



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MINUTES

Date: Monday, 24th January 2022

Time: 11:00

Location: Fenland Hall, March

Present:

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| Cllr D Dew | Huntingdonshire District Council |
| Cllr S Corney | Huntingdonshire District Council |
| Cllr L Dupre (Chair) | East Cambridgeshire District Council |
| Cllr A Sharp | East Cambridgeshire District Council |
| Cllr D Baigent | Cambridge City Council |
| Cllr M Davey | Cambridge City Council |
| Cllr M Atkins | Cambridgeshire County Council |
| Cllr M Goldsack | Cambridgeshire County Council |
| Cllr A Coles | Peterborough City Council |
| Cllr A Iqbal | Peterborough City Council |
| Cllr A Miscandlon | Fenland District Council |
| Cllr A Hay | Fenland District Council |
| Cllr J Rippeth | South Cambridgeshire District Council |
| Cllr A Van de Weyer | South Cambridgeshire District Council |

Officers:

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| Rochelle Tapping | Deputy Monitoring Officer, Combined Authority |
| Anne Gardiner | Governance Manager (Statutory Scrutiny Officer) Combined Authority |
| Robert Fox | Governance Officer, Combined Authority |
| Rowland Potter | Head of Transport, Combined Authority (remote attendance) |
| Jon Alsop | Chief Finance Officer, Combined Authority (remote attendance) |
| Paul Raynes | Director for Delivery and Strategy, Combined Authority (remote attendance) |
| Nick Sweeney | Residential Development Manager, Combined Authority (remote attendance) |
| John Hill | Director for Business & Skills, Combined Authority (remote attendance) |

Also in attendance: Mayor Nik Johnson

1. Apologies

1.1 No apologies received.

2. Minutes

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 13th December 2021 were approved as a correct record.

3. Declaration of Interests

3.1 No declarations of interests were made.

4. Public Questions

4.1 No public questions received.

5. Chair of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee

5.1 Mayor Nik Johnson was in attendance (via zoom) in his capacity as the Chair for the Transport and Infrastructure Committee.

Head of Transport, Rowland Potter was also in attendance.

5.2 The Committee had been invited to submit questions prior to the meeting for the Chair of Transport; the O&S Chair invited those members who had submitted questions to read these out and receive the written responses. (Questions and responses attached at Appendix 1)

5.2 The Chair for O&S Committee invited the members who had submitted questions to ask a supplementary question with the following points being raised:-

- In response to the question on enhanced cycling infrastructure the Director for Transport advised that the Combined Authority had made a submission for the governments social prescribing funds and had been one of the successful few to secure £60k to produce a feasibility study for active travel through social prescribing methods.
- In response to a question about the engagement with other organisations especially the GCP the Committee were assured that the Transport team were working closely with members from the GCP.
- In response to the question on the LTCP refresh and the delay caused by this and whether officers could assure the Committee that other projects would be able to continue and that the alignment with the GCP projects would not be unduly affected the Committee were advised that the current LTP was a legitimate working document that could be relied upon until the new plan was endorsed.

- The Head of Transport also advised that there had been extensive engagement with members and CEO's from the constituent councils which had been so in depth that it had led to the need for the rewrite of the LTCP rather than the refresh originally planned. The Committee were assured that this level of engagement would continue going forward.
- In response to the question on the TING trial being undertaken and whether given the positive feedback received it would be rolled out across the county, the Chair for Transport advised that there must be buy in for this to be successfully rolled out across all areas but that the Combined Authority would work with positive ambitious services to achieve this.
- In addition the Head of Transport advised that the Bus Service Improvement Plan would include this type of service and learning from the TING trial would be of great benefit in shaping this. The Director was confident that the TING service or similar would form part of the integrated transport service going forward.

5.3 The O&S Chair allowed an additional question to be asked regarding e-scooters and the lack of regulation around these.

The Chair for the Transport Committee advised that this was an area of concern and that the benefits of e-scooters and e-bikes had to be balanced against any irresponsible behaviours exhibited by some.

The Chair for Transport committed to working with the Police and Crime Commissioner to develop a more considered response to the issue.

The Head of Transport advised the Committee that the e-scooter trial run by the Combined Authority was regulated and that those that used the service had to have insurance and a license. The current trial aimed at providing a collation of evidence to consider the regulation of this form of transport going forward. The Director further advised that a proposal would come to the CA Board in March to extend the trial until November to get further data.

5.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Chair thanked Mayor Nik Johnson and Rowland Potter for attending to answer the Committee's questions.

6. Draft Sustainable Growth Ambition Statement and 2022/23 Draft Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan 2022-2026

6.1 The Committee received the report from the Chief Finance Officer and the Director for Delivery and Strategy which provided the Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update to the consultation of the draft Sustainable Growth Ambition Statement and the draft 2022-23 Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and also provided the Committee with responses to questions asked and comments made on the draft SGAS and budget/MTFP by members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at their consultation meeting of 13 December 2021

6.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- 6.3 In relation to the bidding process that was carried out alongside the consultation the officers advised that this had been the first time the process had been carried out and that they would take lessons to make improvements for next time.

