



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No:10
27th SEPTEMBER 2019	PUBLIC REPORT

REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION: GOVERNANCE REVIEW

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Audit & Governance Committee has responsibility for reviewing the Combined Authority's governance arrangements and has in the past received a number of reports on reviews carried out into corporate governance issues.
- 1.2 To deliver the Growth Ambition Statement (November 2018) the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has undertaken a fundamental review of the organisation.
- 1.2. The Combined Authority has set its key priorities, used its budgets to create recyclable funds, created a new staffing structure, put in place performance measures and evolved an open and transparent Business Board working in partnership with the Combined Authority to shared objectives.
- 1.3. The proposals set out in the governance review reflects the final part of the re-design of the Authority. It focuses on how the Committees can be empowered to monitor the delivery of growth, allowing the Combined Authority Board to retain strategic oversight of those key projects which will make a difference to the lives of residents in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 1.4 The report will brief the Audit & Governance Committee on the proposed new governance arrangements which are to be considered by the Combined Authority Board at its meeting on 25 September 2019.

<u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u>
Lead Officer: Kim Sawyer, Chief Executive

The Audit and Governance Committee are recommended to:

- (a) Consider the proposed new governance arrangements for the Combined Authority; and
- (b) Amend the Committee's Work Programme to include a report to the meeting of the Committee on 27 March 2020 reviewing the effectiveness of the proposed new governance arrangements, should they have been adopted by the Combined Authority Board.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Combined Authority's Constitution sets out how the Combined Authority works, how it makes decisions and the procedures it follows to make sure its work is efficient, effective, transparent and accountable to local people. Some of these procedures are set by law, while others are ones the Combined Authority have chosen to follow. The Audit & Governance Committee has responsibility for reviewing the Combined Authority's governance arrangements.

Audit Reviews

- 2.2. Since its inception the Combined Authority has worked closely with the Audit and Governance Committee to ensure that it complies with the law and industry standards in the development of its Constitution.
- 2.3. Since March 2018 there have been four publicly reported audit reviews of the Combined Authority and the Business Board, all of which have been reported to meetings of the Audit & Governance Committee. The external auditors review and an external independent review of the budget and finances of the Authority have also been undertaken in response to issues raised by members both in meetings and more publicly through the press. A summary of the purpose and findings of each review forms Appendix 1 to this report.

3.0 PROPOSALS

- 3.1 In response to the threats to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough economy, as outlined in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review [CPIER] report (June 2018) the Combined Authority has adopted a dynamic and often innovative approach to delivering the growth necessary to ensure the long term prosperity of the area. This approach requires the Combined Authority to rethink the role of the Board and the way it makes decisions about its budget and its key projects.
- 3.2 Proposals for changes to the Constitution to reflect a new way of working are being taken to the meeting of the Combined Authority on 25 September 2019. It is proposed that the Combined Authority Board, made up of the Leaders of the constituent councils in the area, the Chair of the Business Board, the Police

and Crime Commissioner and representatives of the health and fire authorities will continue to decide the strategic direction of the Authority at a bi-monthly Board meeting. It will delegate many of its decision-making powers for operational matters to the Transport & Infrastructure Committee, the Skills Committee and the Housing & Communities Committee.

- 3.3 The proposed changes increase the size of the Committees to include a representative from each Council. There is a standing invitation to the Chair of the Business Board, the Police & Crime Commissioner and the representatives of the health and fire authorities to attend each meeting. Each Committee will be chaired by either the Mayor or a member of the Combined Authority Board nominated by the Mayor.
- 3.4 The Combined Authority Board will decide the budget and strategies and set out the key priorities for the organisation. The responsibility of each Committee is set out in the 'Terms of Reference' in the Constitution.
- 3.5 The public will be able to participate in meetings as public question time is being extended to all decision making meetings.
- 3.6 A summary of the key governance changes are outlined Appendix 2.
- 3.7 The new arrangements are proposed to take effect from the 1 November 2019. This will allow time for members to undertake an induction on the work of the Combined Authority. Meetings of the Board and Committees will occur bi-monthly, allowing for matters to be referred up the Board from the Committees. The Combined Authority Board will also review the Committee agendas and will have the right to call-in decisions of the Committees in exceptional circumstances. A new civic calendar is attached at Appendix 3.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The Combined Authority is not permitted to pay an allowance to members attending Combined Authority meetings. There are therefore no financial implications arising from these proposals.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The Combined Authority's Constitution is the key document within the Combined Authority's governance arrangements.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1. Appendix 1 – Overview of Governance Reviews
- 6.2. Appendix 2 – Summary of Key Governance Changes
- 6.3. Appendix 3 – Proposed Amended Calendar of Meetings 2019/20

<u>Background Papers</u>	<u>Location</u>
--------------------------	-----------------

Review of Governance / Independent Budget Review [Internal Audit] [March 2018]	https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/1936/Committee/70/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx
Independent Budget Review by CIPFA C Co [March 2019]	https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/897/Committee/70/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx
Governance Review [Internal Audit] [May 2019]	https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/897/Committee/70/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx
LEP Governance Review [Internal Audit] [May 2019]	https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/897/Committee/70/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx
Corporate Governance Review Tracker	Incubator 2, The Boulevard, Alconbury Weald Enterprise Campus, Huntingdon PE28 4XA Board Agenda – 25-09-2019
Report to the meeting of the Combined Authority Board on 25 September 2019	