



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY: MINUTES**

**Date:** Wednesday 27 September 2017

**Time:** 10.00am – 10.40am

**Present:** J Palmer (Mayor)  
J Clark – Fenland District Council, L Herbert – Cambridge City Council,  
R Hickford (substituting for S Count – Cambridgeshire County Council),  
J Holdich – Peterborough City Council, R Howe – Huntingdonshire District  
Council, P Topping – South Cambridgeshire District Council and M Reeve  
(Greater Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise  
Partnership (GCGP LEP))

**Observers:** Councillor J Ablewhite (Police and Crime Commissioner), J Bawden  
(Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group)

**In Attendance:** Councillor J Peach - Vice Chairman Cambridgeshire and Peterborough  
Fire Authority and Councillor J Batchelor – Chairman, Combined Authority  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### **80. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Apologies received from Councillors S Count, K Reynolds and C Roberts. There were no declarations of interest.

### **81. MINUTES – 26 JULY 2017 & 4 SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the meetings held on 26th July 2017 and 4th September 2017 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment to the minutes of the meeting of 26th July 2017:

Minute 66 – Officer and Support Structure: second bullet, third sentence – change ‘education’ to ‘skills’.

### **82. PETITIONS**

No petitions were received.

### **83. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

No public questions were received.

#### **84. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMBINED AUTHORITY - AMENDMENTS**

The Board was invited to note the appointment of Councillor G Bull by Huntingdonshire District Council to replace Councillor D Brown as substitute member of the Combined Authority for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year. The Board was further invited to approve the nomination of Councillor J Peach as the substitute observer for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

It was resolved unanimously to:

1. note that Huntingdon District Council appointed Councillor Graham Bull to replace Councillor Daryl Brown as Councillor Robin Howe's substitute to the Combined Authority for the remainder of the municipal year 2017/2018;
2. approve the nomination of Councillor John Peach as the substitute observer for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority.

The Mayor invited Councillor J Peach to join the Board for the remainder of the meeting.

#### **85. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER AND SECTION 151 OFFICER**

The Board considered a recommendation to confirm the appointment of Alex Colyer as interim statutory Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 officer following the resignation of the previous post holder. The appointment would be for three days per week until 30 September 2017 and for four days per week from 1 October 2017 to 31 March 2018.

It was resolved unanimously to:

1. confirm the appointment of Alex Colyer as interim statutory Chief Finance Officer and S151 Officer to the Combined Authority.

#### **86. EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE AND APPOINTMENT OF MAYORAL ADVISER AND CHIEF OF STAFF**

The Board received a report setting out proposals on the size and composition of the Employment Committee and inviting members to note the appointment of Tom Hunt as Mayoral Adviser and Chief of Staff to the Mayor.

The Monitoring Officer stated that the recommendations relating to the Employment Committee followed on from the officer structure paper considered at the previous meeting and were required to begin the process of recruiting senior staff. It was proposed that two seats on the committee would be rotated between those members of the Board who were not permanent committee members and that one of these would be the relevant Portfolio holder. The recommendation required the approval of two thirds of voting members of the Board including the GCGP LEP representative. The Board was also invited to note the appointment of Tom Hunt as Mayoral Adviser and Chief of Staff to the Mayor. Following Mr Hunt's appointment as the Mayor's political

assistant with effect from 17 July 2017 the Mayor had increased the responsibilities of the role to include a requirement to assist the Mayor in dealings with central government to promote the interests of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. This was in common with the practice being adopted by other Mayoral Combined Authorities and Elected Mayors of local authorities and followed the structure of the London Mayoral office.

A Member commented that whilst there had been early discussion of the Mayor's intention to appoint a political adviser, at the time that the appointment was made there was no budget for it and no advertised process by which the appointment would be made. The Member felt that there should be a demonstrably open and transparent appointment process to provide assurance that the best person for the job was appointed. They noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had commented on this issue and asked that the Board should look at the Code of Conduct for political advisers used by central government and other Mayoral Combined Authorities with a view to adopting this.

The Mayor sought the advice of the Monitoring Officer on whether the Code of Conduct for political advisers used by central government could be adopted by the Combined Authority. The Monitoring Officer advised that a Code of Conduct for political advisers could be included within the Combined Authority's Constitution. Officers would review the practice elsewhere and bring recommendations to a future meeting for decision.

It was resolved unanimously to:

1. agree the Employment Committee consisted of six members to include:
  - a) The Mayor as Chair
  - b) The Statutory Deputy Mayor as Vice-Chair
  - c) The Constitutional Deputy Mayor,
  - d) Councillor Lewis Herbert (to maintain political balance)
  - e) Two other Board members taken in rotation which must include the relevant Portfolio Holder when interviewing for to a particular Chief Officer post; Board members and their substitutes might also substitute for the core membership.
2. note the appointment made by the Mayor of Tom Hunt as Mayoral Adviser and Chief of Staff on the terms and conditions set out in the report;
3. review the Code of Conduct for political advisers working in central government with a view to adopting this into the Combined Authority's Constitution at a future meeting.

## **87. FORWARD PLAN**

The Board noted the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions dated 15 September 2017, which had been circulated with the agenda. The Mayor stated that the Forward Plan was updated on a regular basis and was available online for public inspection (a copy of the current version was available at the following link

<https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccclive/Documents/PublicDocuments.aspx>)

It was resolved unanimously to:

1. approve the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions.

