



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Annual General Meeting: Minutes

Date: Wednesday 8 July 2022

Time: 1.00pm – 1.47pm (meeting adjourned)

Venue: Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN

Present: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

Councillor A Bailey – East Cambridgeshire District Council, Councillor S Conboy – Huntingdonshire District Council, Councillor W Fitzgerald – Peterborough City Council, Councillor J French (to 1.44pm) – Fenland District Council, Councillor L Herbert (Statutory Deputy Mayor) – Cambridge City Council, Professor A Neely – Acting Chair of the Business Board, Councillor L Nethsingha (Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor) – Cambridgeshire County Council and Councillor B Smith – South Cambridgeshire District Council (to 1.13pm)

Co-opted Member: J Peach – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (from Item 191 onwards)

Apologies: Councillor C Boden (substituted by Councillor J French), Councillor E Murphy – Fire Authority, D Preston – Police and Crime Commissioner (substituted by J Peach – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner) and J Thomas - Integrated Care Partnership

Date: Monday 27 June 2022 (meeting resumed)

Time: 9.10am -11.52am

Venue: Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN

Present: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

Councillor A Bailey – East Cambridgeshire District Council, Councillor S Conboy – Huntingdonshire District Council, Councillor W Fitzgerald –

Peterborough City Council (to 10.49am), Councillor L Herbert (Statutory Deputy Mayor) – Cambridge City Council, Professor A Neely – Acting Chair of the Business Board, Councillor L Nethsingha (Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor) – Cambridgeshire County Council and Councillor B Smith – South Cambridgeshire District Council (to 1.13pm)

Co-opted Member: J Peach – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Apologies: Councillor C Boden, Councillor E Murphy – Fire Authority, D Preston – Police and Crime Commissioner (substituted by J Peach – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner) and J Thomas - Integrated Care Partnership

Part 1 - Governance Items

186. Announcements, Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

The Mayor stated that in light of a letter which the Board had received the previous day from the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee the meeting would consider Part 1 of the agenda only, in order to make Board and committee appointments. The meeting would then be adjourned.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Herbert for continuing in the role of Statutory Deputy Mayor and announced the appointment of Councillor Nethsingha as Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor.

The Mayor stated that his first year in office represented one of the best years of his life. The Combined Authority had achieved a lot during this time. This included the opening of Soham Station; infrastructure improvements in March and Manea; ARU Peterborough; zero-emission buses; work in support of enhanced digital connectivity; and being on course to deliver around 1500 affordable homes. All of these achievements were founded in a sustainable growth strategy, and he paid tribute to the Board and to officers for making this happen. However, there had also been difficult times and not everything had gone as he would wish. He remained committed to the three C's of compassion, co-operation and community. As part of this, the constituent councils' chief executives would become more involved in the way the CPCA worked and there would be a focus on climate issues.

Against this background he welcomed the letter from the Combined Authority's external auditor Ernst and Young dated 1 June 2022 (minute 196 below refers). He welcomed the further scrutiny envisaged and officers had been mandated to work with DLUH in support of this.

During his first year in office the Mayor had been hugely impressed by the Combined Authority's staff, their sense of public duty and commitment, and their willingness to embrace the change that came with the election of a new mayor.

The Mayor stated that he was mindful of the need not to prejudice the on-going investigations into some of the matters discussed during the Board's Extraordinary meeting on 20 May 2022 (resumed 8 June 2022), at which he had not been present, and he would not be commenting on these. The scrutiny and criticism he had experienced at times since his election had been uncomfortable, but he recognised and accepted the need for public reassurance. Problems had existed at the Combined Authority prior to his election, and these had been recognised by Government. To turn the CPCA around required commitment from all concerned. The Mayor stated that he had much to offer on this and stated his commitment to seeing it through

Apologies for absence were received as recorded above.

On 8 June 2022, there were no declarations of interest.

On the resumption of the meeting on 27 June 2022, Professor Andy Neely made a declaration of interest in relation to Item 4.2: Local Growth Fund Recycled Funding Proposals in that he was a member of the board of Cambridge &. He stated that he had no financial interest in the organisation and received no salary or remuneration. Minute 203 below refers.

[Councillor Smith left the meeting at 1.13pm]

187. Minutes – 30 March 2022 and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting on 30 March 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

In discussion of the action log, Councillor Bailey commented that she did not feel that the Board had proper oversight of staffing matters. She repeated her request for an organogram of the CPC which was annotated to show leavers, staff vacancies and interim appointments.

The Action Log was noted.

188. Petitions

No petitions were received.

189. Public Questions

One public question was heard from Antony Carpen, a local resident. A copy of Mr Carpen's question and the Mayor's response can be viewed on the [meeting webpage](#).

190. Membership of Combined Authority 2022-23

John Peach, Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, left the meeting room for the duration of this item and the vote.

