



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: 25th March 2019

Time: 10.30 am

Location: Cambridgeshire County Council

Present:

Cllr Barry Chapman	Huntingdonshire District Council
Cllr Alan Sharp	East Cambs District Council
Cllr Mike Bradley	East Cambs District Council
Cllr Grenville Chamberlain	South Cambs District Council
Cllr Pippa Heylings	South Cambs District Council
Cllr Mike Sargeant	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Shaz Nawaz	Peterborough City Council
Cllr June Stokes	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Chris Boden	Fenland District Council
Cllr David Hodgeson	Fenland District Council
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr David Connor	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Markus Gehring	Cambridge City Council

Officers:

John T Hill	Director of Business & Skills
Kim Sawyer	Interim Chief Executive Officer
Chris Twigg	Interim Director of Transport
Anne Gardiner	Scrutiny Officer
Emma Powley	Interim Scrutiny Officer

1. Apologies

- 1.1 Apologies received from:
Cllr Doug Dew,

Cllr Tom Sanderson substituted by Cllr Barry Chapman
Cllr Ed Murphy, substituted by Cllr Shaz Nawaz

2. Declaration of Interests

2.1 No declarations of interests were made.

3. Minutes

3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 25th February 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Public Questions

4.1 There were no public questions received.

Business Board Update

5. The Director of Business and Skills gave an overview of the functions of the Business Board and summarised the written report submitted and introduced the Chair of the Business Board.

It was noted that the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) would be presented to the Business Board and recommended for approval by the CAPA Board on Wednesday 27th March 2019.

The following points were raised:

- There needed to be a focus on ensuring an even distribution of job creation and increased productivity across the county to address the North- South divide.
- Concern was expressed that environmental issues and sustainability had not been given adequate consideration with the growth of industry. Gender representation was not considered to be balanced and focus was needed to redress this.
- Consideration was needed to ensure that digital expansion was aligned with the developing infrastructure.
- It was explained by the Chair of the Business Board that they would continue to assist the development of small and medium businesses and noted that the Local Growth Fund would assist with the advancements in digital connectivity whilst ensuring infrastructure compatibility.
- The Director of Business and Skills explained that efforts were being made to profile and target businesses that could address the gender imbalance and in response to concerns raised about environmental issues, it was noted that focus would be on companies committed to sustainability.

The Committee noted the report.

The Committee thanked the Chair of the Business Board for attending the meeting.

6. Mayor for the Combined Authority

6.1 The Committee members had been given the opportunity to submit questions prior to the meeting and written response had been provided (Appendix 1) The Chair opened the floor for questions from the members.

The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- In response to questions asked, the Mayor explained that the CAM would allow and improve freedom of movement across Cambridgeshire and explained that a number of suggestions had been considered about bus services including franchising. The proposed CAM would include 2 underground stops in Cambridgeshire which would reduce congestion in the City Centre and would further allow the bus services to be more reliable and effective.
- The Mayor confirmed that he would welcome the involvement of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the CAM and wanted to work alongside them and committed to further discussions on accessing some of the associated exempt information.
- In response to concerns raised about congestion on the A428 in part due to some commuters accessing the East Coast Main Line (ECML) the Mayor explained that he was in discussion with Huntingdonshire District Council to allow the Metro to provide links to the ECML.
- The Mayor explained that garden cities would assist in the commitment to the delivery of housing and that an uplift in land value would provide funding in infrastructure. He reported that there was a projection of a 44% reduction in car use once the CAM was in place and that eco-garden cities would be complimentary in the reduction of pollution and progression to more clean air.
- The Mayor confirmed that there was £1million in the budget for the current year for the bus review and that there was a need for a short, medium and long term bus solutions, which would include working with the bus companies, possible franchising and eventually integrating the bus system with the metro
- In response to a further question, the Mayor explained that the non-statutory spatial plan covered some of the environmental concerns raised and noted that he had extensive dialogue with Anglian Water and the Environment Agency.
- The Chair of the Task and Finish Group queried whether the Mayor would be willing to work with Overview and Scrutiny on some of the gaps that had been identified within the Strategic Outline Business Case for the CAM and consider the report produced by the Task and Finish group, in conjunction with the CFPS, to incorporate some of the points discussed within the report in the Outline Business Case; the Mayor agreed.

The Committee thanked the Mayor for attending the meeting and answering the questions posed.

7. University of Peterborough Update

- 7.1 The Committee received the report from the Director of Business and Skills which reported that the University of Peterborough was a key feature of the devolution deal agreed with central government.

It was explained that Peterborough was lacking in Higher Education (HE) education and skills and that the provision of the University would go some way in addressing this through offering technical qualifications to meet the needs of local businesses.

