



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

# **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018

**Time:** 11am

**Location:** Fenland District Council

**Present:**

Cllr Doug Dew  
Cllr Tom Sanderson  
Cllr Alan Sharp  
Cllr Mike Bradley  
Cllr Grenville Chamberlain  
Cllr Philip Allen  
Cllr Mike Sargeant  
Cllr Valerie Holt  
Cllr David Over  
Cllr Ed Murphy  
Cllr Chris Boden  
Cllr David Hodgson  
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha

Huntingdonshire District Council  
Huntingdonshire District Council  
East Cambs District Council  
East Cambs District Council  
South Cambs District Council  
South Cambs District Council  
Cambridge City Council  
Cambridge City Council  
Peterborough City Council  
Peterborough City Council  
Fenland District Council  
Fenland District Council  
Cambridgeshire County Council

**Officers:**

Debbie Forde  
Anne Gardiner

Governance Advisor  
Scrutiny Officer

## **1. Appointment of Chair & Vice Chair**

- 1.1 Councillor Nethsingha was nominated by Councillor Allen and seconded by Councillor Sanderson for the position of Chair.

Councillor Sargeant was nominated by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor Over for the position of Chair.

The Committee resolved to appoint Councillor Nethsingha as Chair for the municipal year 2018/19.

- 1.2 Councillor Sargeant was nominated by Councillor Murphy and seconded by Councillor Over for the position of Vice Chairman.

The Committee resolved to appoint Councillor Sargeant as Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2018/19.

## **2. Apologies**

- 2.1 Apologies received from Cllr Gehring, substituted by Cllr Holt.

## **3. Declaration of Interests**

- 3.1 No declarations of interests were made.

## **4. Minutes**

- 4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-

Cllr Boden requested that in future the minutes more clearly reflected the questions raised by committee members as well as the responses provided.

Cllr Boden requested that the following point be added to the East Cambridgeshire Strategic Community Land Trust Programme item that was discussed –

- ‘(a) Arrangement for security had not been clarified but was being worked on and
- (b) the Committee requested a report on how the loan agreement was to be amended.’

- 4.2 Members raised a concern that feedback had not been received following the last committee meeting on a question regarding the Loans on Land Trust and officers advised they would look into this and get a response provided.

- 4.3 The Committee discussed the proposed committee system that had been mentioned at the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting by the Mayor. The Governance Advisor reported that this was still under discussion by the Board.

- 4.4 The Committee requested that they be involved in the discussions and that an item be placed on the agenda at the next meeting. The committee were advised that the Mayor was scheduled to attend and members could request an update at the meeting.

## **5. Key Priorities Themes - Allocation**

5.1 The Committee received the report which asked members to consider whether they would like to continue to cover key priority themes to monitor the work of the Combined Authority and agree which members of the Committee will be assigned to each theme.

5.2 The following points were raised during the discussion:-

- Members discussed whether they should wait until the Mayor had confirmed the new committee system before assigning members to themes and it was decided that the committee should go ahead with the existing theme allocation and adapt it as and when the Mayor announced the new committee system.
- The benefits of a committee system over portfolio arrangements were discussed. Some members felt that a committee system could lead to closer working relationships with the Board.
- There was discussion on whether the themes were too broad or should be more specific.
- Members discussed adding Finance as a theme and whether this would impede the work of the Audit and Governance Committee. Most members felt that there was a role for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider financial implications and that it should be added as a theme.
- Members felt that the Finance should be included within the existing theme of covering the work of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Discussion took place on the differing roles of the Audit and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the former was about compliance rather than strategy. This Committee was concerned with the transparency and the allocation and prioritisation of funding which impinged across all portfolio areas.

5.3 The Committee agreed to

- (a) continue to have a system where members would cover key priority themes to monitor the work of Combined Authority Board.
- (b) include Finance to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's theme.
- (c) add the work of the Business Board to the Strategy and Planning theme.

The Committee agreed the following allocation of members to the key priority themes:

Activities of Mayor, Deputy Mayor's and Finance

Cllr Boden, Cllr Over, Cllr Gehring

Transport and Infrastructure

Cllr Sargeant, Cllr Sanderson, Cllr Chamberlain

Skills and Employment

Cllr Nethsingha and Cllr Dew

### Housing

Cllr Allen, Cllr Murphy, Cllr Connor

### Strategy & Planning and Business Board

Cllr Bradley and Cllr Sharp.

## **6. Appointments to Task and Finish Group – Mass Rapid Transport**

6.1 The committee received the report which asked members to appoint the membership to the working group for Mass Rapid Transport and to appoint a chair.

