



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

# **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Date:** Friday, 29 May 2020

**Time:** 11.00 a.m.

**Location:** Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Platform

### **Present:**

Cllr P Jordan	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr L Dupre (Chair)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr A Sharp	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr M Gehring	Cambridge City Council
Cllr K Price	Cambridge City Council
Cllr A Coles	Peterborough City Council
Cllr E Murphy	Peterborough City Council
Cllr A Hay	Fenland District Council
Cllr A Miscandlon	Fenland District Council
Cllr G Chamberlain	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr P Fane	South Cambridgeshire District Council

### **Officers:**

Robert Parkin	Chief Legal and Monitoring Officer, Combined Authority
Susan Hall	Governance Assistant, Combined Authority
Roberta Fulton	Programme Manager, Combined Authority
Robert Fox	Scrutiny Officer, Combined Authority (Minute taker)

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from: Cllr P Heylings (substituted by Cllr P Fane); and Cllr J Scutt.

### **2. Confirmation of Membership of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

- 2.1 The membership is currently the same as the last municipal year. Fenland District Council has its Annual General Meeting on 17 June and any changes to the membership as a result will be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

### **3. Appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2020/21**

- 3.1 The Chair stepped aside for this item and the Chair was assumed by the Monitoring Officer who conducted the nominations process.
- 3.2 Cllr Price nominated Cllr Dupre as Chair, and this was seconded by Cllr Hay. There being no further nominations, and Cllr Dupre consenting to the nomination, Cllr Dupre was elected unanimously as Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.3 Cllr Dupre took the Chair and requested nominations for Vice-Chair. Cllr Gehring nominated Cllr Price as Vice-Chair, and this was seconded by Cllr Dupre. There being no further nominations, and Cllr Price consenting to the nomination, Cllr Price was elected unanimously as Vice-Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- 3.4 The Lead Members for the Committee shadowing Housing, Skills and Transport all agreed to retain their roles.

### **4. Declarations of Interest**

- 4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

### **5. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

- 5.1 With an amendment at 10.3 which should state January 2021 the minutes were agreed as an accurate record.
- 5.2 It was requested that future minutes of the Committee include the answers to the questions to the Combined Authority Board.
- 5.3 The report from BEIS (6.6) has, as yet, not been shared with the Committee. The Scrutiny Officer to follow this up with officers.

### **6. Public Questions**

- 6.1 There were no public questions.

### **7. CPCA Project Register**

- 7.1 Roberta Fulton, Programme Manager, was in attendance and presented the paper which provided the Committee with a full list of Combined Authority projects as at May 2020. This was a quarterly update identifying active projects as well as those completed or closed.
- 7.2 It was requested that future reports indicate why projects are no longer proceeding. Roberta Fulton committed to providing this detail for the next meeting of the Committee.
- 7.3 It was suggested and agreed that during the Committee 'fallow' months it would be constructive to have in-depth presentations on some of the projects indicated on the register.

- 7.4 It was agreed that the newly reappointed Lead Members should consider the projects in the register within their remit to assist in shaping the work programme for the Committee.

## **8. CAM Metro Task and Finish Group Report**

- 8.1 Cllr Kevin Price, as Chair of the Task and Finish Group presented the report to the Committee. Although the plan had been to present the final report of the Task and Finish Group the work is incomplete and the recommendation to the Committee is that it supports continuation of the work into this municipal year and that the Task and Finish Group will report to the Committee on progress on a quarterly basis.
- 8.2 As members of the Task and Finish Group Cllrs Gehring and Sharp supported Cllr Price's assertion. Cllr Gehring stated the Task and Finish Group has made rapid progress over the last four weeks. Cllr Sharp stated the Outline Business Case for the Metro was not ready yet, and there was still concerns over the financing of the project and the Task and Finish Group needed to understand the governance structure for the project.
- 8.3 Cllr Price confirmed the Task and Finish Group would consider the interface and interaction with the Greater Cambridge Partnership Cambourne to Cambridge project if the Committee agreed the work of the Group continue.
- 8.4 The Chair drew member attention to the Committee's agreement to allow the Bus Review Task and Finish Group work to continue into 2020/21 also and the potential this might have on commencing other Task and Finish Group work this municipal year. Cllr Hay, as Chair of the Bus Review Task and Finish Group reminded members that this Task and Finish Group will not be undertaking any work until the Business Plan for the Bus Review is published early in 2021.

### **AGREED:**

- 8.5 The work of the CAM Metro Task and Finish Group should continue into this municipal year, with quarterly updates on progress presented to the Committee.

## **9. Horizon Scanning: Strategic Forward View**

- 9.1 The Chair led this item and stated the Covid-19 pandemic had cast a shadow over everything with the skills agenda particularly affected. It was agreed to request a paper on the impact of the pandemic on the skills directorate of the Combined Authority.
- 9.2 It was agreed that the Lead Members for Housing, Transport and Skills should form a working group to not only look through the project register, as previously agreed, but also consider other items within these portfolios for the work programme moving through the municipal year.
- 9.3 During discussion on each of the portfolio areas the following were raised by Committee members:
- Skills
- 9.4 Covid-19 has affected delivery in key areas and this is continuing. Distance learning has been significantly impacted, and the closure of Further Education

Colleges and Higher Education Institutions is a cause for concern in terms of where the Combined Authority area will be post-pandemic.