The Board was invited to note the membership of the Combined Authority for 2022/23 and to agree the organisations to be given co-opted member status during this period.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Herbert, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the Members and substitute Members appointed by constituent councils to the Combined Authority for the municipal year 2022/2023 (Appendix 1).
- b) Confirm that the following bodies be given co-opted member status for the municipal year 2022/23:
 - (i) The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire.
 - (ii) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.
 - (iii) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group.
- c) Note the named representative and substitute representative for each organisation as set out in the report.
- d) Agree that any late notifications of appointments to the Monitoring Officer shall take immediate effect.

Mr Peach returned to the meeting room after the vote had been concluded and joined the Board.

191. Appointments to Executive Committees, Committee Chairs and Lead Members

An updated Appendix 1 containing the final committee nominations from constituent councils' following their annual meetings was published on Tuesday 31 May 2022 and circulated electronically to members of the Board.

The role of the chair of the Business Board was currently being advertised. The Acting Chair of the Business Board would remain as the Business Board's representative on the Combined Authority Board until the position was filled.

Councillor Fitzgerald expressed regret that he had not been made aware in advance of the publication of the meeting papers that the Mayor proposed to replace him as Lead Member for Economic Growth. He voiced detailed concerns about the position of the CPCA, stated the view that the Mayor was not the right person to lead the Combined Authority and called on him to resign. The Mayor stated that it remained his wish that the Statutory Deputy Mayor should also be the Lead Member for Economic Growth, and that he had believed this to be understood by Councillor Fitzgerald. However, if that

was not the case, he offered his apologies. The Mayor expressed his thanks to Councillor Fitzgerald for his support during his period as Statutory Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Bailey commented that she could not support the proposed allocation of Lead Member responsibilities set out in revised Appendix 1. She did not support the Mayor's wish to remain as Lead Member for Policy, Governance and Investment and Finance. In her judgement, there had been a lack of new policies put in place during his tenure as Mayor, the budget setting process had resulted in significant sums remaining unallocated and significant numbers of staff had left the organisation. A letter dated 1 June 2022 from the Combined Authority's external auditor Ernst and Young (EY) reported significant weakness in governance arrangements and the potential for further employment related risks which posed a significant financial risk to the CPCA's ability to service any revenue based financial obligations outside of these.

Councillor Nethsingha commented that that the letter from EY made it clear that the CPCA was in difficulty. In her judgement, it was Members' joint responsibility to make the Combined Authority Board function collaboratively, to get the organisation back on track and to support CPCA staff.

Professor Neely stated that his role as the Acting Chair of the Business Board was to provide an apolitical business perspective. In his judgement, the Combined Authority Board had a collective responsibility to make things work for the benefit of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's residents. He acknowledged that there would be political differences, but spoke of the importance of the Combined Authority speaking with one voice in its interactions with Government to avoid the area missing out.

Councillor Conboy commented on the benefits of collaborative working for all of the communities which the Combined Authority served.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Nethsingha, it was resolved by a majority to:

- a) Note and agree the Mayor's nominations to Lead Member responsibilities and the membership of the committees including the Chairs of committees for 2022/23 as set out in **revised** Appendix 1.
- a) Note the Committee Members and substitute Members appointed by constituent councils to the Combined Authority for the municipal year 2022/23 (**revised** Appendix 1).
- b) Note and agree the membership for the Employment Committee for 2022/23 (**revised** Appendix 1).

192. Appointment of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2022/23

The Board was invited to confirm the composition and membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2022/23, and to invite the Committee to consider co-opting an Independent member from a constituent council.

Councillor Nethsingha noted that Independent members were excluded from the political proportionality calculations for committee memberships for the Combined Authority. The number of Independent members of constituent councils had increased, and she asked that this issue should be raised with DLUHC. The Mayor concurred, stating that he already raised this issue with the Monitoring Officer.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Conboy, it was resolved unanimously 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 2022/23.
- b) 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 councils to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2.
- d) Request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the co-option of an independent member from a Constituent Council.

[Councillor French left the meeting at 1.44pm]

193. Appointment of the Audit and Governance Committee 2022/23

The Board was invited to confirm the composition and membership of the Audit and Governance (A&G) Committee, to appoint a chair for 2022/23 and to delegate authority for the election of the vice chair to the committee.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Nethsingha, it was resolved unanimously by those present to:

- a) Confirm that the size of the Audit and Governance Committee should be eight members; one member and one substitute from each constituent council and one independent person.
- b) Agree the political balance on the Committee as set out in Appendix 1.
- c) Confirm the appointment of the Members and substitute Members nominated by Constituent Councils to the Committee for the municipal year 2022/23 as set out in Appendix 2.
- d) Appoint the independent person as Chair for the municipal year 2022/23 and delegate the election of the Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 1.47pm.

The meeting resumed on Monday 27 June at 9.10am.

Part 1 – Governance Items

194. Apologies for absence and declarations of interest – 27 June 2022

Apologies for absence were reported as recorded as above.

