



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY  
Agenda Item No. 1.2

## Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Annual Meeting: Minutes

Date: Wednesday 2 June 2021

Time: 10.30am – 12.25pm

Venue: Main Hall, Burgess Hall Events and Conference Centre, One Leisure,  
Westwood Road, St Ives PE27 6WU

Present: Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

A Adams - Chair of the Business Board, Councillor A Bailey – East Cambridgeshire District Council, Councillor C Boden – Fenland District Council, Councillor W Fitzgerald – Peterborough City Council, Councillor R Fuller – Huntingdonshire District Council, Councillor L Herbert – Cambridge City Council, Councillor E Meschini – Cambridgeshire County Council and Councillor B Smith – South Cambridgeshire District Council

Co-opted Members: J Thomas, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group

Apologies: Councillor L Nethsingha, substituted by Councillor E Meschini

### 1. The Mayor - Declaration of Acceptance of Office

Mayor Dr Nik Johnson confirmed his acceptance of the office of Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and took the Chair.

### 2. Announcements, apologies, and declarations of interest

The Mayor expressed his thanks to his wife and family for their support during the Mayoral campaign and to all communities across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for electing him Mayor. Compassion, co-operation and community would be placed at the heart of the Combined Authority's work going forward. The Mayor expressed his thanks to the joint chief executives, directors, communications team and his office manager for their professionalism and support and for their willingness to listen to and embrace this approach.

The Local Transport Plan would be refreshed and the Mayor invited all of the constituent authorities to come together on transport projects across the Combined Authority area. Learning would be taken from the CAM project and applied across the region. His hope was to bring an initial transition plan before the Board on 28 July 2021 which would embrace this new vision. A similar approach would be taken with regard to developing a new housing plan. The Mayor believed that great things could be achieved for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough by working together.

Central Government had recently announced the criteria for bids for the City of Culture 2025 which would allow groups of towns to submit a bid. Peterborough City Council had already expressed interest in the competition and the Mayor's hope was to work together across the area to produce a bid centred on Peterborough, Cambridge and Ely. By focusing on 'the three Cs' of compassion, co-operation and community and by taking an innovative approach he believed that the Combined Authority could deliver change and culture.

Apologies for absence were reported as set out above.

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Deputy Mayor/s of the Combined Authority

The Mayor announced the appointment of Councillor Wayne Fitzgerald, Leader of Peterborough City Council, as the Statutory Deputy Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. He also announced that he was minded to appoint Austen Adams, Chair of the Business Board, as Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor. To enable this to take place he would be proposing an amendment to the Constitution under the following agenda item to allow any member of the Combined Authority Board to be appointed as Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor (minute 4 below refers).

Councillor Smith sought confirmation of whether a non-elected member could be appointed as Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor. The Monitoring Officer stated that he had examined this in detail. The Local Enterprise Partnership/ Business Board's nominee to the Combined Authority Board was a substantive member of the Board with full voting rights so there was no barrier in law to their being appointed Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor. The constraint on this was that the Combined Authority Constitution stated that a Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor must be a member of a constituent council.

### 4. Membership of the Combined Authority 2021/22

Appendix 1 to the report: Membership of the Combined Authority Board was published on 1 June 2021 and circulated electronically to all members of the Board following the last of the constituent council's annual meetings.

Mr Adams and Ms Thomas left the meeting room for the duration of this item.

The Board was invited to note the members and substitute members appointed by constituent councils to the Combined Authority Board for 2021/22, to appoint the Business Board's nominations as its representative and substitute for 2021/22 and to confirm co-opted member status as non-voting members of the Board on the Police and Crime Commissioner and representatives of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire

Authority and Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group. The Board was further invited to agree that any late notifications of appointments to the Monitoring Officer should take immediate effect.

The Mayor moved an additional recommendation, seconded by Councillor Meschini, to:

Agree to amend the Constitution of the Combined Authority to enable a non-statutory deputy mayor to be appointed from the membership of the Combined Authority Board.

Several Members expressed strong reservations about the short notice given to Board members and lack of consultation about a proposed change to the Constitution. The Mayor stated that he would in future expect officers to provide such information to Board members in a timely manner.

