



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Monday, 23 November 2020

Time: 11.00 a.m.

Location: Virtual Meeting via the Zoom Platform

Present:

Cllr M Davey	Cambridge City Council
Cllr M Gehring	Cambridge City Council
Cllr D Connor	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr J Scutt	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr L Dupre (Chair)	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr A Sharp	East Cambridgeshire District Council
Cllr D Mason	Fenland District Council
Cllr A Hay	Fenland District Council
Cllr S Corney	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr M Humphrey	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr A Coles	Peterborough City Council
Cllr E Murphy	Peterborough City 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
Jon Alsop	Chief Finance Officer, Combined Authority
Rowland Potter	Head of Transport, Combined Authority
Robert Fox	Interim Scrutiny Officer, Combined Authority (Minute taker)

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from: Cllr P Jordan (substituted by Cllr M Humphrey), Huntingdonshire District Council.
- 1.2 The Interim Scrutiny Officer conducted the roll-call of Committee attendees.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday, 26 October 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. Public Questions

4.1 There were no public questions.

5. The Chair of the Business Board

5.1 Austen Adams, Chair of the Business Board was in attendance. The Chair invited Mr Adams to provide the Committee with a verbal update on the activity of the Business Board.

5.2 Mr Adams informed the Committee that a great deal of attention is centred on dealing with short-term issues as a consequence of Covid; as well as thinking about the longer-term investments required to accelerate the recovery from the pandemic. The Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) is continually reviewed to deal with short-term issues. The LIS is supported by an ICT and Digital Strategy.

5.3 The Business Board ensures that a strong evidence base, which is real-time, is used in order to adjust plans effectively to assist in the recovery. A body has been commissioned by the Business Board to develop a real-time dashboard to assist in developing plans.

5.4 Mr Adams paid tribute to the hard work of colleagues at the CPCA which has enabled the Business Board to be flexible and agile in supporting businesses throughout the pandemic.

5.5 The Local Growth Fund has virtually all been deployed with investment across sectors: Accelerating Start-Ups, Scale-Ups and Set-Ups through Start-up and Growth Finance and Advice with an investment of £19.7m potentially creating over 13,000 jobs; Accelerating Hi-Tech Jobs Growth through Innovation & Incubation Centres with an investment of £23m with the potential to create over 38,000; Accelerating Recovery in Construction through Transport Infrastructure improvements with an investment of £62m potentially creating 5,200 jobs; Retraining and Upskilling for New Jobs through Improved Education Capacity with an investment of nearly £33m potentially creating 22,000 jobs.

5.6 Skills are an important element and the University of Peterborough Phase I is on-track for building completion in June 2022 with students commencing courses the following September. Phase II, which will complement the first phase, with a research and development facility to attract businesses to work with academia. In support of this the Business Board has an increased apprenticeships programme looking at £20m of apprenticeships levy funding. This will assist SMEs through a skills brokerage to create linkages between young people looking to get into apprenticeships with businesses. Additionally, a retraining scheme to assist

people to find new skills to meet new demands will be moving forward. This is a scheme where, amongst others, the Business Board is working with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Trust and Marshall Aerospace. Adult Education funding is particularly concentrated on those on low pay or with lower skill sets.

- 5.7 With regard to Business Board governance Mr Adams informed the Committee that in its Annual Performance Review by BEIS it was awarded the rating 'Good'.
- 5.8 The Chair informed Mr Adams of the Committee decision to appoint a Lead Member to shadow the Business Board and stated that whilst the Assurance Framework does not enable a formal status for the Committee to shadow the Board a discussion of the Framework with a view to formalising a relationship would be welcomed. Mr Adams responded that anything to forge links and aid transparency are welcomed. However, some of the work of the Business Board is commercially sensitive and, as a result, is in a position of trust. He stated he would welcome dialogue to see how a Lead Member of the Committee could fulfil a similar function to those who shadow Executive Committees to update the Committee on the work of the Business Board.
- 5.9 Following a question on the impact of Brexit and future investment funding Mr Adams informed the Committee that the Business Board has just commissioned a report on AgriTech which was presented to the Board earlier in the month. The current and future situation is still not known and it is, therefore, difficult to plan for something with outcomes unknown. The Business Board and the CPCA can move quickly, as evidenced by the response to Covid.
- 5.10 Following a question on the diverse geographies of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Mr Adams informed the Committee that the LIS highlights the challenges and the benefits of what effectively are three different economies. Fundamentally, value for money and growth are the impacts the Business Board looks at and if there is an opportunity to link the three economies it would do so. However, to date, there are very few opportunities to invest in this.
- 5.11 Following a question Mr Adams confirmed that the current composition of the Business Board does not have a 50:50 gender split but that it is compliant with BEIS objectives in terms of diversity.
- 5.12 Mr Adams informed the Committee that the Business Board is not directly liaising with the Independent Commission on Climate Change but is cognisant of how it might change going forward with the green economy and how jobs might be created within that.
- 5.13 The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Austen Adams for his contribution to the meeting and stated the Committee would look forward to some dialogue into how it can engage its Lead Member to shadow the Business Board.

