



AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:
31st MAY 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1. The report asks the Audit and Governance Committee to note a report on the 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.

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>
Lead Officer: Kim Sawyer – Interim Chief Executive
That the Committee: a) Notes the contents of the report and the single Assurance Framework for both the Business Board and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (Appendix 1).

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In July 2014, the Government negotiated a Growth Deal with all 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), which awarded a significant proportion of the £12 billion Local Growth Fund to LEPs.
- 2.2. Government produced a National Assurance Framework to ensure that every Local Enterprise Partnership had in place the necessary systems and processes to manage the delegated funding from Central Government budgets effectively.
- 2.3. Each LEP then created a Local Assurance Framework which documented practices and standards which are necessary to provide Government and local partners with assurance that decisions over funding are proper, transparent, and deliver value for money.

- 2.4. Each LEP is required to review, refresh and sign off its Local Assurance Framework as the requirements set out in this Framework will be incorporated as a condition of funding in future Growth Deal grant offer letters.
- 2.5. LEPs must submit a letter from their relevant Section 73 Officer to MHCLG's Accounting Officer by 28 February each year, certifying that the LEPs Local Assurance Framework has been agreed, is being implemented and meets the revised standards set out in the National Assurance Framework.
- 2.6. The Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough (GCGP) LEP's Assurance Framework was signed off as compliant by its old Accountable Body, Cambridgeshire County Council on the 28 February 2018.
- 2.7. To ensure that the Business Board was fully compliant with Government requirements, the Business Board on 24 September 2018 approved an interim Assurance Framework based on the previous GCGP LEP's agreed framework as the Government was due to publish revised guidance for Mayoral Authorities with a local enterprise partnership.
- 2.8. The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government published revised Assurance Framework guidelines for Mayoral Combined Authorities in January 2019.
- 2.9. A single Assurance Framework for both the Business Board and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has been developed in line with the revised Government guidance. Previously both entities had separate Assurance Frameworks. The single Assurance Framework is attached at Appendix 1 and was initially approved at the March meetings of the Business Board and Combined Authority, with further updates being reported to the respective Boards in May.
- 2.10. By creating a single Assurance Framework, we 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 our governance and compliance processes, and a singular approach to the recommendation and decision-making processes of both Boards.
- 2.11. The new Assurance Framework meets the criteria set out in the revised guidance.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. There are no significant financial implications to this report.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

5.0 APPENDICES

5.1. Appendix 1 – Assurance Framework

<u>Source Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>
List background papers: Business Board Assurance Framework - Business Board Meeting 25 th March 2019	List location of background papers: http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/meetings/business-board-meeting-25th-march-2019/?date=2019-03-25