Professor Neely made a declaration of interest in relation to Item 4.2: Local Growth Fund Recycled Funding Proposals in that he was a member of the Board of Cambridge &. He stated that he had no financial interest in the organisation and received no salary or remuneration. Minute 205 below refers.

The Mayor stated that he had exercised his discretion as Chair to agree to the addition of two additional reports to the agenda on the grounds of urgency. He had further exercised this discretion to vary the order of business from the published agenda in order to consider decision-making items first.

The Mayor expressed his regret that a livestream would not be available for the first part of the meeting due to technical problems.

195. Appointment of Interim Chief Executive Officer

Notice of the use of the special urgency arrangements set out in Constitution to add this decision to the meeting agenda had been published on the Combined Authority's website on 23 June 2022. The decision was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred as the Combined Authority was required by law to have a Head of Paid Service, as set out in Section 4 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989. Any delay in confirming the recommendation made by the Employment Committee on 24 June 2022 to appoint an Interim Chief Executive Officer would increase the risk of the Combined Authority being without this statutory officer.

The report contained an appendix which was exempt from publication on the grounds that it contained information which was exempt under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed – information relating to any individual. The public interest in maintaining the exemption was deemed to outweigh the public interest in its publication. The Board was asked if any member wished to discuss the exempt appendix to the report. No member expressed the wish to do so.

It was noted that Board members had only received a copy of the officer report in hard copy as the meeting had begun.

The Board was advised that the appointment process for the role of interim chief executive had been conducted with rigour and had attracted high quality applicants. Three shortlisted candidates had taken part in an assessment centre on 24 June 2024. This comprised of a formal interview with the Employment Committee and two stakeholder panels. One panel consisted of the chief executives of the CPCA's constituent councils and the other of senior CPCA staff, co-opted members of the

Combined Authority Board and external partners. The candidates also met CPCA staff over lunch.

Councillor Smith commented that she had found the assessment centre to be a robust process and that she supported the Employment Committee's recommendation.

Councillor Bailey voiced her support for the Employment Committee's recommendation. However, she felt compelled to express her concern at the cost of the proposed appointment, which officers had stated equated to £582k per annum. Councillor Herbert disputed this figure.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Herbert, it was agreed unanimously to:

- a) Note the contents of this report.
- b) Receive and agree the recommendation made by the Members of the Employment Committee at the meeting on 24 June 2022 that the preferred candidate be appointed to the position of Interim Chief Executive/ Head of Paid Service for the Combined Authority with effect from a start date to be agreed by the preferred candidate and the Interim Assistant Director of HR.

196. Engagement with Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

The Mayor exercised his discretion as Chair of the Board to add this non-key decision report to the meeting agenda on the grounds of urgency. It was published and circulated electronically to Board members on Friday 24 June 2022.

The Acting Chief Executive stated that he had consulted the appropriate officers on whether he had a conflict of interest in relation to the report. He had been advised that this was not the case, but elected to ask the Chief Finance Officer to present the report. He remained in the meeting room for the debate, but took no part in it.

The Board was updated on officer engagement to date with DLUHC, in accordance with the Board's request at the Extraordinary meeting of 20 May 2022, and advised that constituent councils' chief executives had also met with DLUHC. The CPCA's external auditor Ernst and Young (EY) had identified a need to ensure appropriate leadership capacity and took the view that more formal intervention was required. A copy of EY's letter was at Appendix A to the report. The Board's attention was drawn to the DLUHC guidance note referenced at paragraph 2.7 of the report and Appendix B which set out six indicators of poor culture and weak governance.

Councillor Smith commented that the Board had not yet decided whether to set up a locally led improvement board and she felt some of the report presumed this decision. She stated the view that there should be a clear distinction between the role of the Improvement Board and the role of the Combined Authority Board; asked the authorship of Appendix 3; and objected to paragraph 11.4.2 and requested it should be removed. Officers stated that the references to an improvement board sought to illustrate what it might look like and not to pre-judge the Board's decision on this. The

authorship of Appendix 3 would be confirmed outside of the meeting. Paragraph 11.4.2 was part of a public report and could not be removed, but it would not be included in future iterations.

Councillor Nethsingha judged that it was right for the Board to consider establishing an improvement board now in order to put structures in place for engagement with DLUHC and with partners. The report represented a starting point, but the detail around an improvement board's membership and purpose would require further substantive discussion. The Mayor concurred, stating that the report was illustrative and that the Board was being invited to agree the principle at this stage with detailed work to follow.