Councillor Bailey expressed further concerns around the implications of appointing the Chair of the Business Board as Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor, questioning how this would work in practice. For example, if they chaired a Combined Authority Board meeting would they be voting in their capacity as Chair of the Business Board, which they were appointed to the Board to do, or as Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor. The Monitoring Officer stated that in the absence of the Mayor it would be the Statutory Deputy Mayor who would preside at a Board meeting. The Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor would only be called upon to chair in the absence of both the Mayor and Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor. The Mayor noted that it was already possible within the terms of the Constitution as it stood to appoint the Chair of the Business Board as Statutory Deputy Mayor, so this option had already been available to him. He had been impressed by Mr Adams' approach and willingness to work with the Combined Authority and judged that he deserved the recognition which an appointment as Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor would confer.

Councillor Smith commented that in her view an appointment as Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor implied a political role that she did not think appropriate for the Chair of the Business Board.

Councillor Boden welcomed the proposed appointment of the Chair of the Business Board as Non-Statutory Deputy Mayor. However, he expressed disappointment that this intention and details of the Constitutional change it would require had had not been communicated to Board members in advance to enable them to consider it fully. On that basis, whilst he welcomed the intent he felt he could not support the proposed change at this time.

The Mayor stated that, having listened to the Board's comments, he would withdraw the additional recommendation for now and bring it back to a future meeting to allow time for Board members to consider the proposal more fully. In principle, he believed it to be a strong proposal, but he would listen to the Board's views. Councillor Boden welcomed this approach and asked that the proposals be circulated at the earliest opportunity to allow Board members and their legal advisers to review them. ACTION

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Herbert, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) note the Members and substitute Members appointed by constituent councils to the Combined Authority for the municipal year 2021/2022 (Append 1);
- b) appoint the Business Board's nominations as Member and substitute Member to represent them on the Combined Authority for the municipal year 2021/22 (Appendix 1);
- c) confirm that the following bodies be given co-opted member status for the municipal year 2021/22:
  - (i) The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire.
  - (ii) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.
  - (iii) Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group.
- d) Note the named representative and substitute representative for each organisation as set out in the report.
- e) Agree that any late notifications of appointments to the Monitoring Officer shall take immediate effect.

Mr Adams and Ms Thomas re-joined the meeting.

## 5. Minutes of the meeting on 24 March 2021

Councillor Herbert expressed strong reservations about the record of the discussion about the £100M Affordable Housing Programme (minute 657 refers). This did not in his view present an accurate picture of the position at the time and he asked that it should be recorded that he objected to the fact that the Board was not able to get an honest position of where the Combined Authority was at that point.

The Mayor acknowledged Councillor Herbert's strength of feeling, but noted that other Board members might have a different view. The Combined Authority was in a different place now and he wanted to move away from the confrontation which had been seen in some previous meetings. In his judgement, co-operation was key.

Councillor Smith commented that she had not been present at the previous meeting, but felt that it should be made clear that the phrase, 'There had been some misleading stories reported about this....' in relation to the £100M Affordable Housing Programme should be attributed to the former Mayor. The Mayor was content for this to be noted.

Councillor Fitzgerald commented that the minutes were an accurate record of what was stated at the time. Whether or not that information was correct was irrelevant.

The Monitoring Officer stated that the minutes were a non-verbatim record of the meeting as it occurred. The comments made by Board Members would be recorded in the minutes of the current meeting.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Mr Adams, it was resolved unanimously by those present and voting to:

Approve the minutes of the meeting on 24 March 2021 as an accurate record.

The Monitoring Officer stated that, by law, abstention from voting was taken as acquiescence.

## 6. Petitions

No petitions were received.

## 7. Public questions

No public questions were received.

## 8. Forward Plan

The Board reviewed the Forward Plan. The Forward Plan was an indication of future decisions, but it would be subject to continual review and might be changed to reflect any revisions to the Combined Authority's priorities and plans.

The Board was advised of two changes to the published Plan. The Transport and Infrastructure Committee meeting scheduled for 9 June 2021 had been postponed to July, date to be confirmed. This was to allow an induction session to be held for new members to brief them on the work and role of the committee, which was responsible for conducting statutory transport functions for the Combined Authority. It would also enable the Mayor to meet the committee members. The second change was the addition of a report seeking authority to spend against the programme budget for the Greater South East Energy Hub would be brought to the Board meeting on 30 June 2021.

