had been determined taking the decision to co-opt at this time seemed premature.
- The Committee were advised that central government were looking at ways to include independent members from constituent councils into Combined Authority Committee's.
- Members queried whether there was any interest from Independent members to sit on the CA Committee's – the Committee felt it would be worth waiting until there was sufficient interest from independent members before considering amending the terms of reference to allow the co-option of an independent member.

7.3 The Chair proposed that the Committee did not appoint a co-opted member. The motion was seconded and upon being put to the vote; the motion was carried with 13 votes and 1 abstention.

7.4 **RESOLVED:**

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee do **not** appoint a co-opted member for the municipal year 2023-24.

8. Delivering Scrutiny Function

8.1 The Committee received the report which requested that the members discuss and agree how it intended to deliver the Overview & Scrutiny function going forward.

8.2 The Committee had received an information pack which had outlined the options available and had been discussed at a workshop on the 13th June. Following the workshop a briefing note had been circulated to members with recommendations for the Committee to consider and agree.

8.3 The Committee fed back that they felt that option A was a positive way to move forward and that the timing was appropriate given the improvement work being undertaken.

8.4 **RESOLVED:**

- a) Option A be supported, noting the need to maximise the use of limited Member capacity and availability
- b) Officers develop an implementation plan and work programme proposals for the delivery of Option A to be considered at the July OSC meeting, with the intention that they be implemented following that meeting
- c) An Access to Information Protocol that reflects matters raised in the scrutiny workshop, as well as the review of governance, and best practice, be brought for consideration to the July OSC meeting and the Combined Authority Board meeting
- d) An analysis of required officer support for the delivery of Option A be undertaken and reported to the Independent Improvement Board, along with a proposal to strengthen officer support to the scrutiny function, noting future English Devolution Accountability Framework requirements

- e) OSC recommend to the Combined Authority Board that the Combined Authority commit to developing a 6–12 month Forward Plan
- f) Ways of working between Board and Thematic Committees and the Scrutiny function be developed to drive opportunities for early OSC involvement in key decision-making and strategy development
- g) The Improvement Plan Highlight Report be presented to each informal scheduled supporting scrutiny meeting for review to help direct focus and challenge at subsequent OSC meetings

9. Implementing the Combined Authority's Corporate Strategy and Business Plan

9.1 The Committee received the report which set out how the CA's Corporate Strategy and Business Plan will deliver for the CA in the 2023/24 municipal year

9.2 The Mayor Nik Johnson and CEO Rob Bridge were in attendance to respond to questions from the Committee. The Chair welcomed them both to the meeting and opened up the session to questions.

9.3 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- The golden thread was there to ensure there was a direct link between what the CA Board approves and how this was then delivered through the directorate business plans right down to what staff are working on daily. The Mayor stated that the governance of the organisation and the golden thread was the key to stitching all of the work and ambitions together.
- The CEO acknowledged that the CA had struggled to reach out to external stakeholders but this had now been addressed. The work being done on the improvement plan was helping to build confidence with staff, stakeholders and government departments.
- Members commented that the strategy while welcomed was difficult for most people to understand and requested if an easy read version could be provided. Officers accepted the comment and agreed more work needed to be done at articulating the strategic message.
- The Mayor outlined his 4 Mayoral Ambitions which sat alongside the strategic objectives for the CA:
 - 1) A Locally determined, innovative, and public transport system that is fit for the future
 - 2) Promote, protect and grow our unique Fens
 - 3) Creating a strong sense of place and cultural identity for our region
 - 4) Working with ICS to support the delivery of better health outcomes and address health inequalities in our region
- The Mayor advised that his ambitions could be brought about by ensuring that when approaching central government for funding it was with one voice for the region.
- In response to a question regarding the bus review the Mayor advised that the bus services review and its improvement plan was the focus of the CA transport team and the constituent councils. The lack of connectivity across the region was very striking and there had to be improvements.