Councillor Bailey stated that she considered it to be a matter of regret that the Board was considering this issue before the Audit and Governance had met to discuss the EY letter in detail, and that she judged that it was wrong for the Board to have reconvened at this time in light of the Chair of Audit and Governance's recommendation that the annual meeting be deferred. There were items on the agenda which she did not feel the Board was in a position to discuss, especially in relation to the CPCA's financial position. The Deputy Monitoring Officer stated that a commitment had been given on 8 June 2022 that the annual meeting would be reconvened promptly and that this was the only feasible date. The EY letter spoke to potential serious risk, but the external auditor had not yet reached a conclusion on this. He reminded the Board of the need to avoid discussing the detail of any on-going investigations.

Councillor Herbert commented that the CPCA was under-resourced at senior level, and it was right that the Board should act to address this. The appointment of an Interim Chief Executive demonstrated progress. It would be important to listen to the views of the Audit and Governance Committee when it met and for a thorough dialogue once the new Interim Chief Executive was in place. However, the work started now. EY had raised issues around leadership in relation to both members and officers. He judged there was a need to reflect on that and on how to support staff, and to address any shortcomings collectively.

Professor Neely spoke in support of establishing an improvement board. He judged there was also a need to reflect on how the Board functioned and made decisions and how the CPCA functioned at an operational level.

The Mayor, seconded by Councillor Herbert, proposed an additional limb to the published recommendations, to:

- a) Consider this update.
- b) Give initial consideration to the issues raised in the EY letter of 1 June.
- c) Give guidance to officers for their further engagement with DLUHC.
- d) Request officers to work with DLUHC and the LGA to progress the concept of an Improvement Board.**

(additional text in **bold**)

Councillor Fitzgerald expressed his support for the amendment and stated that he was wholly supportive of the Combined Authority Board, but that there were serious issues to fix. The letter from EY was a matter of public record and the issues it raised must not be ignored.

Councillor Conboy spoke in support of the amendment, commenting on the importance of transparency and her wish to move forward with the establishment of an improvement board.

A Member sought clarification of the position in relation to the Mayor's decision to draw the debate to a close whilst a Member wished to be heard. The Deputy Monitoring Officer stated that the Chair was responsible for the management of the meeting and that Chapter 5, paragraph 13.6 of the Constitution stated that the chair had discretion to determine the time permitted for speeches and the number of speeches to be made by any Member or Officer. The Mayor stated that there was important business to be discussed and that he was determined to move through the agenda in a timely and productive manner.

Councillor Bailey requested a note on the likely cost of employment related claims and repeated her request from a previous meeting for an organogram of the CPCA annotated to show leavers, staff vacancies and interim appointments.

On being put to the vote, the amendment was carried by a majority vote in favour.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Herbert, it was resolved by a majority to:

- a) Consider this update.
- b) Give initial consideration to the issues raised in the EY letter of 1 June.
- c) Give guidance to officers for their further engagement with DLUHC.
- d) Request officers to work with DLUHC and the LGA to progress the concept of an Improvement Board.

Part 3 – Combined Authority Decisions

197. Climate and Strategy Business Cases

The Board's approval was sought to draw down funding from the subject to approval line in the medium-term financial plan for the projects described in the report. A business case for each project was included as an appendix to the report.

Councillor Nethsingha welcomed the proposals, and in particular the care homes retrofit project given the County Council's particular interest in this area.

In her capacity as Lead Member for the Environment and Climate Change, Councillor Smith welcomed the proposals and spoke of the contribution made by Natural Cambridgeshire.

Councillor Conboy voiced her support for the proposals and welcomed the presence of a number of members of public at the meeting to hear the debate.

Councillor Bailey voiced her support for individual climate change projects, but commented that the projects set out in the report did not cover the entirety of the CPCA's geography. She had also asked prior to the meeting whether the Climate Commission had commented on the proposals and would have liked to see that information included. She would like to understand the reality of the care homes retrofit project given the difficulties which had been experienced in discharging the funding for the LAD2 retrofit programme.

Councillor Fitzgerald voiced his support for the projects set out in the report, but commented that Peterborough City Council had not been invited to submit specific projects and hoped that there would be further opportunities to bid. He asked whether the Net Zero Villages project would be accessible to rural communities.

Professor Neely sought reassurance that the necessary resources were available to progress the projects described.

Officers stated that it had taken time to bring these projects forward to the Board for approval in order to ensure compliance with the CPCA assurance framework and the Treasury Green Book. The Climate Commission would provide an annual report, and work would be progressed to share learning from the projects across the constituent councils. Recruitment was currently underway to fill an extra post to support work in relation to climate change and to increase delivery capacity. The model was based on partnership delivery to ensure that capacity was robust. Officers confirmed that the intention was that the Net Zero Villages project would be an area-wide scheme.

The Mayor welcomed the proposals warmly and commended the work of the Acting Chief Executive, the Strategic Planning Manager and their team in progressing ideas from the Mayoral office and constituent councils.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Smith, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Approve the Business Case for Care Home Retrofit project and approve £2m from subject to approval line in the MTFP.
- b) Approve the Business Case for Logan's Meadow Local Nature Reserve Wetland Extension project and approve £280,000 from subject to approval line in the MTFP.
- c) Approve the Business Case for the Natural Cambridgeshire project and approve £210,000 from the subject to approval line in the MTFP.
- d) Approve the Business Case for the Nature and Environment Investment

Fund project and approve £1m from the subject to approval line in the MTFP.