The officers confirmed that the new projects identified as part of the bidding process had not been subject to consultation; members raised a concern that the input of new projects would make the MTFP and SAGS look very different and it would be important for the public to have a chance to be consulted on these as well, as part of the mid term refresh. Officers advised that if the CA Board requested it a further consultation could be carried out.

- 6.4 In response to a question about only a 10th of projects being approved for expenditure the Chief Finance Officer advised that the budget relied on the strategies being developed and the mid-year refresh would incorporate these. It was usual for the Combined Authority to receive funding in advance and as a result not have the balances assigned.

The Director for Delivery and Strategy advised that they were going through a sequence process in accordance with the key governance documents of the CA ie Assurance Framework. The Combined Authority had to demonstrate value for money on projects; the process was different to that of other councils as the money would come from parliament, which created constraints by the government framework which required things to be taken in stages.

- 6.5 In response to a question on the 500k housing team and its current reduced role; officers advised this was being looked at and a response including a timeframe would be provided to the Committee.

- 6.6 The Chair requested some clarity on whether there would be a second consultation on the MTFP given the lack of detail provided and officers agreed to check with the legal team and provide a response, but it would likely be for the CA Board to decide whether a further consultation was required.

- 6.7 The Committee noted the reports and response provided.

7. Accommodation Strategy

- 7.1 The Committee received the report from the Residential Development Manager which informed the Overview and Scrutiny Committee that Combined Authority Leaders approved a strategy and process for identifying and securing office accommodation on 8th December 2021.

- 7.2 The officers advised that the strategy and process resulted in shortlisting two potential locations for the office accommodation for the Combined Authority; these were Pathfinder House in Huntingdonshire and Sand Martin House in Peterborough.

Both the locations short listed had space for meetings to be held in addition to office space for staff.

- 7.3 In response to a question about the lease of the Mayor's Office in Ely the Committee were advised that a new lease had been signed for 12 months from

January 2022 with provision to end the lease from June 2022. The staff located at the Ely office were in the same position as all other staff members.

- 7.4 The Committee queried how the two preferred locations had been chosen and why Fenland had not been included and were advised that there was an officer working group which had considered location, public transport and accessibility, staff considerations were also part of the matrix and consultation with constituent leaders had been carried out. While fenland did have the train station it had scored poorly in regards to public transport accessibility as a whole.

The officers agreed to share the scoring matrix with the Committee to provide further clarity on this matter.

- 7.5 In response to a question about the 40% occupancy and whether this was high enough the Committee were advised that when considering a new office space it would not be beneficial to consider a space to accommodate the whole organisation when the majority of staff would work from home on a regular basis going forward. However, this was a flexible area of consideration that was there to provide an indication of the Combined Authority's needs.

- 7.6 In response to a question about using a split site the officers advised that while that had been considered in the past that the current brief was to focus on a new corporate office on one site.

- 7.7 In response to a question about the expectation of staff driving to work the Committee were advised that a large proportion of staff would intend to drive and would want car parking at any location chosen for the new accommodation.

- 7.8 The Committee requested that a further update be provided at a future meeting.

- 7.9 The Committee thanked the officers and noted the report.

8. Combined Authority Forward Plan

- 8.1 The Chair invited the Lead members to provide any updates.

- 8.2 Cllr Coles and Cllr Miscandlon as the Lead Members for Skills advised that they had asked 11 questions at the Skills Committee held earlier that month and they would circulate these once available.

Cllr Coles suggested that he take on the Rapporteur role to consider Community Learning and would provide a scoping document at the next meeting.

- 8.3 Cllr Van De Weyer as the Lead Member for Housing advised that there would be a consideration of the purpose and function for the Combined Authority Housing activities and that this should be considered at the March meeting to enable this to be fed into the CA Board item.

- 8.4 Cllr Atkins as Lead Member for Climate Change advised that the CA Board would be considering the Climate Change Strategy at their meeting in March and that the Committee should add this to their work programme.

8.5 Cllr Dew as Lead Member for the Business Board advised that there was good ongoing work in relation to the University of Peterborough and that the Business Board had appointed two new Board members.

8.6 The Committee noted the Forward Plan.

9. Combined Authority Board Agenda

9.1 No questions were put forward to be asked at the CA Board this month.

10. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

10.1 The Committee received the report which requested that members discuss and agree items for the work programme.

10.2 The Chair advised that due to the resignation of the Director for Business and Skills that he would not be attending their meeting in February and suggested that as this was the main substantive item on the agenda that this reserve meeting should not go ahead.

The Committee Agreed.

10.3 The Committee requested that officers provide some clarity around the second Mayor's Question Time due to be held on the 25th March and what role there was for the Committee.

10.4 The following items were agreed to be added to the work programme for the March meeting:

Climate Change
Housing
Community Education – Scoping report.
Update on the closure of One CAM

11. Date of Next Meeting

11.1 The next meeting would be held on the 28th March 2022 at 11am at Sand Martin House, Peterborough.

Meeting Closed: 12:52pm.