



CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD	AGENDA ITEM No: 1.9
3 JUNE 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

APPOINTMENT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2020/2021

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- (a) agree the size and political balance of the Audit and Governance Committee;
- (b) appoint the members and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Committee;
- (c) appoint the Chair and Vice-Chair to the Committee.

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	Mayor James Palmer
Lead Officer and Author:	Robert Parkin, Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer
Forward Plan Ref: n/a	Key Decision: No
The Combined Authority Board is recommended 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 confirm the re-appointment of the existing independent person for the municipal year 2020/2021; (b) to 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 Committee for the municipal year 2020/2021 as set out in Appendix 2 (d) appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year 2020/2021.	<i>Voting arrangements</i> Simple majority of the Members

2.0 BACKGROUND

Membership of the Audit and Governance Committee

- 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 Audit Committee.
- 2.2 The Order 2017 sets out the rules for membership. The membership of the committee 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 For 2017/18, the Board agreed that the Audit and Governance Committee should have seven constituent members, one Member from each Constituent Council, together with one Independent person. The Board are asked to agree that the size of the committee remains the same.
- 2.4 The implications of applying political proportionality to a seven constituent member committee are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.5 Accordingly constituent councils have nominated the members and substitute members listed in Appendix 2 for the municipal year 2019/20 based on the political balance calculation.
- 2.6 No local elections for constituent councils were held in May 2020 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. There have been by-elections and defections from political parties in 2019/20; however, these have not affected the political balance of the Audit and Governance Committee. Last year the Authority exercised its discretion and calculated seats based upon percentages of constituent authority members by national political parties.
- 2.7 In previous years, discretion has been used to provide independent members a seat on both the Audit and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Recognising the process operated through the exercise of discretion in previous years 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 Audit and Governance Committee 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
- 2.8 Should the Audit and Governance 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.

Chair and Vice Chair

- 2.9 In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee is reserved to the Board. The

Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 requires the Combined Authority to appoint at least one independent person to the Audit and Governance Committee.

- 2.10 In May 2017, the Board appointed Mr Alan John Pye as the independent person for a term of four years ending May 2021. The Board also agreed that Mr Pye should be appointed as Chair of the Committee and asked the Audit and Governance Committee to elect a Vice Chair.
- 2.11 The Board are asked to appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2020/21.

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 constituent council members.
- 3.2 In June 2017, the Board agreed that the appointed independent person should receive an allowance of £1534 per annum. This allowance was enhanced from £920 in recognition of the additional responsibilities of the Chair.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 These are dealt with in the report. The requirement to appoint at least one independent person of the Audit Committee is set out in the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

5.0 SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 N/A

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 Appendix 1 – Political Balance on the Audit and Governance Committee
6.2 Appendix 2 – Nominations from Constituent Councils

<u>Source Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>
Constituent Councils' annual meetings	Various