The Mayor stated that he would initially be chairing the Transport and Infrastructure Committee himself. However, his intention in the longer term was to mirror the arrangements for the Skills and Housing and Communities Committees where the Mayor did not take up his seat.

Councillor Herbert asked when a report on the work undertaken by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny would be brought to the Board. The Monitoring Officer stated that draft recommendations were expected in the next few weeks. These would be workshopped with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and then taken to a Leaders strategy meeting via the Overview and Scrutiny Committee before being brought to the Board, probably around July or August. The Mayor stated his support for enhanced levels of scrutiny and transparency at the Combined Authority.

Councillor Boden expressed concern about the decision to postpone the Transport and Infrastructure Committee meeting until July, which meant delaying a number of decisions. The Mayor stated that he was conscious of the need for timely decisions on issues such as bus franchising, but emphasised the need for Committee members to be fully briefed on the Committee's role and statutory functions before they began work. His hope was to bring a number of decisions on transport issues before the Board on 28 July 2021.

Councillor Fuller commented that there had been several items of the agenda of the postponed Transport and Infrastructure Committee meeting relating to Huntingdonshire including on A141 Engagement, the St Ives Area Transport Study and the East West Rail Consultation. The latter would not now be discussed before the consultation closed which he felt was a mistake and he voiced his objection to the delay. Ms Sawyer, Chief Executive, stated that an extension had been granted to allow time for the East West Rail Consultation to be discussed. The implications of postponing the remaining decisions due to be taken in June had been considered and did not appear to cause any issues, but she would follow this up outside of the meeting with officers from Huntingdonshire District Council. ACTION

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Herbert, it was resolved unanimously to:

Approve the Forward Plan.

## 9. Appointments to Executive Committees and Appointment of Chairs and Lead Members

The Board was invited to note and agree the Mayor's nominations to Lead Member responsibilities and the membership of committees including the chairs of committees for 2021/22 as set out in Appendix 1, which was published and circulated electronically to Board members on 1 June 2021 after nominations had been received from all constituent councils following their annual meetings.

The Mayor stated that he wanted to create two new Lead Member roles relating to Health and the Environment. He saw himself as leading on the health agenda but would like the support of a Lead Member and invited anyone who was passionate about this issue to get in touch with him. He had also intended to propose two additional recommendations to delegate authority to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee to appoint the chair of that committee by a simple majority vote and to amend the Constitution to enable any member of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee to be appointed as its chair. However, in view of the previous discussion around giving Board members time to consider and comment on proposed changes to the Constitution (minute 4 above refers) he would not be moving those recommendations at this time. Instead, he would initially chair the Transport and Infrastructure Committee himself with a view to stepping down in due course.

Councillor Smith asked for more information about the Mayor's nominee as Lead Member for Environment. The Mayor stated that Councillor Stephen Ferguson was an Independent county councillor for St Neots East and Gransden. Councillor Ferguson had a strong background in environmental issues.

Councillor Fuller commented that he did not dispute the Mayor's right to nominate lead member responsibilities. However, the Constitution also stated that the Mayor and the Combined Authority Board would agree lead member responsibilities in respect of the Combined Authority functions and the Board had not been consulted on this. Councillor Fuller further noted that some lead member roles set out in Appendix 1 to the Constitution were not included in the nominations before the Board. The Monitoring Officer stated that he was satisfied that in discussing and agreeing appointments for the lead members for Health and the Environment the Board was fully seized of the issue.

In agreeing the appointments, the Board would also be agreeing to those new lead member responsibilities.

Councillor Boden noted that the nominations had only been published the previous evening, giving Board members little time to consider the proposals and offer comment. However, given the Mayor's recent democratic mandate he felt it was reasonable that the Board should concur with his wishes in this matter, so far as they were Constitutional. The Mayor had approached him to discuss the role of Lead Member for Health, but he was still unclear whether this related to public health or to the wider health agenda. In his judgement, this was why the responsibilities should be agreed before the appointments were made. For that reason he asked the Mayor consider withdrawing the proposed appointments of Lead Members for Health and the Environment for now. The Mayor stated his recognition of Councillor Boden's passion around the health/ public health agenda. He recognised the importance of clarifying the roles, but also saw value to allowing an appointee to shape the role themselves.