- 9.5 There is also a significant impact on 10's of thousands of young people related to education, training and employment post-pandemic; and it was suggested the Committee could be a significant critical friend to the CA Board and the Business Board on this.
- 9.6 It was suggested the Committee hear about how the Combined Authority intends to work with constituent councils and central government to develop strategies to tackle the potential recession following the pandemic.
- 9.7 Apprenticeships was a further area the Committee raised as a concern.

#### Housing

- 9.8 To continue to monitor the Affordable Housing Programme with particular regard to size, quality, accessibility and environmental factors was agreed as part of the future work programme.
- 9.9 The £100k homes programme and Community Land Trusts were also agreed to form part of the Committees work programme.

#### Transport

- 9.10 As previously agreed the Bus Review and CAM Metro Task and Finish Groups would continue. It was also suggested the full Committee receive a future presentation on the CAM Metro.
- 9.11 The revision of deadlines on both transport and housing as a result of Covid-19 was requested for the July meeting of the Committee.
- 9.12 The impact on the confidence of people to return to public transport following the pandemic as well as the use of alternative modes of transport through the reduction in the use of private vehicles was suggested as a potential work programme area.
- 9.13 It was agreed that the Lead Members in liaison with officers present a suggested work programme at the next meeting of the Committee together with suggestions of project presentations for the Committee's 'fallow' months.

### **10. Annual Meeting of the Combined Authority Board Agenda**

- 10.1 Following discussion the questions the Committee should ask the Combined Authority Board were agreed as:
- Agenda item 1.2: The Overview & Scrutiny Committee received a written response following its question to the meeting of the Combined Authority Board on 29 April stating that 'productive discussions' were ongoing relating to the appointment of a Chair of the proposed Independent Commission on Climate Change. What have these discussions consisted of and have they resulted in the appointment of a Chair of the Independent Commission and other commissioners? What progress on this important piece of work has been made in the last month?
  - Agenda item 3.3: There is an increased emphasis on active transport modes and an increased level of importance attached to cycling, walking

and equestrian transport as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. What steps are being taken to prioritise active travel not only in the light of Covid-19 but more generally?

- Agenda item 3.6: The paper accompanying this item refers to savings that will be achieved as a result of the surrender of the lease on the Combined Authority headquarters in Alconbury. However, there are no assumptions included in terms of the costs associated with alternative accommodation. Can the Board provide a more accurate savings figure which takes into account such costs? Secondly, why is the Combined Authority paying a whole year's rental costs to terminate the lease at Alconbury?

10.2 Subsequent to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting the Combined Authority provided the following answers to the questions raised:

- Agenda item 1.2: The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, has appointed the Right Honourable Baroness Brown of Cambridge to lead the Independent Commission on Climate Change for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Baroness Brown is a Cambridge resident, an engineer with experience of senior leadership roles in industry and academia and a preeminent voice for climate change adaptation and mitigation and the low carbon economy. Baroness Brown currently serves as Chair of the Carbon Trust; Vice Chair of the Committee on Climate Change and Chair of the Adaptation Sub-Committee; non-executive director of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult; and member of the WEF Global Agenda Council on Decarbonising Energy. She was non-executive director of the Green Investment Bank, she led the King Review on decarbonising transport (2008), and she is the UK's Low Carbon Business Ambassador. Baroness Brown made a statement on her plans for the Commission on 3 June 2020 and there will be further announcements on the Commission's membership and work programme imminently. Baroness Brown is an independent chair with her own remit, but the Mayor has asked her to look specifically at mitigation of the impact of the Combined Authority's growth agenda and water shortages in the south of Cambridgeshire and how these might be addressed using re-directed water from the Fens.
- Agenda item 3.3: Active travel is a priority for the Combined Authority's Local Transport Plan. The likely effects of Covid-19 on travel choices have also made urgent short-term interventions to support active travel necessary. The Mayor asked the Highways authorities to develop a package of such measures at the beginning of May 2020 and the first of those are being implemented now. An urgent report to the Combined Authority Board on 3 June 2020 set out details of how that work is being funded and led.
- Agenda item 3.6: The Combined Authority is looking to pay the £151,537.50 settlement figure because it represents a substantial saving over the total accommodation liability that would be incurred during the three year period until the next break option date on the existing lease (July 2023). The settlement figure represents less than six months of the total annual accommodation cost (£307,651). The current situation is evolving and aside from a temporary space, freehold options will be considered which would accommodate a mix of work practices and locations. These will be consulted with staff and assessment of space requirements and

costs will follow as part of any future proposal put to the Board. A more accurate savings figure will be provided to the Board when these options and costs are better known.

**11. Combined Authority Forward Plan**

- 11.1 It was suggested the Committee keep a watching brief on the management and delivery of the King's Dyke Crossing project.
- 11.2 The Forward Plan was noted.

**12. Committee Meetings: Lead Member Questions**

- 12.1 The Combined Authority Board would be agreeing dates for the Executive Committee meetings at its meeting on 3 June 2020.
- 12.2 It was agreed to get into the practice of sending questions to the Executive Committee Chairs 48 hours in advance of the meetings in order to elicit authoritative and informed answers.

**13. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

- 13.1 The Combined Authority Board would be confirming all Combined Authority meeting dates at its meeting on 3 June.
- 13.2 The next scheduled meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is Monday, 22 June at 11.00 a.m. This will be a virtual meeting via the Zoom platform.
- 13.3 The next meeting will agree the dates for the 'fallow month' meetings.

The meeting closed at 12:35