



Report title: Review of Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements – Centre for Governance and Scrutiny’s Proposal

To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: 22 March 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Chair - Cllr Lorna Dupre

From: Anne Gardiner
Scrutiny Officer

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- Recommendations:
- a) Agree that the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny carry out a review of the scrutiny arrangements for the CPCA;
 - b) request that the CA Board approve that the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny carry out a review of the current scrutiny arrangements at the CPCA.

Voting arrangements: Simple majority of all members

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide the committee with the proposal from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny to carry out a review of the current scrutiny arrangements at the CPCA with a view to providing some recommendations to be considered by the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee post-election, and to invite the committee to recommend that the Combined Authority Board approve the appointment.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny has recently published their second edition on guidance to overview and scrutiny in Combined Authorities. This new edition reflects upon the past three years of practice since the introduction of CA’s. It provides guidance around how scrutiny can best operate in practice.

The guidance may be found here: [Revised guidance: Overview and Scrutiny in Combined Authorities - Centre For Governance and Scrutiny \(cfgs.org.uk\)](https://www.cfgs.org.uk/revised-guidance-overview-and-scrutiny-in-combined-authorities)

- 2.2 Following this guidance being published the CPCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee held an informal workshop with CfGS to discuss some of the points raised within the guidance and requested that a proposal be brought forward from CfGS to carry out a review of the current scrutiny arrangements at the CPCA.
- 2.3 The proposal provided by CfGS for the review suggests that it will cover the following areas:
- Review and consider lessons to be learned from arrangements operating pre-, and since the onset of, the pandemic;
 - Focus on identifying practical improvement actions which will enable scrutiny to make an impact on the work of the CA and the wider area – for example, exploring how scrutiny’s work will continue to intersect with business transacted at executive committees and the Board;
 - In so doing look particularly at the work of trading companies and other commercial activity, and consider the most proportionate way to ensure effective oversight of these arrangements.
- 2.4 The proposal will need to be approved by the CA Board and it is suggested that following an agreement from this committee that a recommendation is made to the CA Board to approve the proposal at their meeting on the 24th March 2021. This will allow the CfGS to start work during April-May with recommendations being brought back to the new committee after the election.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 The CfGS have quoted a price of between £4000-£5000 (exc VAT) to carry out the review.
- 3.2 These costs will be met from within existing budgets.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 None.

5. Appendices

- 5.1 Appendix 1 – CfGS Proposal