Councillor Bailey commented that lead member responsibilities were set out in the Constitution, so creating new lead member roles required a Constitutional change. In her judgement it would be important to have a proper discussion around the roles which were envisaged. In relation to health, this would include taking account of the county council's public health responsibilities and the role of the Clinical Commissioning Group. For that reason, she suggested that consideration of the creation and appointment to the two new lead member roles should be deferred to the next meeting, by which time role descriptions could also be available. For consistency, Cllr Bailey further suggested that any Constitutional changes relating to the chairing of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee should also be considered for the other executive committees. The Mayor commented that no Board members had been appointed to the Transport and Infrastructure Committee (T&I) by constituent councils, so he must initially take the chair himself. His understanding was that having previously had the Mayor chairing one of the executive committees might have skewed the agenda in that direction. In order to be respectful of the decisions of all of the executive committees the direction of travel was to have someone other than the Mayor chair T&I.

Councillor Bailey further commented that some local authorities included health and environmental implications in their reports to ensure that these factors were taken into account as part of the decision-making process. This practice could be introduced at the Combined Authority. The Mayor welcomed this idea. ACTION

Councillor Herbert voiced his support for the Mayor's right to appoint Lead Members. His preference would be to make those decisions now so that work could begin without delay. He noted that it had been the practice at previous annual meetings to table a number of papers on the day of the meeting.

Councillor Fuller commented that he was not arguing with the principle of the proposals, but wanted the opportunity to discuss them first. He did not wish to vote against the Mayor's proposals, but he did want the opportunity to consider and comment on them. It might be possible for non-Board members to hold Lead Member responsibilities, but his current view was that this would be an anomaly as they would have no speaking rights at the Board. Under the Devolution Deal the Board was the Mayor's Cabinet, but under the current proposals there were four constituent council Board members who were not being utilised. He felt that this could represent a missed opportunity, but he respected the Mayor's right to appoint his preferred candidates.

Councillor Fitzgerald commented that the Combined Authority had been criticised previously in relation to its governance and there was no wish to see that continue. If it took time to get decisions right then he believed that was what should happen. He suggested that proposals for the new Lead Member roles for Health and Environment should be shared with the Board before being taken to a future meeting. As well as looking at the responsibilities of the proposed new roles this should also set out how those roles would function in practice in relation to making proposals to the Board if they were not held by Board members. The Board would also want to see details of those Lead Member responsibilities not currently allocated, such as finance and investment and spatial planning, and the rationale for not including them. He did not feel there would be a problem with the principle, but wanted to get the governance right.

The Mayor stated that, having listened to the views expressed by the Board during the debate, he agreed that it was important to get the processes around decision-making right from the outset. On this basis he was content not to proceed with an appointment to the role of Lead Member for the Environment at this time.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) note and agree the Mayor's nominations to Lead Member responsibilities and the membership of the committees, with the exception of the appointment of a Lead Member for Environment, including the Chairs of committees for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1.
- b) note the Members and substitute Members appointed by constituent councils to the Combined Authority for the municipal year 2021/2022 (Appendix 1).
- c) Note and agree the Membership for the Employment Committee for 2021/22 (Appendix 1)

The meeting was adjourned from 11.56am to 12.03pm.

## 10. Appointment of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2021/22

The Board was invited to confirm the size and political balance of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2021/22 as set out in the report, confirm the appointment of constituent councils' nominees and to consider inviting the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O&S) to consider the co-option of an independent member from a constituent council. Should O&S wish to appoint an independent member this recommendation would be brought back to the Board for approval. It had been decided in 2017 to appoint two representatives to O&S from each constituent council in order to provide equitable representation and the same approach had been followed since then. The Monitoring Officer had delegated authority to accept nominations for vacancies between meetings and any such appointments would be reported to the next meeting of the Board. Councillor Boden stated that Councillor Tierney would substitute for both Councillors Hay and Miscandlon on O&S for Fenland District Council.

