



CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY: MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, 20 December 2017

Time: 10.30am – 11.15am

Present: J Palmer (Mayor)

G Bull – Huntingdonshire District Council, J Clark – Fenland District Council, S Count – Cambridgeshire County Council, L Herbert – Cambridge City Council, and C Roberts – East Cambridgeshire District Council

Observers: J Ablewhite (Police and Crime Commissioner), G Howsam (substituting for J Bawden) (Clinical Commissioning Group) and K Reynolds (Chairman, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority)

113. APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Apologies received from Councillors J Holdich and P Topping, and Jess Bawden.

Councillor Count declared a non-statutory disclosable interest under the Code of Conduct in relation to minute 121, as a member of the Local Enterprise Partnership Board. He reported that he did not have a conflict of interest but should the discussion reveal an interest he would make the Board aware and take the necessary action.

114. MINUTES – 29TH NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

115. PETITIONS

No petitions were received.

116. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions were received.

117. FORWARD PLAN

The Board noted the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions dated to be published on 22 December 2017. The Mayor stated that the Forward Plan was updated on a regular basis and was available online for public inspection at the following link https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Documents/PublicDocuments.aspx)

It was resolved unanimously to approve the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions dated to be published on 22 December 2017.

118. TRANSPORT: DEVELOPING OUR DECISION MAKING AND DELIVERY ARRANGEMENTS

The Portfolio Holder for Transport and Infrastructure introduced a report setting out the transport role of the Combined Authority. He explained that the transfer of local transport planning powers to the Combined Authority had created a complex environment with a variety of bodies with different powers and responsibilities. Although a significant amount of good work had taken place, there was a need for all authorities to work together to maximise significant investment. Greater clarity was therefore needed regarding the transport role of the Combined Authority and how this related to other bodies working within the transport environment. Attention was drawn to the principles detailed in the report which should be adopted to create a simple understandable regime for decision making and delivery. Further work would be undertaken to determine how the design of these principles would work in practice

Members welcomed the proposal to improve clarity of decision making in relation to transport. One Member highlighted the need to also focus on the quality of decision making in relation to working with other organisations. He explained that it was important the Combined Authority worked in partnership, where it could, to deliver major improvements. He drew attention to the Greater Cambridge Partnership and work on the mass rapid transit and other projects. He acknowledged the importance of clarifying the strategic role of the Combined Authority and its link to existing initiatives and investment from Government.

The County Council's representative stressed the importance of clarity moving forward. He looked forward to working in partnership with the Combined Authority, which had devolved its financial transport powers and budgets to the County Council and Peterborough City Council for this financial year.

It was resolved unanimously to

- (a) Agree the strategic transport role of the Combined Authority - as set out in paragraphs 2.4 – 2.7;
- (b) Agree the principles that should be adopted to create a simple understandable regime for decision making and delivery – as set out in paragraphs 2.8 – 2.11;
- (c) Note that further work would be undertaken to determine how the design of these principles would work in practice and proposals would be brought back to the Combined Authority Board in February 2018 for consideration;
- (d) Agree the delegation of transport powers to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council for the 2018/19 financial year - as set out in paragraph 2.16.

The Board was informed that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had met on 18 December 2017. A request had been submitted by the Committee to ask three

questions at the meeting of the Combined Authority. The Mayor invited the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to submit his questions. The questions and responses are detailed below:

1. Could the Board clarify who had control of the transport budget, if the budget had been devolved to the County Council and Peterborough City Council, was the Board aware of proposals being suggested of the removal of certain transport subsidies by Peterborough City Council? The Chairman added that this question related to clarity of decision making and, in particular, whether the Combined Authority could appeal decisions made by the County Council and Peterborough City Council.

Answer – For the 17/18 financial year transport powers and budgets have been devolved to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council. It is intended that transport budgets would continue to be devolved for 18/19 along with certain transport functions, including the role of Travel Concessionaire Authority and the provision of socially necessary bus services. Whilst the Combined Authority was responsible for budget setting, it was the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to decide how this funding was allocated. This included any decisions relating to bus subsidy.

2. Clarity around which subsidies were being looked at, were school transport subsidies included?

Answer – The Mayor reported that he was surprised at this question as school transport was not included in the devolution document. He confirmed that the Combined Authority was not responsible for school transport. These responsibilities continued to lie with the upper tier authorities and had not changed following devolution.