6. The Combined Authority Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)

- 6.1 Jon Alsop introduced the report and stated that this would be the first of three consecutive visits to the Committee over the course of the budget-setting process and development of the MTFP. This first appearance is related to the process of budget-setting.

- 6.2 The Combined Authority Board should approve the budget for consultation purposes at its meeting on 25 November; and it is this budget that will be brought back to the December meeting of the Committee as a consultee in the process. The consultation period commences at the end of the Combined Authority Board on 25 November and continues until the end of December. Once the consultation period is complete the results will be brought back to the Committee in January 2021 prior to the final budget received by the Combined Authority Board at the end of January 2021 for approval.
- 6.3 The budget includes a clear distinction between revenue and capital budgets and is a balanced budget which assumes no precept.
- 6.4 Following a question it was confirmed that the budget-setting consultees included all constituent authorities including the Leaders, Chief Executives and Chief Finance Officers. The draft budget is loaded onto the Combined Authority website with alerts via social media to engage the public in the process. As well as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Business Board will receive the draft budget as a named consultee.
- 6.5 Following a question it was confirmed any impacts from the Comprehensive Spending Review would be edited into the draft budget.
- 6.6 With regard to the signing-off of the previous year's budget it was confirmed that this is very likely to be done at the Audit and Governance Committee on 27 November 2020.
- 6.7 The budget will include funds to react to the findings of the Independent Commission on Climate Change.
- 6.8 The Chair thanked Jon Alsop, on behalf of the Committee, for his contribution to the meeting and looked forward to receiving further detail at the next meeting of the Committee.

7. Ely Capacity Enhancements

- 7.1 Rowland Potter introduced the report and informed the Committee that the Mayor of the Combined Authority is to meet the Rail Minister shortly and will be discussing rail enhancements in the county. The Combined Authority is lobbying the Department for Transport for greater capacity than what is currently proposed and there is a good opportunity to maximise capacity without the need for separated solutions with rail in the region being critical for integrated transport solutions.
- 7.2 With regard to freight transport it was confirmed that the Combined Authority is looking to maximise rail freight opportunities and ameliorate the carbon impact of road freight as a key component of the enhancements. This would be achieved by an additional three freight trains per day, initially, but with an ambition to significantly increase this over time.
- 7.3 Following a question it was confirmed that the Wisbech rail proposals are dependent upon capacity through the Ely area and that negotiations with the Department for Transport are ongoing and interim solutions are being considered.

7.4 The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Rowland Potter for his contribution to the meeting.

8. Scrutiny of the CAM Special Purpose Vehicle

8.1 The Monitoring Officer introduced the report which updated the Committee on the arrangements for scrutinising One CAM Limited the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established to manage the delivery of the CAM Metro at the Combined Authority Board in September 2020.

8.2 The Committee was informed that there will be an opportunity to establish arrangements to receive information from the SPV. The Shareholder Agreement for the SPV contains a number of functions which are in the power of the Combined Authority Board, and, as such is a matter for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider, if it were minded to.

8.3 The Chair suggested the Committee invite the Chairman and Chief Executive of One CAM Limited to a meeting of the Committee in late winter/early spring to consider how the Committee could engage with the SPV.

RESOLVED:

8.4 The Chairman and Chief Executive of One CAM Limited to be invited to a future meeting of the Committee.

9. Combined Authority Board Agenda and Questions for the Meeting on Wednesday, 30 September 2020

9.1 The questions the Committee should ask the Combined Authority Board were agreed as:

- **Item 1.7 Appointment of Chief Executive of ONE CAM Limited**

Can the process for the level of remuneration to be received by the Chief Executive of One CAM Limited be evidenced and justified?

- **Item 2.2 Draft 2021-22 Budget and MTFP to 2024-25 for Public Consultation**

Is there any indication of when we might expect to see the strategy underlying the financial figures extrapolated beyond 2021/22?

