



HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No: 1.4
11 NOVEMBER 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1. At its meeting on 25 September 2019 the Combined Authority Board agreed amendments to the Constitution which created new governance arrangements for the Combined Authority. The new arrangements took effect on 1 November 2019 and include significant delegation of decision making to the Housing and Communities Committee. This report sets out the new arrangements as they affect the Committee.

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	Councillor Graham Bull
Lead Officer:	Dermot Pearson, Interim Legal Counsel
Forward Plan Ref: N/a	Key Decision: No
The Housing and Communities Committee is recommended to: (a) Note the new governance arrangements for the Committee.	Voting arrangements Simple majority of all Members

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. At its meeting on 25 September 2019 the Combined Authority Board agreed amendments to the Constitution which created new governance arrangements for the Combined Authority. The new arrangements took effect on 1 November 2019. The new arrangements work by reserving some matters to the Combined Authority Board and delegating decision making on other matters to

the Committee, subject to the Mayor's powers. The information set out below is limited to issues relevant to the Committee.

Matters Reserved to the Combined Authority Board

- 2.2. The adoption of certain plans, strategies and frameworks, and their amendment or withdrawal is reserved to the Combined Authority Board. Those plans and strategies include:
 - 2.1.1 The Business Plan and business cases for key priority projects identified in the Business Plan;
 - 2.1.2 The Housing Strategy;
 - 2.1.3 The Assurance Framework; and
 - 2.1.4 The Monitoring & Evaluation Framework.
- 2.3. This means that while the Committee may make recommendations on those reserved matters to the Combined Authority Board, the final decision on those matters is reserved to the Board. Key projects within the Business Plan include the Affordable Housing Programme, £100k Homes and Community Land Trusts.
- 2.4. Other matters reserved to the Combined Authority Board which relate to the work of the Committee include:
 - 2.4.1 Approving budget allocations for feasibility work from the non-transport feasibility fund;
 - 2.4.2 Approving business cases and loans to third party businesses including wholly owned subsidiaries;
 - 2.4.3 Approving applications to bid for external funding where there are wider budgetary implications, or the bid relates to a matter outside the strategic framework.
 - 2.4.4 Establishment of Trading Companies;

Matters Delegated to the Committee

- 2.5. The Committee has responsibility for agreeing housing and community policies within the budget and policy framework. This includes responsibility for ensuring all programmes and projects comply with the Assurance Framework and that they are monitored and evaluated in accordance with the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. In any case where a proposal which the Committee would like to pursue does not fall within its delegated powers it can initiate proposals for the Combined Authority Board to approve.
- 2.6. The main limitation upon the delegated powers of the Committee is that it must ensure all programmes and projects are within the scope of the strategic and budget framework approved by the Combined Authority Board. Subject to that limitation the Committee's responsibilities include:

- 2.6.1 Overseeing the development and management of the Housing Strategy and any other key strategies reserved to the Combined Authority Board, including consultation and engagement processes, and making recommendations to the Board.
 - 2.6.2 Overseeing the development of, and approving all policies arising from the Housing Strategy.
 - 2.6.3 Ensuring all programmes and projects are within the scope of the strategic and budget framework approved by the Board.
 - 2.6.4 Ensuring effective engagement and consultation is in place and can be evidenced.
 - 2.6.5 Approve the commissioning of delivery partners where this is required,
 - 2.6.6 Authorise the staged release of budget for housing projects to be funded from:
 - 2.6.6.1 The £100m Affordable Housing Programme, allocated for affordable housing within the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority area to include £60m grant funding and the £40m revolving funding allocated to the Housing Company; and
 - 2.6.6.2 The £70m Affordable Housing Programme allocated to Cambridge City Council.
 - 2.6.7 Acting as Accountable Body for the release of the Housing Infrastructure Funding for the Cambridge Northern Fringe East housing project.
 - 2.6.8 Considering the Business Plan, Annual Accounts and Shareholders Agreement for the Combined Authority Housing Company and making recommendations to the Board.
 - 2.6.9 Overseeing the development of and approving all other housing and community programmes and projects not reserved to the Board including but not limited to those relating to Culture and Tourism and overseeing delivery of the Connecting Cambridgeshire Project by Cambridgeshire County Council:
- 2.7. Chapter 10 of the Constitution (Housing and Communities Committee) is set out in full in the Appendix to this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1. As set out in the body of the report, expenditure by the Committee must be within the Business Plan and funded from the Medium Term Financial Plan.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The legal implications are set out in the body of the report. If decisions are made which are not in accordance with the Constitution they may be subject to legal challenge on that basis.

5.0 APPENDICES

5.1. Appendix – Chapter 10 of the Constitution (Housing and Communities Committee)

<u>Background Papers</u>	<u>Location</u>
Report to the meeting of the Combined Authority Board on 25 September 2019 – Governance (Decision Making) Review – and Decision Summary	Report 25 September 2019 Decision Summary [Item 1.7]