3. Integrated planning, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee were seeking assurance that they would be fully involved in May/June meetings.

Answer – As part of the development of the Local Transport Plan strategy the project team would be engaging with a cross-section of officers and members from each of the constituent members of the Combined Authority and would include the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

119. ESTABLISHING THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH LAND COMMISSION

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning reminded the Board of arrangements for developing the non-statutory Spatial Plan. He explained that the proposals detailed in the report would link into this plan, and Local Plans. It was noted that both the public sector and national bodies held land, the proposal to form a Land Commission would bring forward both public and private land, particularly brownfield sites, for development. He drew attention to the scope of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Land Commission, which would identify specific barriers that were holding back the supply of land for key strategic development sites. These barriers needed to be overcome in order to deliver extra and affordable housing. The Board was informed of

the membership of the Land Commission, which would take forward the work started by the County Council.

The Mayor thanked the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning for his excellent work.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- (a) Agree the Terms of Reference for the Land Commission (2.7-2.9)
- (b) Agree the membership and appoint the portfolio holder for Spatial Planning as the Chair of the Land Commission (2.10-2.15)
- (c) Agree the timetable for implementation of the Land Commission and ask the Chair of the Land Commission to bring regular progress reports to the Board
- (d) Approve a budget allocation of up to £80,000 to support the work of the Land Commission

120. UPDATE ON PETERBOROUGH UNIVERSITY BUSINESS CASES AND PROJECT PROGRESS

The Chief Executive introduced an update report on the extensive progress being made on the University of Peterborough Project. He explained that the project team had undertaken a considerable amount of work over the last few months to identify the best interim location. Discussions had taken place with partners regarding the best use of public estate in the Peterborough area. It was noted that further detail would be presented to the Board at its February meeting. The Chief Executive reported that steps had been taken to strengthen the project in respect of scale and specific skills.

The Portfolio Holder for Fiscal Strategy highlighted the importance of the University to the north of the County, which did not have the same advantages as the south. He drew attention to the funding to be identified in the Business Case detailed at section 3.2. He reported that the Combined Authority could not be a grant funding authority and there was a limit to what it could achieve in relation to rotating funds. He therefore hoped that every opportunity would be taken to avoid grant funding the Business Case.

In conclusion, the Mayor stressed the importance of investing in the largest city in Cambridgeshire.

It was resolved unanimously to:

note the current progress being made by partners on the University project

121. ESTABLISHING A NEW STRONGER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIP IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH

The Mayor reported that the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) had met on 19 December to discuss alternative proposals for delivery and how the Combined Authority could deliver a new model of strategic leadership. The agenda for the Combined

Authority had been published before the LEP meeting and as a result the report had been published confidentially. The Mayor explained that since the meeting of the LEP had now taken place, he was of the view that this report could be debated and voted on in public.

It was resolved unanimously to:

not exclude the press and public when considering Appendix 1 as the Board would be considering exempt information under categories 3 and 4 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Chief Executive informed the Board that the Chair of the Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership Board (GCGP LEP) had resigned with immediate effect. The other members of the GCGP LEP had resigned conditionally subject to the Government meeting the LEP's liabilities. The Chief Executive confirmed that he had received assurances that short-term liabilities would be met in full. When the full extent of liabilities was known, the GCGP LEP would be voluntarily wound up on a solvent basis with effect from 31 March 2018. This decision had been agreed by the GCGP LEP on 19 December in order to ensure the best interests of the area.

The Chief Executive explained that a series of actions had been taken to secure short term and longer term liabilities. As interim Chief Executive of the LEP, he had taken steps to start the voluntary winding up process. He would provide the Combined Authority with ongoing reports until the transformation position had been completed.

Attention was drawn to the establishment of a new Business Board with the same responsibilities as the GCGP LEP. It was proposed that the Board should comprise a diverse respected and powerful group. The new members would represent key sectors in economic growth, and would have a role in speaking to sectors in the wider area and Government. The purpose of the Board would be to deliver strategic advice to the Combined Authority in order to support economic growth. It was noted that there would therefore be a single approach to Spatial Planning, and financial matters. The new arrangements would also provide the opportunity to create a single officer structure providing better resilience and value for money.

