



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

<b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No: 1.7</b>
<b>27 NOVEMBER 2019</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

## **ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1. In May 2019, the Business Board and Combined Authority Board approved a revised single Assurance Framework following the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government's revised National Local Growth Assurance Framework for Mayoral Combined Authorities with a Single Pot and Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- 1.2. Following both Boards' approval, the Assurance Framework was submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for final sign off as required by the Government Guidance.
- 1.3. The Ministry has asked for further amendments and, subject to the Business Board and the Combined Authority Board approving the final amended version, the Ministry have given their final approval to the single framework

<b><u>DECISION REQUIRED</u></b>	
<b>Lead Member:</b>	<b>James Palmer, Mayor</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Dermot Pearson, Interim Legal Counsel and Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>Forward Plan Ref: n/a</b>	<b>Key Decision: No</b>
The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:  (a) Agree the adoption of the single Assurance Framework as amended to meet the requirements of the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government. (The amended Assurance Framework forms the Appendix to this report - amendments are highlighted in bold)	<b>Voting arrangements</b>  Simple majority of all Members

## 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 As reported to the Business Board and Combined Authority Board in May 2019, the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government published revised Assurance Framework guidelines for Mayoral Combined Authorities in January 2019.
- 2.2 A single Assurance Framework for both the Business Board and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority was developed in line with the revised Government guidance. The single Assurance Framework was agreed by the Business Board and the Combined Authority in May 2019. The agreed Assurance Framework was then submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government who are responsible for signing off the Assurance Framework following consultation with other relevant Government Departments.
- 2.3 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Department for Transport [DfT] requested some further amendments to the Assurance Framework. The revised version is attached at Appendix 1 and the changes are highlighted in bold. The changes are set out below:
  - a) Clarification that where potential changes result in significant divergence from approved local assurance frameworks, adjustments must be agreed by MHCLG as set out in the National Local Growth Assurance Framework guidance. (1.1.6)
  - b) Clarification that the Combined Authority will act in a manner that is lawful, transparent, evidence based, consistent and proportionate (3.2.1)
  - c) Inclusion of paragraph on the role of the Mayor in allocating funding, especially the additional Investment Fund allocations. (3.2.10-11)
  - d) Paragraph expanded to explicitly explain how the Combined Authority will ensure rigour and data quality and projects are identified on need/opportunity and clear application of best practice. (3.4.9)
  - e) Inclusion of additional information on achieving best practice, (5.1) and section on ensuring value for money for transport projects (5.8)
  - f) Increased flexibility on Benefit Cost Ratios for transport schemes (5.1.1)
  - g) Further detail on value for money for transport schemes (5.8.2)
  - h) Additional detail regards the monitoring and evaluation agreed at inception of projects appropriate to the value and complexity (7.3.3)
- 2.4 By creating a single Assurance Framework, the Combined Authority and the Business Board will have a robust, singular framework that brings cohesion to the work of the single officer team, ensuring clarity, transparency and openness for Government, partners and members of the public around governance and compliance processes, and a singular approach to the recommendation and decision-making processes of both Boards.

### 3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. All of the work has been carried out in-house, therefore there are no additional financial implications to this activity.

### 4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The approval of this document will ensure the Business Board and Combined Authority Board are compliant with the requirements of Government.

### 5.0 APPENDICES

- 5.1. Appendix 1 – Assurance Framework [as amended]

<b><u>Background Papers</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Revised National Local Growth Assurance Framework - Guidelines for Mayoral Combined Authorities with a Single Pot and Local Enterprise Partnerships	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-local-growth-assurance-framework">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-local-growth-assurance-framework</a>
Combined Authority Board report and decision summary 29 May 2019	<a href="https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/855/Committee/63/Default.aspx">https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/855/Committee/63/Default.aspx</a>
Business Board report and decision summary 28 May 2019	<a href="https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/871/Committee/69/Default.aspx">https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/871/Committee/69/Default.aspx</a>