Councillor Fuller commented that allowing O&S the choice of appointing an Independent member was based on the assumption that this would not affect the political balance of the committee. However, the Independent members at



Cambridgeshire County Council were now part of the Joint Administration which was leading the Council. The Monitoring Officer stated that political proportionality at the Combined Authority was based on membership of a political party rather than a group, but he undertook to look into this. ACTION

Councillor Boden commented that he supported the recommendations. Having sat on the committee previously he judged that the larger membership was appropriate. He stated that the figures quoted in the report for Fenland District Council had changed and there were now 27 Conservative Members and 9 Independent members. He did not believe that this altered the current political proportionality calculations, but welcomed the practice of keeping political proportionality under regular review. Councillor Boden asked for an explanation of how political balance percentages were converted into seat allocations on both O&S and the Audit and Governance Committee to be provided outside of the meeting. ACTION.

Councillor Smith commented that it was important to allow O&S to act as it thought best in relation to the co-option of Independent member, but for clarity asked whether O&S had chosen to appoint an Independent member previously and the voting arrangements should it chose to co-opt an Independent member. Ms Sawyer, Chief Executive, stated that when the Combined Authority was first formed there was a request by the Independent Group to have a member sit on O&S. Membership was politically proportionate based on membership of registered political parties so this was a discretionary decision for the Board. On that occasion the Conservative Group had a large majority and choose to give up one seat to an Independent member. The following year there was a change in political balance and the Board did not appoint an Independent member to O&S. Instead, the Board gave O&S the discretion to decide whether to co-opt an Independent member and the Committee chose not to do so. The Monitoring Officer stated that a decision to co-opt an Independent member would require a simple majority of those present and voting at O&S and the recommendation would then be taken to the Board for approval.

Councillor Fitzgerald commented that it was important that O&S was perceived to be fair and independent and for that reason he judged it would not be appropriate for it to be chaired by an Independent member of the Joint Administration at the County Council.

Councillor Boden asked whether the Mayor agreed that the chair of O&S should be a Conservative member. The Mayor stated that he was in agreement with this and that he also favoured having an Independent member co-opted as a non-voting member of the committee, but that these were matters for O&S to decide.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) confirm that the size of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be 14 members; two members from each constituent council and two substitute members for the municipal year 2021/2022.
- b) to agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix 1.

- c) confirm the appointment of the Member and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 2.
- d) to request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the co-option of an independent member from a Constituent Council.

## 11. Appointment of the Audit and Governance Committee 2021/22

The Board was invited to confirm the size, composition and political balance of the Audit and Governance Committee for 2021/22 and to confirm the appointment of the Members and substitute Members nominated by constituent councils. The Board was also invited to re-appoint the existing independent person, Mr Alan John Pye, to the Committee for a term of four years ending May 2025, to appoint Mr Pye as chair of the Committee and to delegate authority to the Committee to elect a Vice Chair for 2021/22. It was also proposed to increase the remuneration of the Independent Person on a pro-rata basis with reference to a similar role on the Police and Crime Panel and in recognition of the increase in the number of meetings.

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Boden, it was resolved unanimously to:

- a) confirm that the size of the Audit and Governance Committee should be eight members; one member and one substitute from each Constituent Council and one independent person.
- b) appoint Mr Alan John Pye as the independent person of the Audit and Governance Committee for a term of four years ending May 2025.
- c) raise the remuneration for the role of the Independent Person as the Chair of the committee on a pro-rated basis, to reflect the increased activity of the committee, to £3068 per annum.
- d) to agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix 1;
- e) confirm the appointment of the Members and substitute Members nominated by Constituent Councils to the Committee for the municipal year 2021/2022 as set out in Appendix 2.
- f) appoint Mr Alan John Pye as Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year 2021/2022 and delegate authority to elect the Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee.

## 12. Calendar of Meetings 2021/22

The Board was invited to approve the draft calendar of meetings for 2021/22.

Councillor Boden asked whether the north of the county might host the Board's next meeting and also whether a future meeting might be arranged in Wisbech to allow Board members to experience first-hand the town's transport issues. He further suggested that Combined Authority Board meetings might in future start at 10.00am

rather than 10.30am. The Mayor stated he would want to move meetings around the county if possible and noted the request to include Wisbech. There was no dissent to the suggestion of starting future Board meetings at 10.00am. ACTION

Councillor Herbert commented that Combined Authority Board meetings regularly lasted five hours or more and that he judged there was a need for better agenda management. ACTION

On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Bailey, it was resolved unanimously to:

Approve the Calendar of Meetings for 2021/2022 as set out in the report.

(Mayor)