The staffing budget shows a 2% pay award and increments for performance related pay. Given the expected announcement of a public sector pay freeze is the CPCA expecting to proceed with this pay award?

There are revenue proposals referencing EU funds up to 2023-24. Are these funds received prior to Brexit and will they be received post-Brexit?

- **Item 4.1 CAM Special Purpose Vehicle**

Given the expected announcement of a public sector pay freeze is it appropriate that an annual salary of £40,000 per annum is awarded to non-executive directors? Can the O&S Committee have some background to the process justifying this level of remuneration?

How does the Board justify the level of funding on a project that is currently speculative; and what level of recompense is likely if the project does not happen?

- **Item 4.6 Devolution Deal, Gainshare Gateway Review and Combined Authority Prospectus**

(Appendix 1: 1) Are we realistically still considering doubling GVA?

(Appendix 1: 4) When will material be placed in the public domain arising from the work of the Public Sector Reform Commission?

(Appendix 1: 6) How does the Board define world-class connectivity and how will we know something is world-class?

(Appendix 1: 14) When will the Joint Assets Board will be established?

(Appendix 1:18) When will the impasse be resolved in terms of holding back £45m of the £100m housing fund? If this is not resolved how will this affect the delivery of the commitment? When will it be made clear whether March 2021 or March 2022 that is the end date for the £100m scheme?

(Appendix 1: 34) This is not, as yet, implemented; can the O&S Committee have an update please?

(Appendix 1: 35) What are the Combined Authority's expectations for a second Devolution Deal?

(Appendix 1: 39) What is happening on the government's proposals on business rate reform and what are the implications for the Combined Authority of not proceeding?

(Appendix 1: 41) What is happening on the devolution of strategic planning powers to the Mayor and what is the likely impact?

(Appendix 1: 43) What is happening on forming an Education Committee with the Regional Schools Commissioner and other key education stakeholders and what is the likely impact?

(Appendix 1: 46) What is happening on the work with government to explore a more integrated pathway of service delivery for the causes of offending behaviour early to reduce the use of courts and prisons and what is the likely impact?

(Appendix 1:53) Could the O&S Committee have an update on the work with local partners to consider how best to establish a sub-national transport body?

(Appendix 1:58) Does this commitment now refer to the Government White Paper on Planning for the Future or something entirely different?

(Appendix 1: 69) The DfE did not include the Combined Authority in Area Reviews, as the process was considerably advanced by the time the Combined Authority was established in March 2017. The last of the Area Reviews were concluded in August 2017, but this commitment is described as 'Not yet implemented by Government'. Could the O&S Committee have an update on what the Combined Authority expects to happen now?

- **Item 5.1 Local Transport Plan CAM Sub Strategy**

What does the Board envisage the role of the Greater Cambridge Partnership to be in this as that body is barely mentioned in the report?

- **Items 6.3 Local Economic Recovery Strategy Update**

How is the Combined Authority liaising with its constituent authorities and the Greater Cambridge Partnership on Covid recovery?

Has the impact of Brexit on future investment funding been considered and, if so, how will funds be delivered to help those impacted by Brexit?

- 9.2 It was confirmed that the Combined Authority Board responses to the questions will be included as an appendix to the minutes of this meeting.

10. Combined Authority Forward Plan

- 10.1 The Combined Authority Forward Plan was noted

11. Lead Member Questions to Executive Committees

- 11.1 The responses to the Lead Member questions were noted. The Chair thanked the Lead Members for the questions registered.

12. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

- 12.1 The Work Programme was received and noted.
- 12.2 It was **agreed** that the Chairman and Chief Executive of One CAM Limited be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee in late winter/early spring 2021.
- 12.3 It was noted that an update on the University of Peterborough be scheduled for spring 2021.

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

- 13.1 The next meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee is Monday, 14 December 2020 at 11.00 a.m. This will be a virtual meeting via the Zoom platform.
- 13.2 The Chair requested that questions to the Mayor, who will be attending the December Committee meeting, be provided in advance with a deadline of Tuesday, 8 December 2020.
- 13.3 The remaining meetings this municipal year, following the 14 December meeting, will be on:
Monday, 25 January 2021
Monday, 22 February 2020 (fallow month)
Monday, 29 March 2021
Monday, 26 April 2021 (fallow month)
All meetings to commence at 11.00 a.m.

The meeting closed at 1.04 p.m.