6.2 The Committee resolved to appoint the following members to the task and finish group:

Cllr Sargeant  
Cllr Sanderson  
Cllr Chamberlain  
Cllr Allen  
Cllr Bradley

The Committee agreed that the task and finish group should appoint their Chair at the first meeting.

## **7. Constitution Review – Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Governance arrangements**

7.1 The Committee received the report which requested members to review its constitutional arrangements and to suggest any changes they would like to put forward for recommendation to the Board. The Committee were advised that the ability to scrutinise the work of the local enterprise partnership in relation to the Combined Authority's role as the accountable body.

7.2 Cllr Boden raised a query around the Committee's ability to scrutinise any functions as stated in the constitution as the committee had been previously advised that they would not be able to scrutinise the funding that had been passed to Cambridge City Council for housing.

The Committee were advised that advice would be sought from the Monitoring Officer to clarify the position on their ability of the committee to scrutinise projects that had been delegated to constituent councils.

7.3 The Committee endorsed the Overview and Scrutiny constitutional arrangements as set out in Chapter 8 of the constitution.

## **8. Combined Authority Forward Plan**

8.1 The Committee agreed they would discuss items from the Combined Authority Board meeting which had been held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

### 2030 Prospectus

It was noted that as the Mayor was attending the next meeting to discuss the Prospectus, this would not be discussed at this meeting.

## 4 Year Plan

Members discussed the budget and made the following points:

- All the projects seem to be grouped together in 2020-2022 and they would like to have seen the overall budget. It assumes all spend will be in the next 4 years.
- Committed spend should be included.

## £100M Affordable Housing Programme:

- Members felt that how the ringfenced money for affordable housing was allocated was quite confusing and was not very strategic.
- Members felt that the committee should get some clarity on where affordable housing would be spread out across the county. The Committee requested legal advice on what was in original order.
- Members were supportive of the idea of having a formula to work out where housing was needed around the county. It would need to take into account the needs of each area and take into account terminology and differences between affordable housing definitions in the different areas. Any formula should be fair and transparent. Discussion took place on the meaning of fairness.
- Members felt that stalled sights needed to be considered and ways to help developers get developments off the ground.
- A member reported that some of the funding seemed to be used for homeless accommodation and for sites already built.

Members requested that a report on Affordable Housing be brought to the next Overview and Scrutiny meeting giving detail on how funding would be allocated across the area, what the future plans were in regard to affordable housing and what the priorities were and legal advice on what was in the original order. Also, what had been agreed so far, how decisions were being made and who was making them.

The Committee requested that the Mayor as the Portfolio for Housing answer questions from the committee regarding this topic at the next meeting.

The Committee agreed that following the next meeting the Committee may like to seek expert external advice on this topic as there seemed to be good and bad models.

## Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review

Members felt that they should monitor the assumptions that were being made by the Mayor on growth in the region.

Cllr Allen felt that there should be more in the report to describe the impact of climate change on the area.

## Mayoral Interim Transport Strategy Statement

- Members queried what plans were being put on hold as it was not clear within the report.
- Local Transport Plan to be produced in one year was an unrealistic timeframe.
- Members raised the point that as the Mayor was intending to finance certain transport plans such as the metro through Cambridge with the income gained from the new garden towns proposals which would release the land value that this could potentially cause a lot of conflict between the Mayor's plans and the existing local plans.
- Cllr Bradley advised that the necessity for a short delay was an attempt to prevent current plans having an impact on future long term projects; the statement needed to be viewed as a whole rather than from individual areas.
- Some members felt that the short term plans proposed were still important and should not be delayed.
- Members felt that the potential delay to schemes that were already far advanced would be detrimental and that some of the schemes were urgently needed.

The Committee discussed whether they wished to call in the report and were advised that this was not a key decision. However, some members felt that as it could have an impact on a large proportion of the population for the Combined Authority area that it should have been a key decision.

Six members of the Committee indicated they would be interested in calling in this item and agreed to meet after the committee had closed to discuss this further.

- 8.2 The Committee agreed that a discussion on the Combined Authority Forward Plan should wait until after the O&S workshop due to be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

## **9. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Report**

- 9.1 The Committee received the report which provided the Committee with the draft work programme for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year and asked them for comments and suggestions.
- 9.2 Members requested that an item be added to the July agenda for members from the themes to report back to the committee.
- 9.3 The Committee noted that there would be a Work Programme workshop before the Overview and Scrutiny meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

- 10.1 The next meeting would be held on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at East Cambs District Council at 11:30am.

Meeting Closed: 13:10pm