



Combined Authority Board	Agenda Item
31 May 2023 – Annual Meeting	8

Title:	Appointment of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2023/24
Report of:	Edwina Adefehinti, Interim Chief Officer Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.

Recommendations:	
A	Confirm that the size of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be 14 members; two members from each constituent council and two substitute members for the municipal year 2023/24.
B	To agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix 1.
C	Confirm the appointment of the Member and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023/24 as set out in Appendix 2.
D	Approve the co-option of an independent member from a Constituent Council to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and delegations given to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to appoint the co-optee.

Strategic Objective(s):	
The subject of this report is linked to a statutory requirement under the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 requiring the Combined Authority to establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	
A well-run Overview and Scrutiny Committee will strongly support the Combined Authority in all its strategic objectives as outlined below.	
	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
	Enabling resilient communities

1. Purpose

1.1	The purpose of the report is to ask the Board to confirm the size and membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to agree the political balance and consider whether the Committee should appoint a co-opted independent member from a Constituent Council.
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2. Proposal

2.1	In accordance with the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017, the Combined Authority is required to establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2.2	The 2017 Order sets out the rules for membership. The membership of the Overview and Scrutiny as a whole should reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties of the constituent councils when taken together. The balance is based on membership of political parties, not political groups, on constituent councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

3. Background

3.1	In March 2017, the Combined Authority agreed that to ensure an equitable representation across each constituent authority, two members from each council should be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee representing a total membership of fourteen members. The Combined Authority has agreed that substitute members should be appointed for each position. Any substitute members should come from the same party as the Member they are substituting for to maintain political balance.
3.2	The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 states that the combined authority must appoint such a number of members of each of the constituent councils to an overview and scrutiny committee, so that the members of the committee taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the constituent councils when taken together. The Board is recommended to review the political balance on the committee based on the above principles and approve the political balance as set out in Appendix 1 based on a 14 member committee.
3.3	Constituent Councils have nominated the members and substitute members listed in Appendix 2 for the municipal year 2023/24 based on the political balance set out in Appendix 1.
3.4	In previous years, discretion had been used to provide independent members a seat on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as well as the Audit and Governance Committee. Recognising the process operated through the exercise of such discretion to provide an independent member with a seat but ensuring the political balance of the Committee is not compromised, it has been proposed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could consider the co-option of an independent member (from a constituent Council) to the Committee. The co-opted member would not be given voting rights, nor would they be considered as a member of the Committee when paying due regard to the criteria of the call-in process, outlined in Chapter 13, Overview and Scrutiny Committee 13.7 of the Constitution.
3.5	Should the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree to the co-option of an independent member, authority may be delegated from the Combined Authority Board to the Committee to appoint a co-optee. The co-option would be for the municipal year 2023/24 only.

4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix 1 – Political Balance on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
4.2	Appendix 2 – Nominations from Constituent Councils (to follow)

5. Implications

Financial Implications

5.1	In accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 no remuneration is to be payable by the Combined Authority to its members.
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Legal Implications

6.1	These are dealt with in the report.
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Public Health Implications

7.1	None
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Environmental & Climate Change Implications

8.1	None
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Other Significant Implications

9.1	None
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Background Papers

10.1	Cambridge City Council AGM report
10.2	Cambridgeshire County Council AGM report
10.3	East Cambridgeshire District Council AGM report
10.4	Fenland District Council AGM report
10.5	Huntingdonshire District Council AGM report
10.6	Peterborough City Council AGM report
10.7	South Cambridgeshire District Council AGM report