



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

To: Combined Authority Board

Meeting Date: 24 March 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Councillor Lorna Dupré, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

From: Anne Gardiner, Scrutiny Officer

The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

Recommendations: a) Agree that the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny carry out a review of the scrutiny arrangements for the CPCA;

Voting arrangements Simple majority of all members present and voting

1. Purpose

1.1 To provide the Combined Authority Board 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 request 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 (Cas). 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 at [Revised guidance: Overview and Scrutiny in Combined Authorities - Centre For Governance and Scrutiny](#)

2.2 Following this guidance being published the CPCA Overview and Scrutiny Committee held an informal workshop with the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (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 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 22 March 2021 the committee agreed to recommend to the CA Board that a review be carried out by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

2.5 The proposal needs to be approved by the CA Board to allow the CfGS to start work during April-May 2021 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