- The Mayor agreed with members that alongside culture as one of his ambitions that sport was also important.
- The Mayor acknowledged that not all of the fens sat within Fenland and that they were of great importance across the county.
- In response to a questions about the work being done on Active Travel the Mayor advised that the CA had now employed an Active Travel Officer to promote this area of work.
- The CEO advised that the franchising of buses had been one of the key issues brought to his attention in his first 10 days in post. Work was taking place on what a business case could look like. These would look at working in a different way with bus companies – it was important to set out very clearly what differences there were for both partners to ensure the best way forward for all.
- Internal and external communications were being looked at to ensure that external stakeholders and the constituent members were kept informed on work being done around the buses and it was recognized that O&S Committee needed to receive reassurance on this.
- In response to a question about air quality the Mayor advised that this was one of the key markers that made up the LTCP; that there were air quality challenges across the region. By moving to more freight by rail would help remove lorries from the road.
- In response to a question about how O&S Committee could provide help to the CA; the CEO advised that there were key projects coming up and that officers would consider the request in the context of the CA forward plan.
- Members queried how the Mayoral Ambition of Arts and Culture fitted in with the strategy of the Combined Authority and the Mayor advised this was an area he had requested officers to focus a coordinated approach which had not been tried before.
- A rail summit was taking place in July for key stakeholders which would provide an opportunity to shine a spotlight on the need to invest in rail improvements. There were different lobbying levels for key bits of funding for infrastructure and this was where the CA could play a different role.

9.4 The Committee thanked the Mayor and CEO for answering their questions.

9.5 RESOLVED:

To note progress made in implementing the Combined Authority's (CA's) Corporate Strategy and Business Plan.

10. Interim Performance Management Framework

10.1 The Committee received the report which provided an update on work that had taken place to develop an interim Performance Management Framework, which was intended to give increased assurance in the interim period until September 2023, when the full Performance Management Framework would be recommended to CA Board.

10.2 The Committee were advised that there would be a workshop to discuss the development of the key performance indicators for members on the 13th July.

10.3 A member raised the issue of it being difficult to spot where there may be issues within the reporting of projects and queried whether issues would be reported to O&S Committee. Officers advised this was an area they were working on so that notice on arising problems could be flagged to members.

10.4 **RESOLVED:**

To note the progress to develop and implement an interim performance management framework and a performance management framework.

11. Improvement Framework Report

11.1 The Committee received the report which provided an update on the improvement work being undertaken.

11.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- Work on procurement had now moved forwards with recommendations being taken to CA Board in July to address the action required from the PWC report.
- The Committee were advised that Richard Carr had been appointed as the new Chair for the Independent Improvement Board and that the Board had started to meet quarterly.
- Officers advised that following the discussions at the O&S workshop on the 13th June the plan was to bring a report back to O&S in July which would focus the work of the Committee on the impact and outcomes of the improvement plan.
- In response to a query about the RAG ratings the officers advised that these had been supplied by government and were intended to show whether there was a trend towards red or green but further refinement could be done to make them clearer.
- Members were advised that in regards to the conclusions of the safeguarding investigation that officer were waiting on the investigators report before any further action could be taken.
- A piece of work had already been started on refreshing the CPIER which would help feed into the long term vision for the area.

11.3 **RESOLVED:**

- a) Note the progress against stated areas of improvement identified by the External Auditor in June 2022 and Best Value Notice received in January 2023 as reported to the CA Board on 31 May 2023.
- b) Note the reframed improvement plan agreed by the CA Board at its meeting on 31 May 2023.

- c) Note the observations of the Independent Improvement Board held on 22 May 2023.
- d) Note the proposed RAG rating methodology to measure progress of improvement activity against the agreed reframed Improvement Plan.
- e) Note the progress to the appointment of Chair, Independent Improvement Board.

12. Combined Authority Forward Plan

- 12.1 The Committee noted the Forward Plan.

13. Draft Work Programme

- 13.1 The Committee reviewed the work programme and also the example work programme at Appendix 2.

- 13.2 The Committee members discussed that engagement with the improvement plan was important and that the challenge going forward was how to develop the Committee's role in regard to pre-decision scrutiny.

- 13.3 RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the existing work programme and requested that officers develop the example work programme at appendix 2 to align with the agreed way forward discussed earlier in the meeting and bring this back to the July meeting for the Committee to review.

14. Date of next meeting

- 14.1 Monday, 24 July 2023 at 11am at Pathfinder House, Huntingdonshire DC.

Meeting Closed: 1:30pm