



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

# **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Time:** 2pm

**Location:** Fenland District Council

**Present:**

Cllr Robin Carter  
Cllr Mike Bradley  
Cllr Alan Sharp  
Cllr John Batchelor (Chair)  
Cllr Fred Yeulett  
Cllr David Mason  
Cllr Mike Sargeant  
Cllr Rod Cantrill  
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha  
Cllr Janet French  
Cllr David Over  
Cllr Ed Murphy

Huntingdonshire District Council  
East Cambs District Council  
East Cambs District Council  
South Cambs District Council  
Fenland District Council  
Fenland District Council  
Cambridge City Council  
Cambridge City Council  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Cambridgeshire County Council  
Peterborough City Council  
Peterborough City Council

**Officers:**

Kim Sawyer  
Martin Whiteley  
Debbie Forde  
Anne Gardiner

Legal Counsel & Monitoring Officer  
Chief Executive Officer  
Governance Advisor  
Scrutiny Officer

## **1. Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies received from Cllr Hayward and Cllr Riley. Apologies received from Cllr Baigent, substituted by Cllr Sargeant.

## **2. Declaration of Interests**

- 2.1 No declarations of interests were made.

## **3. Minutes**

- 3.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

## **4. Review of Combined Authority Board Agenda**

- 4.1 The Committee reviewed the agenda due to come to the Board on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

- 4.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

Agenda item 2.4, Establishing a new stronger public and private sector partnership in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was confidential as it related to matters about the Greater Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership (GCGP LEP) which was a private company. Therefore, the Chief Executive could not comment more than what was published in the public report.

Subject to decisions taken at the GCGP LEP Board on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2017 the Combined Authority Board may decide to discuss the exempt report in the public part of the meeting.

In response to questions about agenda item 2.1, Transport: Developing our Decision Making and delivery arrangements, the following points were made:

- There were a number of options to consider as part of the strategic bus review to seek improvements in bus services. Some Combined Authorities had adopted the full franchising model while other had not pursued this model at all, for example the West Midlands CA. Other Combined Authorities have adopted a partnership model.
- Where franchising models have been adopted it was done with significant public subsidy.
- It would not be sensible to progress without further investigation into service needs and costs implications.
- Earlier in the year it was agreed to commission a new transport plan which would start in January with the first strategic themes reported in May/June next year.
- The report regarding the bus review was due to come to the Board in September/ October next year and it would be requested that a timetable for the project be included in that report.

- The report was constructed in conjunction with Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council and co-developed by officers at both authorities.
- The Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be consultees for the Local Transport Plan.
- All transport functions had gone back to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council; and those councils are going through their usual budget plans.
- In regard to funding for next year, some funding would come from government, and some from the councils to pass up to the Combined Authority. The Combined Authority will need to decide how to meet any shortfall.

The Committee agreed that the Chairman should raise the following questions at the Board meeting on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December on behalf of the Committee:

- 1) Could the Board clarify who had control of the transport budget, if the budget had been devolved to the County Council and Peterborough City Council were the Board aware of options under consideration for the removal of certain subsidies?
- 2) Clarity was sought on what the funding figures quoted referred to, did they include home to school transport?
- 3) The Committee requested assurance that they would have the opportunity to pre-scrutinise integrated planning in advance of the May/June meeting.

Responses provided attached at appendix A.

In response to questions about agenda item 2.2, Establishing the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Land Commission, the following points were made:

Concerns were expressed about the relationship between Combined Authority and Local Plans, Cllr Yeulett advised the Committee that he had had a meeting with Cllr Herbert who had assured him that the local plans were sovereign.

Cllr French suggested that Neighbourhood Plans should also be taken into account.

- 4.3 Cllr Murphy asked a question regarding agenda item 2.3, Update on Peterborough University Business Cases and Project Progress; the report stated buildings had been vacated. He was advised that this should say 'will be vacated'.

## **5. Key priority themes**

- 5.1 The report asked the Committee to consider whether they would like to continue with the Shadow Portfolio Holders system that was agreed at the June Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting or move to a thematic based system to be applied to the work programme.
- 5.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- The Combined Authority agenda was moving so fast that shadowing the Portfolio Holders was not enough, moving to members monitoring themes was more cross cutting.
- Members would need to clarify what they had meant by strategy and shaping to understand what sat within this remit.
- Those Members allocated to a theme should scope the topics for future scrutiny reviews. The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) had agreed to provide the framework for doing this but the Scrutiny Officer advised that she had not received it yet and had been chasing the CfPS.
- Cllr Nethsingha suggested that the three members allocated to education should write a report and bring back to January meeting for the committee to consider.

5.3 The Committee agreed to:

- (a) change to a system where members would cover key priority themes.
- (b) notify the Combined Authority Board of the change in approach
- (c) the allocations set out in appendix B of the report but that this allocation would be flexible.

## **6. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

- 6.1 The Committee received the report which provided the Committee with the draft work programme for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year and asked them for comments and suggestions.
- 6.2 The Committee discussed the legal advice that had been provided regarding the committee's remit in regard to scrutinising external organisations.
- 6.3 Committee members raised the following points during the discussion:-

- The Monitoring Officer advised that the Committee did not need to follow the advice that had been provided. The Committee could invite anybody who provided a service to the Combined Authority but the committee cannot force them to attend.
- Some members felt the remit was wider than just organisations that work with the Combined Authority.
- Other Combined Authorities invited external organisations.
- The Committee should be able to meet with people who have influenced the reports coming to the Board.
- It was unacceptable that they could only consider items that were coming to the Board for consideration.

The Monitoring Officer responded to the committee to advise that the terms of reference for the committee differed to those of a local authority scrutiny committee and further clarification was being sought from the Centre for Public Scrutiny about this.

It was important to understand what the purpose of any review was and why external organisations were being invited to attend.

- 6.4 Cllr Cantrill put forward a motion that the Mayor should be invited to attend every meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the foreseeable future, this motion was seconded by Cllr Nethsingha.

The motion failed with 4 votes for and 8 against.

Cllr Bradley put forward a motion that the Mayor be invited to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting quarterly, this motion was seconded by Cllr Nethsingha.

The motion carried unanimously.

## **7. Combined Authority Forward Plan**

- 7.1 The Committee had no comments to make at this time regarding the forward plan of the Combined Authority.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

- 8.1 The next meeting would be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Cambridgeshire County Council with a start time of 11am.

Meeting Closed: 15:41pm



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
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**Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board  
Committee Rooms 1 & 2, Cambridge City Council, Guildhall, Cambridge -  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

- 1) Could the Board clarify who has control of the transport budget, if the budget has been devolved to the County Council and Peterborough City Council are the Board aware of proposals being suggested of the removal of certain transport subsidies by Peterborough City Council?**

For the 17/18 financial year transport powers and budgets have been devolved to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. It is intended that transport budgets will continue to be devolved for 18/19 along with certain transport functions, including the role of Travel Concessionaire Authority and the provision of socially necessary bus services. Whilst the Combined Authority is responsible for budget setting, it is the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to decide how this funding is allocated. This includes any decisions relating to bus subsidy

- 2) Clarity around which subsidies are being looked at, are school transport subsidies included?**

The Combined Authority is not responsible for school transport. These responsibilities continue to lie with the upper tier authorities and have not changed following devolution.

- 3) Integrated planning, the O&S Committee are seeking assurance that they will be fully involved in May/June meetings.**

As part of the development of the Local Transport Plan strategy the project team will be engaging with a cross-section of officers and members from each of the constituent members of the Combined Authority and will include the O&S Committee.