- e) Approve the Business Case for the Net Zero Villages Programme and approve £1m from the subject to approval line in the MTFP.
- f) Approve the Business Case for the Doubling Nature Metrics project and approve drawdown of £125,000 from the subject to approval line in the MTFP.
- g) Approve the Business Case for the City Portrait project and approve drawdown of £80,000 from the subject to approval line in the MTFP.

198. Levelling Up Fund Round 2

The report contained appendices which were exempt from publication under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, in that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)). The public interest in maintaining the exemption was deemed to outweigh the public interest in publication. The Board was asked if any member wished to discuss the exempt appendix to the report. No member expressed the wish to do so.

The Board was invited to approve the Peterborough Station Quarter project as the CPCA's Transport Only bid for the Levelling Up Fund Round 2 (LUF2) and to make delegations to senior officers to progress this. Only one bid could be submitted, and all constituent councils had been invited to submit projects for consideration in April 2022.

Councillor Fitzgerald stated that the Peterborough Station Quarter project would be transformational for Peterborough and could draw in considerable additional investment. He expressed his thanks to the officer team at the CPCA for working collaboratively with Peterborough City Council officers on this.

Councillor Smith commented that the delivery timescale looked challenging and asked what would happen if this slipped. She further commented that there was a rapid increase in costs being seen generally in relation to capital projects and asked whether the Board could have confidence in the costs described and asked what contingencies had been built in. Officers stated that, by exception, the LUF2 could consider projects extending to 2026 and that this project would fall within that timescale. They were confident in the costs described and there would be rigour from Government in relation to the examination of these.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Approve Peterborough Station Quarter as the Transport Only bid for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the Levelling Up Fund Round 2.
- b) Delegate authority to the Interim Head of Transport, in consultation with the

Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer to approve and submit the completed application.

199. Active Travel: Peterborough

The Board was invited to approve the drawdown of Active Travel Funding from the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for a new pedestrian footbridge linking Fletton Quays and the Embankment area of Peterborough and improvements to the Green Wheel. Delegated authority was sought for senior officers to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Peterborough City Council (PCC) to deliver this.

Councillor Fitzgerald expressed his support for the proposals, commenting that PCC was committed to delivering the right type of active travel. The Peterborough Station Quarter project would also support this (minute 198 above refers). He considered these to be positive initiatives which PCC would deliver, and he was grateful for the CPCA's contribution.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Approve the drawdown of £750,000 of Active Travel Funding from the Medium-Term Financial Plan for a Feasibility Study and construction of improvements to the Peterborough Green Wheel;
- b) Approve the drawdown of £3,427,800 of Active Travel Funding from the Medium-Term Financial Plan for a Full Business Case new pedestrian footbridge linking Fletton Quays and the Embankment area in Peterborough, subject to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities approving the Towns Fund bid.
- c) Delegate authority to the Interim Head of Transport in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to conclude a Grant Funding Agreement with Peterborough City Council to enable work to progress.

The vote in favour of recommendations a) and b) included at least two thirds of all Members (or their Substitute Members) appointed by the Constituent Councils, including the Members appointed by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

200. Expansion of the Careers Hub

The Board was advised that the CPCA had been successful in its bid to the Careers and Enterprise Company (CEC) for funding to expand the Careers Hub model so that all schools and colleges across the Combined Authority would be in a Careers Hub. The Board was recommended to accept and allocate this funding and to approve recruitment to two new posts of Operations Manager and Project Officer Assistant, to be directly employed by the CPCA.

Speaking as the Lead Member for Skills, Councillor Nethsingha welcomed the CPCA's success in obtaining this additional funding. She spoke of the importance of providing high quality careers advice to secondary school children to make them aware of the opportunities available to them, and expressed her thanks to the Interim Associate Director for Skills and her team for their work in support of this.

On being proposed by Councillor Nethsingha, seconded by the Mayor, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Accept and allocate Careers and Enterprise Company grant funding of £289,800 for an extended careers hub in 2022-23;
- b) Approve the recruitment of two new positions of Operations Manager and Project Officer Assistant, employed by the Combined Authority.

201. Multiply Local Investment Plan

The Board was advised that the CPCA had been awarded £3.9m over three years as part of the Shared Prosperity Fund which was designed to deliver a programme of interventions targeted at supporting individuals and communities in the greatest need.

Speaking as the Lead Member for Skills, Councillor welcomed this sizeable investment which would make a real difference in improving functional numeracy skills. This in turn would improve individuals' employability and life skills and improve life outcomes.

Councillor Smith asked whether serving prisoners would be eligible to receive this targeted support. Officers undertook to check this and report back outside of the meeting.