## **88. DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DCLG) HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FUND**

The Portfolio Holder for New Homes and Communities stated that details of the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund had been received shortly before the Parliamentary Recess, allowing very little time to prepare the comprehensive response required. Fortunately district, city and county councils had already done a significant amount of preparatory work on this issue which provided a strong base from which to examine potential bids. Three schemes had emerged from this process as strong contenders and external evaluation of these by one of the country's leading property investment companies, CBRE, had identified the Cambridge Northern Fringe East bid as most likely to be successful against the Government's published criteria. Regeneration of this brownfield site had been a longstanding ambition of both South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council, but it had not been progressed due to the prohibitive cost of removing a 1920s water treatment plant from the site. Any bid submitted would be in competition with schemes proposed by other authorities so it was imperative to submit the strongest bid possible. Whilst recommending the Cambridge Northern Fringe East scheme at this time the strength of both the Huntingdon Third River Crossing and the Wisbech Garden Town schemes was clearly acknowledged in the report. It was recommended that business cases for both of these projects should continue to be developed in recognition of the need for more schemes of this type if the Combined Authority was to meet its aim of delivering an additional 100,000 new homes across the area. The Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had endorsed the recommendation of the Cambridge Northern Fringe East scheme and this would be noted by Government as a strength.

Members of the Board offered the following comments in discussion of the report:

- All three schemes contained in the report represented great opportunities for Cambridgeshire and the Board was fortunate to have such strong contenders to select from;
- The Combined Authority remained committed to supporting infrastructure schemes across its geographical area to provide equality of life opportunities for all Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's residents and to support prosperity across the region;
- The Cambridge Northern Fringe East scheme was considered to stand an excellent chance of success against bids from other authorities;
- An Observer commented that the Huntingdon Third River Crossing scheme had been referenced in the original devolution deal and felt this should be at the forefront of the methodology used for selecting which scheme should be put forward. South Cambridgeshire and the City already benefited from the Greater Cambridge Partnership (formerly known as the City Deal) so there was an argument for choosing a scheme in a different area to provide greater equity of growth across the county. It

would also address road safety issues in the area. Another Member endorsed these comments and acknowledged that the recommended scheme would cost more and deliver less homes in a more prosperous part of the county. However, they were satisfied that the Cambridge Northern Fringe East scheme did overall represent the best opportunity for success against the specified bidding criteria, including being more demonstrably deliverable within the timescale specified by Government;

- A Member stated that they saw this and future projects as a means of extending health opportunities to the north of the county and expressed the hope that recognition of health, education and wellbeing issues should be placed ahead of purely financial considerations at some point in the Board's deliberations. The Portfolio Holder for New Homes and Communities acknowledged the importance of these considerations and highlighted the key role of political leaders in facilitating relationships between business and those parts of the county which stood to benefit most from enhanced economic, health and educational opportunities;
- An Observer asked whether public health and sustainability issues had been included in developing the bids. The Chief Executive stated that this was not part of the specified criteria, although there was recognition of the wider value added. However, the importance of considering both public health and sustainability issues in the context of strategic proposals going forward was recognised;
- Members highlighted that external evaluation of the schemes by CBRE, one of the country's leading property investment companies, had identified the Cambridge Northern Fringe East bid as the one most likely to be successful against the published criteria;
- The GCGP LEP representative restated the LEP's support for the Cambridge Northern Fringe East bid, noting in particular its deliverability within the timescale specified in the bidding criteria. The LEP also emphasised the value of the proposed Huntingdon Third River Crossing and of ensuring that the private sector and business community remained sighted on future proposals.

The Mayor stated that he had received a letter that morning from Councillor John Batchelor, the Chairman of the Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee, recording the Committee's support for the Cambridge Northern Fringe East bid (copy attached at Appendix 1). At the invitation of the Mayor, the Chairman joined the table and stated that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had considered the proposals at its meeting on 21 September 2017. The Committee felt that the Cambridge Northern Fringe East bid best satisfied the requirements of Government and offered the best opportunity to demonstrate the role of the Combined Authority in securing significant new investment into the region. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been pleased to have the opportunity to make a positive contribution to the decision-making process in relation to the prospective bids.

Summing up, the Mayor highlighted the commitment within the recommendations to deliver the two additional schemes of strategic importance identified through this process by developing business cases to target future investment at Huntingdon Third River Crossing and Wisbech Garden Town. This would be in addition to the 7,600 new

homes on a brownfield site, including a proportion of affordable housing, which was contained within the Cambridge Northern Fringe East bid.

It was resolved unanimously to:

1. Submit the Cambridge Northern Fringe East bid to the Housing Infrastructure Fund Forward Funding Pot in the sum of £193m which will unlock the potential for 7,600 new homes which will in turn support new jobs in the Cambridge Science Park and in Greater Cambridge more generally;
2. Note the endorsement of this bid by the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP. This will be noted by Government as a strength;
3. Commit to deliver the two additional schemes of strategic importance identified through this process by developing business cases to target future investment at:
  - Huntingdon Third River Crossing
  - Wisbech Garden Town
4. Note and endorse the Marginal Viability Funding bids to be submitted by the District Councils.

## **89. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was resolved unanimously to note the date of the next meeting: Wednesday 25 October 2017 at 10.00am at East Cambridgeshire District Council, The Grange, Nutholt Lane, Ely

Mayor