



<b>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No:</b>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> May 2019</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

## **CO-OPTION OF INDEPENDENT MEMBER FROM A CONSTITUENT COUNCIL.**

### **1.0 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to ask the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider appointing an independent member from a Constituent Council for the ensuing year.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**Lead Officer: Howard Norris, Interim Monitoring Officer**

- (a) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the co-option of an independent member (and substitute) from a Constituent Council.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Combined Authority at its Annual General Meeting on 29th May 2019 will appoint the members nominated by constituent councils to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as detailed in the report.
- 2.2 The Board will also consider delegating authority to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to co-opt a independent member from a Constituent Council and substitute for the municipal year 2019/20.
- 2.3 Previously, discretion has been used to provide independent members a seat on both the Audit and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. However, if such discretion had been used following the May 2019 elections at Constituent Councils, it would have tipped the balance on both committees in favour of non-conservative members.
- 2.4 Recognising the process operated through the exercise of discretion last year 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 (and substitute) 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.

2.5 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 2019/2020.

2.6 Independent Groups/Members have been asked for expressions of interests for co-option and if agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a random selection will then be made by an independent officer of the authority and witnessed by the Monitoring Officer for both the co-opted and their substitute. The substitute will not necessarily be required to be a named substitute from the same Constituent Council.

### **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 including co-opted members of the Overview and Committee.

### **4.0 APPENDICES**

4.1 None