On being proposed by Councillor Nethsingha, seconded by the Mayor, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) Note the draft Local Investment Plan for the Multiply Programme and its submission to the Department for Education.
- b) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to approve the final version of the Local Investment Plan for the Multiply Programme for submission to the Department of Education.

202. Future Combined Authority Housing Purpose and Function

The report contained an appendix which was exempt from publication under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, in that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)). The public interest in maintaining the exemption was deemed to outweigh

the public interest in its publication. The Board was asked if any member wished to discuss the exempt appendix to the report. No member expressed the wish to do so.

A number of workshops had been held with Board members, constituent council officers and delivery partners to discuss the CPCA's aspirations around its future housing purpose and function. At present there was no capital or revenue support available outside of the CPCA's own resources, and it was recommended that a residual capability only should be retained to discharge the organisation's responsibilities in relation to existing projects. There seemed no justification to retain the two wholly owned CPCA housing companies and it was recommended that these should be wound up, subject to due process. The Board was advised that two loans had recently been fully repaid with the interest due.

Speaking as the Lead Member for Housing, Councillor Herbert commented that the CPCA had sought to deliver as many affordable homes as possible and to maximise the use of the £56m funding which had been received of the original £100m it had expected. DLUHC had capped the intervention value at £45k per home which had limited the geographical areas within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which could be supported. Whilst the CPCA's role in relation to housing was reduced there remained a need to properly discharge its responsibilities in relation to the expenditure of public funds in this area for the next three to four years. Councillor Herbert was open-minded as to how that might be done, but emphasised that it must be done. It was also possible that additional funding might become available in the future. He expressed his thanks to the Director of Housing and Development and his team for their work.

The Mayor drew the Board's attention to the comments made on the report by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 13 June 2022. These had been circulated to members of the Board electronically in advance of the meeting and published on the CPCA website.

Councillor Bailey spoke of the success of the Affordable Housing Programme and expressed her thanks to the housing team for their contribution in difficult circumstances. 1449 housing units had been delivered at an average costs of £38.7k which she judged represented exceptional value for money, and this figure would have been even higher if there had not been an initial delay to the programme by Government. Looking to the future, she would want to see the CPCA having the capacity to continue to support community-led housing projects across the area. However, at present the housing team represented a revenue cost of around c£500k per annum to oversee a budget of c£20m and she felt this role could be delivered within a constituent council. The report did not contain costings in relation to the housing team and it was unclear what savings were envisaged in relation to its revised function. Councillor Herbert stated that he expected early consideration of the future resourcing and structure of the housing team if the Board agreed the proposals before it.

Councillor Nethsingha judged that it would be important to retain some housing-related capacity within the CPCA. Affordable housing remained a key area of need across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and she expressed regret at the decision by Government to reduce the funding for this.

On being proposed by Councillor Herbert, seconded by the Mayor, it was resolved by a majority to:

- a) Note the proposed role for the Combined Authority in supporting the future delivery of housing, specifically to;
 - i. Maintain the oversight of the build out of the affordable housing programme and the re-payment of the Loan Book.
 - ii. Maintain a housing expertise and skills presence, retaining housing officer capability and skills providing capability to respond to future housing initiatives and opportunities, including those identified at the Member workshop.
 - iii. Task the Chief Executive to consider how best to reorganise resources to deliver these functions as part of the Even Better transformation programme.
- b) Approve the community led housing policy as previously approved by the Housing and Communities Committee on 10 January 2022 (attached in Appendix 4 to this report).
- c) Instruct officers to prepare a report for a future Combined Authority Board meeting on options for, and impacts, of the closure and winding up of Angle Developments (East) Limited and Angle Holdings Limited.
- d) Refer the report to the Housing and Communities Committee to consider the future role for the Combined Authority on funding co-ordination, skills and community housing.

[Councillor Fitzgerald left the meeting at 10.49am]

Part 4 – Business Board recommendations to the Combined Authority

203. The Mayor reminded Members that when the Combined Authority Board took decisions as Accountable Body for the Business Board it was committed to acting in line with the CPCA assurance framework in the interests of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area as a whole, and to taking decisions based on the recommendations of the Business Board.

204. Economic Growth Strategy

The CPCA economic growth strategy had been produced following consultation and workshops with constituent council leaders and officers, the Business Board, partners and stakeholders. It was designed to establish clear priorities to inform investment, support sustainable growth, drive levelling-up and reflect the Mayoral priorities of compassion, co-operation and community. It would complement the emerging transport,

health and wellbeing strategies and the employment and skills strategy and reflect the findings of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER), learning from Covid and the situation post-Brexit. The draft economic growth strategy had been endorsed unanimously by the Business Board on 9 May 2022 and, if approved by the Board, it would be reviewed and updated annually.

