



15 July 2019

**CAMBRIDGESHIRE
& PETERBOROUGH**
COMBINED AUTHORITY

Dear [REDACTED]

I write with reference to your request received on 6 June reference CA65 and the clarification of your request provided on 17 June 2019. Please find the response below.

Question:

I have read a report, written by Peter Downes, which says that the costs of the Mayors Office originally estimated at some £800k has risen to about £6 million. Is that right? Would you kindly confirm the position and let me know where I can see the information for myself and what the money has been spent on.

Answer:

The £6 million quoted in the article is for overall staffing of the Combined Authority and not for the Mayor's office. The salaries budget information can be found in the The Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan 2019-2023 report [Budget and Medium Term Financial Plan](#) (See paragraph 3.1) which was approved by the Board in January 2019 [Minutes January 2019](#) (paragraph 293).

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority publishes details of each individual item of expenditure that exceeds £500. This is updated on a monthly basis and can be found under the documents tab of the transparency page (link below). [Transparency](#)

Question:

The report also says that a motion about pruning the costs of at least one layer of local government was remitted to the Mayor but has been ignored. Is that right? It would certainly seem to make sense to seek to save establishment costs. Would you let me know the position please.

We have identified the motion proposed by Councillor Peter Downs at the meeting of Cambridgeshire County Council on 28 March 2017 (Item 293c) – the wording of the motion is available at

A report was then taken to the meeting of the County Council on 17 October 2017 which considered the request in the motion. The report is available at [Report 17 October 2017](#) under Item 13 pp 239-264 [Unitary Governance Motion Response].

The minutes of the meeting are available at [Minutes 17 October 2017 a](#) and No 44 refers to the consideration of the report. The decision made was to:

“Option 3:

Work as part of the Combined Authority to consider local government reorganisation through the Public Sector Reform programme being led by the Mayor. The proposed Public Sector Reform programme being established by the Combined Authority utilising external expertise is likely to seek to address many of the same issues that would be explored through formal local government reorganisation and the County Council could seek to have development of options for restructure of Local Government explicitly added to the Terms of Reference for this work. The Mayor has noted a willingness to explore an independent review of governance in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Whilst this option makes no assumption about local government reorganisation, it is likely to be the most collaborative approach; and most likely to reach agreement on a way forward across all local stakeholders. Therefore, if County Council wishes to pursue development of options for LGR this is the recommended option.

This option was accepted by a majority.

[Voting pattern: Conservatives and one Independent in favour; Liberal Democrats, Labour and two Independents against.]”

The Devolution Deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough committed the Combined Authority and Government to explore public services reform. The Devolution Deal and the relevant section 62 can viewed via the link: [Devolution Deal document](#) (See paragraphs 18-19). The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority has launched an Independent Commission on public services reform, and its work is ongoing.

I hope this information is helpful but if you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review, you should write to us via our contact us email address – contactus@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk or write a letter to Complaints, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Incubator 2, The Boulevard, Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, PE28 4XA within 40 days of the date of this e-mail.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF, or via their website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

Generally, the ICO will not undertake a review or make a decision on a request until the internal review process has been completed.

Yours sincerely

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The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority can be contacted via The Incubator 2, First Floor, Alconbury Weald Enterprise Campus, Alconbury Weald, Huntingdon, PE28 4WX. This email and any attachments are intended solely for the use of the addressee only, and is considered confidential. Any views or opinions expressed are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority or The Business Board. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, you must neither take any action based upon its contents, nor copy or show it to anyone with prior permission from the creator. Please contact the sender if you believe you have received this email in error.

