



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Agenda Item No: 7

## Report title: Combined Authority Accommodation Strategy

To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: 13 December 2021

Public report: Yes

From: Cllr Mark Goldsack  
Rapporteur

Recommendations: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the update on the Combined Authority Accommodation Strategy;
- b) Consider any potential questions for the Rapporteur to take back to Combined Authority officers for further responses

### 1. Purpose

1.1 To update the Committee on the Combined Authority Accommodation Strategy.

### 2. Background

2.1 The Combined Authority surrendered its lease and vacated office accommodation at Alconbury Weald in summer 2020 just after the first March 2020 covid outbreak and lockdown. The previous office accommodation was leased from Urban and Civic.

2.2 Since then, employees have worked remotely, and when permitted and possible, utilised the limited amount of office space at the Mayor's office at 72-74 Market Street, Ely. Some teams have also conducted gatherings and meetings at third party locations for team meetings and team building.

2.3 The Committee approved the scoping document (Appendix 1) for the review of the

Combined Authority Accommodation Strategy at its meeting on 25 October 2021.

2.4 The rationale for the review is to assist in the development of an accommodation strategy for the Combined Authority and make recommendations to the Authority to meet its current and future premises requirements.

2.5 The Committee agreed the scope of the review should include:

- Current and future needs and uses for premises, including effect of COVID and expectations regarding home and mobile working
- Current and future staffing complement and travel patterns
- Audit of public estate in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and potential options for leasing, shared use of spare premises capacity
- Financial impact of premises options, both capital and revenue
- Carbon impact of premises options and contribution to meeting net zero aspirations
- Equality, diversity and inclusion impact of premises options
- Legal and contractual impact of premises options

### 3. Update

3.1 The Chair of the Committee and the Rapporteur for the review have met with the Combined Authority's Chief Executive to understand the plans for the Authority's staffing and organisational structure and how a likely future premises' needs will support future activity.

3.2 The Rapporteur is pleased to report to the Committee that the Combined Authority is much closer to concluding its search for accommodation than was previously understood to be the case. Combined Authority officers have demonstrated to the Rapporteur that there are solid plans to have officers on site by the next financial year. Commercial sensitivities preclude further detail in terms of potential locations at this stage. There are six potential locations being considered all of which have sufficient capacity for the Authority based on 40% of the staff total attending on any one day.

3.3 Current Combined Authority staff have been surveyed for location preferences and there was a 65% response rate to this survey. It is the Rapporteur's understanding that there might be an announcement on intentions for accommodation around Christmas.

### 4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are currently no financial implications

### 5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are currently no legal implications.

## 6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Scoping Document for the review