Professor Neely thanked officers in the Business and Skills team for a good piece of work and for the extensive consultation which had informed it. Six areas had been identified which brought together the region's priorities and would ensure that the Business Board was aligned with the Combined Authority's priorities. These were to accelerate business growth; better quality skills; better quality jobs; accelerate local placemaking and renewal; ensure transition to a green, low carbon economy; and reduce inequalities.

Councillor Smith commented that there were three important areas identified for intervention where the funding source was not identified and asked whether there was potential for a pan-regional approach to fill those gaps. Professor Neely confirmed that a pan-regional approach could potentially be used to support approaches to Government.

Councillor Bailey welcomed the inclusion of the CPIER findings and highlighted the work of the former chair of the Business Board in producing the draft strategy.

The Mayor stated that the economic growth strategy spoke to the Combined Authority's ambition to achieve its target of doubling GVA through sustainable growth and setting real-life targets like life expectancy at birth. He expressed his thanks to the former chair of the Business Board and Business Board members for their work in producing the strategy and commended it to the people of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a means of holding the Mayor and Combined Authority to account.

On being proposed by Professor Neely, seconded by the Mayor, it was resolved unanimously by those present to:

Approve the Economic Growth Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

205. Local Growth Fund Recycled Funding Proposals

Professor Andy Neely made a declaration of interest at the start of the resumed meeting in relation to this item in that he was a member of the Board of Cambridge &. He stated that he had no financial interest in the organisation and received no salary or remuneration. Minute 186 above also refers.

The report contained appendices which were exempt from publication under Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, in that it would not be in the public interest for this information to be disclosed (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)). The public interest in maintaining the exemption was deemed to outweigh the public interest in their publication. The Board was asked if any member wished to discuss the exempt appendix to the report. No member expressed the wish to do so.

The Board was invited to approve the bids for recycled Local Growth Funding (LGF) in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Business Board on 9 May 2022. This followed a call for projects in January 2022 which targeted high value and high productivity and were linked to previous LGF projects. All of the bids had been evaluated internally by officers and externally by independent due diligence experts.

Councillor Herbert commended the thorough evaluation process and the projects which the Business Board had recommended for approval.

On being proposed by Professor Neely, seconded by Councillor Herbert, it was resolved unanimously by those present to:

- a) Approve a revised grant funding offer for the projects ranked 1, 2 and 3 in the table at paragraph 2.9 of the report to the Business Board on 9 May 2022; and
- b) Decline projects ranked 4 and below, based on the funding not being available for all remaining projects.

[The meeting adjourned from 11.21 to 11.25]

Part 5 – Governance Reports

206. Annual Report and Business Plan

The Board was advised that the content of the CPCA annual report and business plan was driven by the sustainable growth ambition statement and included projects with budget lines within the medium-term financial plan agreed by the Board in January 2022.

Councillor Bailey commented that she remained hopeful but sceptical in relation to the role of demand responsive transport. She judged that the late consideration of this report reflected a difficult budget-setting process and expressed the hope that budget-setting would be considered earlier in future. She noted that there had been a few changes since the report had initially been submitted to the Board in March 2022 and asked whether the reference to the bus service improvement plan (BSIP) should be updated to reflect this prior to publication. Officers confirmed that this section would be updated.

Councillor Nethsingha commented that an annual report always represented a snapshot in time and as such some aspects would quickly be superseded. She endorsed Councillor Bailey's wish to see earlier budget-setting discussions in future.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Nethsingha, it was resolved unanimously by those present to:

Approve the 2022/23 Annual Report and Business Plan.

207. Report of the Independent Remuneration Panel

The report was withdrawn.

208. Audit and Governance Committee Annual Report 2021/22

The Mayor invited John Pye, Independent Chair of the Audit and Governance (A&G) Committee, to introduce the report.

Mr Pye highlighted the engagement of committee members during the reporting period, but noted that meetings had on occasion been disrupted due to issues with quoracy and technical difficulties. In the past A&G had at times felt somewhat distanced from the business of the CPCA, but he was pleased to report that committee members had been able to get closer to that business during the past year. Risk had not developed in the way in which the committee had thought it might and it remained on the programme for future work. The relationship between the CPCA and its trading companies would also be subject to further work. There was nothing of concern to report in the period covered by the report, and Mr Pye expressed his thanks to officers for their openness.

Councillor Bailey thanked the committee for its substantial work on the OneCAM Ltd audit report and commented on the lack of a process for referring matters to A&G for consideration which had been highlighted in relation to this issue. Mr Pye stated his belief that the Constitution had been amended as a result of learning from this to clarify the referral process. Officers undertook to check that this had been done.

Councillor Nethsingha asked whether the Independent Chair was satisfied that A&G was adequately resourced to carry out its future work. She commented that the Board would want to ensure that this was the case and suggested that the Interim Chief Executive be asked to look into this and to provide assurance to the Board. The Mayor endorsed this request, and asked that any problems with A&G's capacity should be brought to his personal attention and to that of the Interim Chief Executive. Mr Pye stated that he was unsure whether any additional capacity would be required at present, but would advise if this was the case.