It was proposed upon creation of the new Business Board, subject to agreement by Government, that the Combined Authority would become the Accountable Body for all business growth funding streams from 1 April 2018. This would create clarity regarding the totality of funding which would be held in one place. In conclusion, the Chief Executive reported that this proposal would provide a new direction to consider afresh the geography of the economic area and the relationship with those local authorities outside of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Police and Crime Commissioner, as a former member of the GCGP LEP Board, reported that he had been concerned about the lack of joined up thinking between the LEP, local authorities and the wider geography. He therefore welcomed the proposal to reassess the functioning of the economic geography and to identify the benefits of authorities working together where they shared ambitions for growth and they were focused on the same strategic objectives. He felt that the LEP should have been

coterminous with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. He highlighted the key growth areas along the A14, A1 (M) and M11.

The Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning acknowledged the need for the proposal but expressed regret about how it had been brought about. He was concerned that the Combined Authority was not building on some of the strengths of the LEP particularly the independent voice of business. He was waiting to see whether the Business Board would have real independence and some powers. Even though there had been issues regarding the effectiveness of the LEP, he highlighted the importance of thanking the LEP members for the economic investment which had occurred in the county. Although he was not wedded to a geography of county boundaries, he stressed the need to avoid areas being in two LEPs, and for there to be a link with spatial planning.

The Portfolio Holder for Fiscal Strategy acknowledged the importance of giving the Business Board a strong voice. He reminded Members that the Combined Authority would be responsible for the Local Industrial Strategy set by Government. He welcomed the proposal to remove a tier of bureaucracy, and highlighted the need to inform the public that a single structure would deliver good value for money. He reminded Members that the County Council had led the way on shared services working with Peterborough and establishing LGSS. He acknowledged the importance of looking at the economic geography of the Business Board.

In conclusion, the Mayor commented that he had been very much aware of the need for joint working with the LEP from an early stage in order to achieve a strong economic Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, which was why an offer had been made to the Chair of the LEP to join the Combined Authority Board. Together over the last few years, the Combined Authority had helped the LEP make the economy of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough stronger. He explained that the new Business Board would have an independent chair from the business community. In his view, this proposal provided the right direction and investment to make Cambridgeshire and Peterborough even stronger.

It was resolved unanimously to:

- (a) Note the decisions proposed to the Greater Cambridgeshire and Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership Board (GCGP LEP) regarding the future of its Company;
- (b) Note that the GCGP LEP had accepted the proposals made to it, and:
 - i. To note that it was proposed that a new Local Enterprise Partnership would be established in the form of a Business Board;
 - ii. To note the future working relationship of the Combined Authority and the new Business Board, and the membership of the new Business Board;
 - iii. Agree that the Combined Authority shall become the Accountable Body for the Business Board from 1st April 2018.

- (c) note that periodic reports would be made to the Combined Authority Board from the New Year regarding the arrangements for the future working relationship between the two Boards.

122. BUDGET 2018-19

The Portfolio Holder for Fiscal Strategy presented a report detailing a draft 'indicative' budget for the Combined Authority produced in accordance with the 'emerging strategic themes' for 2018/19 as set out in the October Board meeting, to be consulted on by the consultees as approved by the Board. He drew attention to the new funding requirements for 2018/19 set out in the report at Section 2.8. It was noted that it did not encompass changes resulting from the new structure to replace the LEP. He also drew attention to the impact of the Autumn budget statement on the Combined Authority.

It was resolved unanimously to:

consider and approve the draft 2018/19 Combined Authority budget for consultation purposes.

123. BUDGET 2018-19 (MAYOR'S BUDGET)

The Portfolio Holder for Fiscal Strategy presented a report setting out the Mayor's draft budget for 2018/19 for review by the Combined Authority Board. He reminded the Board that it must review the Mayor's draft budget, and it could, if necessary, make a report to the Mayor. The Mayor's draft budget would be deemed to be approved by the Combined Authority unless the Authority made a report to the Mayor before 8 February.

It was resolved unanimously to:

1. Review the Mayor's draft budget for 2018/19
2. Approve the draft budget in its current form.

124. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was resolved to note the date of the next meeting – Wednesday, 31 January 2018 at 10.30 am in the Kreis Viersen Room, Shire Hall, Cambridge.

Mayor