



<b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No: 1.8</b>
<b>3 JUNE 2020</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

## **APPOINTMENT OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2020/2021**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

1.1. The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) note the political balance on constituent councils following local elections and by-elections;
- (b) agree the size of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and agree the political balance on the committee (Appendix 1);
- (c) appoint the Members and substitute members nominated by constituent councils and confirm these appointments (Appendix 2).
- (d) recommend to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that they consider co-opting an independent member from a Constituent Council.

<b><u>DECISION REQUIRED</u></b>	
<b>Lead Member:</b>	<b>Mayor James Palmer</b>
<b>Lead Officer and Author:</b>	<b>Robert Parkin, Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer</b>
<b>Forward Plan Ref: N/A</b>	<b>Key Decision: No</b>
The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:  (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 2020/2021;  (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	<b><i>Voting arrangements</i></b>  Simple majority of the Members

<p>councils to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 2.</p>	
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<p>(d) to request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the co-option of an independent member from a Constituent Council.</p>	
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## 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 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.
- 2.3. 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.
- 2.4. 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 its 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.
- 2.5. Constituent Councils have nominated the members and substitute members listed in Appendix 2 for the municipal year 2020/21 based on the political balance set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.6. No local elections for constituent councils were held in May 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. There have been by-elections and defections from

political parties in 2019/20; however, these have not affected the political balance of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Last year the Authority exercised its discretion and calculated seats based upon percentages of constituent authority members by national political parties.

- 2.7. 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.
- 2.8. 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 2020/21 only.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1. These are dealt with in the report.

### **5.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. N/A

### **6.0 APPENDICES**

- 6.1. Appendix 1 – Political Balance on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 6.2. Appendix 2 – Nominations from Constituent Councils

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>
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Constituent Councils annual meetings	Various
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