



Overview & Scrutiny Committee	Agenda Item
19 June 2023	8

Title:	Delivering Overview & Scrutiny Function
Report of:	Jodie Townsend – Improvement Lead
Lead Member:	Cllr Edna Murphy
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	NA
Voting Arrangements:	Majority of members present

Recommendations:

A	The Committee is requested to approve their preferred option for the delivery of the scrutiny function from 2023/24 onwards
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Strategic Objective(s):

The proposals within this report fit under the following strategic objective(s):

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

1. Purpose

1.1	The purpose of this item is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members with an opportunity to discuss and agree the preferred option on how to deliver the scrutiny function moving forward subject to the outcome of the workshop held on the 13 th June 2023.
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2. Proposal

2.1	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to agree how it wishes to deliver the function moving forward in the context of the overall improvement programme and following the discussions at the workshop held on the 13 th June 2023 provide a steer for officers to implement going forward.
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3. Background

3.1	The Combined Authority Board agreed an Improvement Plan following the Interim Chief Executive's diagnosis report at its meeting in October 2022. The improvement plan set out 6 key workstreams
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	<p>that would drive improvement outcomes across the Combined Authority to ensure appropriate foundations and fundamentals were in place to address concerns raised in the Interim Chief Executive diagnosis and concerns raised by the external auditors.</p> <p>The improvement plan also built on the conclusions and recommendations set out in the Review of Governance which was endorsed by Board in July 2022. That review set out conclusions and a number of recommendations that were specific to the Overview and Scrutiny function.</p> <p>The Overview and Scrutiny function is an integral part of the governance arrangements at the Combined Authority. The Combined Authority wants to ensure that its scrutiny arrangements are effective, impactful and able to support democratic accountability for the region.</p> <p>CPCA wants its scrutiny structure to create the right framework to maximise its impact moving forward as part of the new proposed governance arrangements coming out of the Improvement Framework.</p> <p>At the March Overview and Scrutiny meeting the members received an information pack which provided the Committee with information relating to the proposed new governance at the Combined Authority, the core roles for Overview and Scrutiny and also provided options for delivering Overview and Scrutiny function.</p> <p>The Committee decided to defer the decision on the options until a workshop had taken place so that the options could be discussed in greater detail.</p>
3.2	A workshop has been arranged for the 13 th June 2023 (which is after publication of these papers) to discuss the options for delivering the scrutiny function. At this workshop the members will receive a further information pack on the options and provide a steer for officers on which is the preferred option.
3.3	A verbal update from the officers and Chair for the Committee will be provided at this meeting on the outcome of the workshop.

4. Appendices

4.1	None
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5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	The choice of the preferred option for delivery of the scrutiny function is unlikely to impact significantly on the Combined Authority's finances.
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Legal Implications

6.1	<p>The importance and legitimacy that scrutiny is afforded by the law should be recognised. Overview and Scrutiny was created to act as a check and balance on the executive and is a statutory requirement for all combined authorities.</p> <p>Although the existence of the function is set out in legislation, how it operates and how it is structured is left to individual Local Authorities. This provides for a high degree of flexibility and the ability to consider different topics and issues in the most appropriate way.</p> <p>Where there is a culture of trust and respect between the Scrutiny function and the Executive, the Scrutiny function can attain and deploy a great deal of influence ultimately benefiting both the combined authority and the residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Whilst the Committee has a legal</p>
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	duty to provide robust challenge to decision-makers it can also offer support and assistance wherever it can to help the Combined Authority meet these challenges.
Public Health Implications	
7.1	None
Environmental & Climate Change Implications	
8.1	None
Other Significant Implications	
9.1	None
Background Papers	
10.1	O&S Meeting – March 2023