



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 1.7

## Appointment of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022/23

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| To:                  | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board   |
| Meeting Date:        | 8 June 2022  |
| Public report:       | Yes  |
| Lead Member:         | Mayor Dr Nik Johnson   |
| From:                | Robert Parkin, Chief Legal Officer (Monitoring Officer)  |
| Key decision:        | No   |
| Forward Plan ref:    | n/a  |
| Recommendations:     | <p>The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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 2022/23.</li><li>b) to agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix 1.</li><li>c) confirm the appointment of the Member and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2.</li><li>d) to request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the co-option of an independent member from a Constituent Council.</li></ul> |
| Voting arrangements: | <p>A simple majority of all Members present and voting</p> <p>To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.</p>   |

# 1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to ask the Board to confirm the size and membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to agree the political balance and consider whether the Committee should appoint a co-opted independent member from a Constituent Council.

# 2. 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 the 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 2022/23 based on the political balance set out in Appendix 1.
- 2.6 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.
- 2.7 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 2022/23 only.

## Significant Implications

### 3. 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. Legal Implications

- 4.1 These are dealt with in the report.

### 5. Public Health Implications

- 5.1 None

### 6. Environmental and Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 None

### 7. Other Significant Implications

- 7.1 None

### 8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Political Balance on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 8.2 Appendix 2 - Nominations from Constituent Councils (to follow)

### 9. Background Papers

- 9.1 Constituent Councils AGM reports:  
[Cambridge City Council](#)  
[Cambridgeshire County Council](#)  
[East Cambridgeshire District Council](#)  
[Fenland District Council](#)  
[Huntingdonshire District Council](#)  
[Peterborough City Council](#)  
[South Cambs District Council](#)