The Mayor placed on record the Board's thanks to Mr Pye and to all of the members of the Audit and Governance Committee for their diligence and commitment in discharging this key role.

The Board noted the Annual Report of the Chair of Audit and Governance Committee for 2021/22 (Appendix 1) and provided feedback to the Committee.

209. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2021/22

The Board was invited to note and comment on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's (O&S) annual report for 2021/22 and its feedback on the review conducted by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny.

Councillor Smith suggested more engagement with O&S by Lead Members. Officers undertook to share this comment with the committee.

The Mayor placed on record his thanks to Councillor Dupré, the Chair of the committee, Councillor Alan Sharp, vice chair, and to all of the members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on behalf of the Board for the constructive challenge which they had provided during the period covered by the report.

The Board noted:

- a) The Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2021/22 (Appendix 1).
- b) The Committee's feedback on the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny's review (Appendix 2).

210. Calendar of Meetings 2022-23

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Herbert, it was resolved unanimously by those present to:

Approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2022/23.

Part 2 – Mayoral Decisions

2.11 Local Highways Maintenance Grant Allocation 2022/23

The Board was advised of the proposed allocation of highways capital funds for 2022/23 between the two local highways authorities, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and Peterborough City Council (PCC). The split was based on the previous year's allocation and was for Mayoral decision, in consultation with the Board. Assurances over the public accountability of the use of this funding were provided by CCC and PCC who confirmed that grant conditions were complied with. These were then signed off by internal audit.

Councillor Nethsingha highlighted the importance of the local highways' maintenance grant allocation to the County Council. However, the inflation associated with construction projects meant that funds would go less far than in previous years. Government offered incentives for areas able to demonstrate value for money in relation to highways maintenance, but there were intrinsically higher costs associated with maintaining roads in particular CPCA geographies like the Fens and she felt this should be made clear to Government. She asked whether the 2022/23 allocation represented a flat settlement or a reduction in funding in comparison to previous years. The Chief Finance Officer stated that the settlement was the same as the previous year, which represented a flat cash reduction. The same allocation had been published by the Department for Transport to 2025/26 so inflationary pressures would continue to

impact across that period. He undertook to feedback to Government the Board's comments about the costs of maintaining roads in particular parts of the CPCA's geography.

Having consulted the Board, the Mayor resolved to:

Allocate grants totalling £27,695,000 to Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) and Peterborough City Council (PCC) in line with the Department for Transport formula for determining each council's share as set out below:

	Total
Cambridgeshire County Council	£21,955,000
Peterborough City Council	£5,740,000
Total	£27,695,000

2.12 A MDN 24-2020: X3 Bus Service between Huntingdon and Addenbrookes and MDN 32-2021: Change to the Officer Delegated Authority under Mayoral Decision Notice 28-2020

The Monitoring Officer had undertaken to check that all Mayoral decision notices (MDNs) had been reported to the Board following a question from a Member at the March Board meeting. Two historic decisions had been identified that had been taken by the previous mayor and which had not been reported to the Board at the time. These were MDN 24-2020 which related to the X3 Bus Service between Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's and MDN 32-2021 which provided for a change to the Officer Delegated Authority under Mayoral Decision Notice 28-2020. A process had since been established to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Board would be notified of all future MDNs. The Mayor expressed his thanks to Councillor Bailey for highlighting this issue.

Councillor Bailey expressed her thanks to the Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer for resolving this issue and for improving the process going forward.

The Board noted:

- a) Mayoral Decision Notice MDN 24-2020: X3 Bus Service between Huntingdon and Addenbrookes.
- b) Mayoral Decision Notice MDN 32-2021: Change to the Officer Delegated Authority under MDN 28-2020.

Part 5 – Governance Reports

213. Forward Plan

The Board's attention was drawn to a Mayoral key decision which would be taken on or after 28 June 2022 on Recycled Local Growth Fund Project Funding Awards. The Mayor would be taking this decision on the advice of the Business Board following its Extraordinary meeting on 24 June 2022 and it would be formally reported when the Board met next on 27 July 2022. Leaders had been consulted informally on the proposals on 22 June 2022 to inform the Mayor's decision and had endorsed them unanimously.

Councillor Herbert asked whether any climate strategy business cases would be considered at a future meeting. Officers confirmed that some would be ready for consideration in July 2022 and that this would be added to the Forward Plan.

Councillor Smith suggested a discussion at some point around regional partnerships, the Business Board's status as either a LEP or a growth board and the number of elected members appointed to the Business Board. The Mayor stated that he would endorse a proposal to discuss this informally and potentially to bring a report to the Board in the future.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Herbert, it was resolved unanimously to:

Approve the Forward Plan.

(Mayor)