It was noted that three independent reviews had been commissioned and completed and that the findings and recommendations of those would be outlined in a Skills Committee paper for the 3rd April 2019 meeting.

The Committee agreed that they would meet in April to discuss the Peterborough University and the reports taken to the Skills Committee on the 3rd April 2019.

- 7.2 The Committee noted the report.

8. Skills Strategy Update

- 8.1 The Committee received the report from the Director for Business and Skills which provided an update on the Skills Strategy for the Combined Authority.**

- 8.2 The Director of Business and Skills elaborated on the report and explained that the new Skills Strategy would identify priorities and interventions that would enable the economy to grow and respond to the needs of the varying communities. He explained that there were 7 different sub economies under the Combined Authority and noted that there was some skills inequality which the proposed Skills Strategy could address.

The Committee commented that there were examples of Higher and Further Education establishments in the region having increased financial pressures and that a commitment was needed to ensure that there would not be a reduction in the provision of them.

There was a perceived inequality between the availability and delivery of education across the County and emphasis needed to be placed on businesses to inspire people to get skills. There was agreement that there was a need for teachers, pupils and businesses to incentives people to acquire the correct skills

- 8.3 The Committee noted the contents of the report

9. Review of the Combined Authority Board Agenda

The Committee reviewed the agenda due to come to the Board on Wednesday 27th March 2019.

The Committee agreed to raise the following questions to the Board:

Item 3.1 Budget Monitoring Update

- 1) Could future budget monitoring reports include information relating to the spend on housing?
- 2) The Committee asked that information contained within the Capital Programme differentiate between cash flow and capital e.g. loan to East Cambs?

Item 4.1 Housing Development Company

- 3) Can the Board reassure members that the Housing Director will not be distracted from their commitment to provide 100,000 new homes once seconded to the Development Company
- 4) Will there be conflict and/or competition with other Council's that have set up and continue to run their own Housing Development Companies?
- 5) What mechanisms are to be used for member scrutiny and engagement of the Development Company.

Item 4.2 CAM Metro

- 6) The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are concerned that there is no risk assessment of the Cases in the Strategic Outline Business Case
- 7) Can assurance be given that there will be alignment of the CAM Metro with other public transport systems?
- 8) Overview and Scrutiny would want proper governance be put in place for all aspects of CAM and not just the provision of the tunnels and underground stations as identified in the SOBC?
- 9) The Committee raised some concerns around the Financial Case and that it was unfortunate that they had not been able to see the exempt appendices.
- 10) Overview and Scrutiny thank the Mayor for his agreement that the gaps and concerns that they have raised for the SOBC compared with the questions that they identified with the Centre for Public Scrutiny will be taken into account by the Mayor and officers in drawing up the Outline Business Case.
- 11) Overview and Scrutiny noted that engagement will be happening shortly with the Department for Transport in respect of the Strategic Outline Business Case

Item 4.3 A10 Corridor – Strategic Outline Case and Next Steps

- 12) Overview and Scrutiny are concerned that junction improvements which were highly rated are not being looked at in the Next Steps.
- 13) Can the Committee get clarification whether consideration of climate change and environmental issue has been given due weight in respect of improvements on the A10?

Item 4.4 Bus Reform Task Force – Governance and Subsidies

- 14) The Committee were concerned that the recommendations included in this report differed from those agreed at the January meeting. In particular the long term proposal:
 - 15) Approval, to develop and deliver a Business case assessment of the benefits of operational models open to the Combined Authority including Enhanced Partnerships and franchising opportunities in line with DfT Guidelines and as set out in the Bus Service Act. The business case will be completed in Q1 2021.
Could the status of this recommendation be clarified?

10. Member Update on Activity of Combined Authority

10.1 No updates were received from members.

11. Combined Authority Forward Plan

11.1 The Committee considered the Combined Authority Forward Plan and had no comments or suggestions at this time.

12. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Report

12.1 The Committee received the report which outlined the work programme for the committee for the municipal year 2018/19.

12.2 The Committee requested that a further report on the University of Peterborough be considered at the next meeting to include additional information from the Skills Committee on the 3rd April 2019

12.3 The Committee invited the Director of Business and Skills to attend the next meeting to respond to question raised in relation to the University of Peterborough.

12.4 The Committee requested that they become more involved in the Bus Task Force and would welcome an opportunity to discuss this in future.

12.5 The Chair advised that she discuss with the Interim Chief Executive the Committees access to exempt papers. The Chair advised that she would work with the Interim Scrutiny Officer on the committees work programme and would circulate this to members.

13. Date of Next Meeting

13.1 The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be held at Council Chamber, Peterborough City Council Town Hall; Bridge Street; Peterborough PE1 1HG with a start time of 11am and a pre-meeting starting at 10:15am on **THURSDAY 18th** April 2019.

Meeting Closed: 1.16pm.