



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No: 5
28 SEPTEMBER 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

INDEPENDENT CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the process for appointing the Chair and members of the Independent Climate Change Commission for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

DECISION REQUIRED

FROM:

Lead Officer: Paul Raynes, Director of Delivery and Strategy

The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the report and welcome Baroness Brown of Cambridge to the meeting of the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 27 November 2019 the Combined Authority Board approved the establishment of an Independent Commission on Climate Change. The Board authorised the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, to appoint a chairperson and members of the Commission. None of the roles are to be remunerated.

3.0 ESTABLISHING THE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMISSION

- 3.1 Under the terms of reference, the Commission consists of a chair, a deputy chair, and ten other members. It is to include a broad spread of expertise with at least four members each from business and the voluntary/community sector. It is not to include elected members of the Combined Authority or local councils. It is to be supported by a management group and a technical group made up of officers of the Combined Authority, local authorities, academia, and business representatives.
- 3.2 A search process for a Chair was undertaken on the basis of a target profile and set of competences. Following that search, a preferred candidate was recommended for interview by the Mayor and the Chief Executive and a competence-based interview was held against a role description for the Chair.
- 3.3 Following that interview, the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor agreed to make the appointment in line with the delegation from the Board. This decision is recorded in Officer Decision Notice number 196-2020. The Mayor announced the appointment at the Board meeting of 3rd June and by a press release of the same date.
- 3.4 The Right Honourable Baroness Brown of Cambridge (Dame Julia King) has been appointed the Chair of the Commission. She is an engineer with a career spanning senior engineering and leadership roles in industry and academia. She is a member (and deputy chair) of the national Committee on Climate Change, which is the government's independent advisory body on building a low-carbon economy and preparing for climate change. Baroness Brown also holds the following key positions:
- a) Chair of the Committee on Climate Change's Adaptation Committee
 - b) Non-executive director of the Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult
 - c) Chair of the Carbon Trust
- 3.5 Baroness Brown was non-executive Director of the Green Investment Bank and led the King Review on decarbonising transport (2008). She is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and of the Royal Society and was awarded DBE for services to higher education and technology. She is a crossbench Peer.
- 3.6 The Board also delegated the power to the Chief Executive to appoint the Commissioners. As the Commission's work is to be independent, the approach adopted has been to work collaboratively with the Chair in seeking potential Commissioners. This enables the Chair to ensure that a broad range of expertise is represented. The Chair also wishes to ensure that the Commission provides a diverse representation. The Chief Executive will have regard to the Chair's recommendations in appointing the members of the Commission but will retain final oversight and approval of the Commission membership, in particular to ensure that its configuration meets the requirements laid down by the Board in the terms of business/community

balance, and having due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty. The Commission members are at Appendix 1.

4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Establishing a commission is a function of the Combined Authority Board as set out in the Constitution (Chapter 4, Section 1, paragraph 12). The Board of Nov 2019 agreed to set up the Independent Commission on Climate Change, and delegated appointment of the Chair and Commissioners to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor.
- 4.2 By virtue of Chapter 4, Section 4, paragraph 7 of the Constitution the Forward Plan, Transparency Rules, and Key Decisions procedures do not apply to the Independent Commission.
- 4.3 The Independent Commission has no financial control over the agreed technical support budget, which rests with the Combined Authority. Requests for such technical support therefore be subject to the standard financial procedures and delegated powers of the Combined Authority.

APPENDICES

The announcement of Baroness Brown's appointment is available here: <https://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/news/starting-gun-fired-on-regions-own-climate-change-strategy-to-eradicate-emissions-by-2050/>

<u>Source Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>
Report to CPCA Board, 27th November 2019	https://cambridgeshirepeterboroughcagov.cmis.uk.com/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/849/Committee/63/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx