



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee\_ Decision Summary

**Meeting:** 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2018

<http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/meetings/overview-and-scrutiny-committee-2/?date=2018-07-23>

Chair: Cllr Lucy Nethsingha

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting

| Item | Topic                           | Decision <i>[None of the decisions below are key decisions]</i>   |
|------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1.   | <b>Apologies</b>                | <p>Apologies received from Cllr Bradley, no substitute, Cllr Chamberlain, no substitute, Cllr Connor, no substitute. Cllr Allen, Cllr Heylings substituted.</p> <p>There was currently a vacancy at Peterborough City Council.</p> <p>The Committee raised concerns around the quorum for the Combined Authority meetings as the attendance had come close to being inquorate and the committee agreed if it happened again then the committee would write to the Combined Authority officers and to the local MP's to highlight there may be issues with the 2/3rds attendance provision set out in the Order.</p> |
| 2.   | <b>Declaration of Interests</b> | There were no declarations of interest.   |

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| 3.   | <b>Minutes</b>                           | <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:-</p> <p>Under point 5.2 second paragraph that the sentence be amended to state that it was ‘important to take out viability issues and stop national developers controlling the housing market.’</p> <p>Under point 5.2 eleventh paragraph that the word ‘considered’ be replaced with ‘retained’.</p>   |
| 4.   | <b>Community Land Trust Presentation</b> | <p>The Committee received a presentation from the Director for Housing and Development.</p> <p>The following points were raised during the discussion:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Director for Housing and Development advised that they were trying to get the message out that the Combined Authority was open for business; anybody could submit and applications from private organisations as well as from the constituent councils were welcome.</li> <li>• In response to a question about bias in the preparation of bids and in approving them, the Director advised that it was up to the Combined Authority teams to assess if there could be any bias and the ability of a team to do this would be based on resourcing and experience.</li> <li>• Another question was raised about whether the Combined Authority had the necessary resources to challenge bias from those submitting bids and was advised that at this time the resources were not well known enough for the Director to comment.</li> <li>• In relation to a question on risk, the committee were advised that all developers would take a risk assessment in terms of cost and revenue; all development had risk associated with it with different developers taking different approaches to managing risk.</li> <li>• Recruitment was ongoing to install the team to undertake appraisals; the appraisals that had been received to date had been dealt with by current staff.</li> <li>• Work was being done by consultants to identify areas of need for affordable housing in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough which should produce some information in the next few months.</li> </ul> |

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|------|-----------------------------------|--|
|      |                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In response to question about whether the Combined Authority was being proactive in trying to get schemes the Director advised that they were looking to engage and encourage bids from numerous sources. Some had been received but an acceleration to the process was needed.</li> <li>• The Director stated that he was confident that the team being put in place at the Combined Authority could take on the role for assessing incoming appraisals and that an independent project appraisal panel would not be necessary and could cause delays to the process which required acceleration.</li> <li>• In response to a question on the Northstowe development the Housing Director advised that the Combined Authority would be looking to support the project by helping with any funding gaps but these would not be known until April/May 2019 when the financial matrix from the developers would be provided but the final decision would rest with Housing England.</li> <li>• The Committee were advised that there was a top down housing strategy coming to the Board in September which would build upon and provide further information on the affordable housing strategy. The Housing Director was aware of the need for transparency around this area.</li> <li>• The Committee were concerned that need and geography were not being considered and that there was little clarity on what exactly was being delivered by the Combined Authority, the Committee were also concerned around the current level of resources for the department.</li> <li>• The Committee agreed to ask the Board at the meeting on Wednesday if officers could provide a briefing document that would outline the criteria that would be used for analysing the need for affordable housing across the Combined Authority area and how bids were being assessed.</li> </ul> |
| 5.   | <b>Medium Term Financial Plan</b> | <p>The Committee received the report from the Interim Finance Director.</p> <p>The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Committee were advised that this was a draft Medium Term Financial Plan and to note that the figures involved were constantly changing.</li> </ul>   |

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|      |       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members of the committee raised concern that there was no differentiation between the capital figures and the revenue figures and were advised by officers that this would be amended.</li> <li>• The Committee queried why the East Cambridgeshire Loan Trust amount was included in the Medium Term Financial Plan and were advised that when the plan was originally produced its design was an attempt to capture all funding and cash flows. The officers advised they recognised that this was a loan and that it should be rectified in the final plan.</li> <li>• The Committee advised that an extra column should be included that would highlight future years expenditure.</li> <li>• The Committee requested that the costs for bus schemes especially from April 2019 onwards needed to be shown within the cash flow figures.</li> <li>• Electric charging points were not detailed in the Medium Term Financial Plan; officers advised they would check with the relevant director on this item.</li> <li>• Currently the Combined Authority did not know what its borrowing needs would be in the future which was why it was not included within the Medium Term Financial Plan.</li> <li>• The Mayor and officers were currently meeting with potential investors and the meetings were going well; over the next few weeks officers would be working on developing the Investment Strategy to figure out where income streams could be found.</li> <li>• The Committee requested that the final draft of the Medium Term Financial Plan could be sent to members as early as possible to have time to provide feedback before the Board met on the 26th September.</li> <li>• The finance for the Mayoral Interim Transport Plan had not been agreed; however, the financial implications would not fall on the Combined Authority.</li> <li>• To date there were no specific requests for funding for CLT– once an application for CLT had been received it would be considered on a case by case basis – there were currently no applications.</li> </ul> |

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|      |  | The points and comments raised by the committee on the MTF Plan would be considered and changed for the report going to the Board in September.   |
| 6.   | <b>Review of the Combined Authority Board Agenda</b> | <p>The Committee reviewed the agenda due to come to the Board on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the following items:</p> <p><u>Constitution - Committee System</u></p> <p>Members were concerned that the structure outlined in the report included the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee with the new proposed committees and requested that it was made clear that these were separate committees and carried out separate roles to those of the new committees.</p> <p>The Committee were advised that once the proposed system had been agreed by the Board, the constitutional arrangements would then be put in place.</p> <p>Members felt that the membership outlined within the report lacked some consistency and should be reconsidered; especially in regard to substitute members.</p> <p>Some members felt that the system as a hybrid of both committees and portfolio holders was confusing and would not be practical.</p> <p>The Committee were advised that the new committees for Housing, Skills and Transport would manage the strategy once it had been approved by the Board.</p> <p>Some members felt that the current system at the Combined Authority was not working and therefore it was reasonable to implement an alternative and welcomed the inclusion of a review in six months' time to monitor the new systems effectiveness.</p> <p><u>Mayoral Transport Strategy</u></p> <p>Members raised concerns around the temporary approach for the Park Ride developments and the lack of buildings in the proposals, especially toilet facilities.</p> <p>Members raised some concerns around partnership working with local authorities and the GCP and highlighted that many council's local plans relied upon the transport schemes.</p> |

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|------|-------|---|
|      |       | <p>The Committee welcomed the change of perspective on the use of buses &amp; Park and Rides but were concerned that this would need to be reflected in the budget.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER) Progress Update</p> <p>A member raised the point that while natural capital was included within the report that it needed further development in the economic modelling to take into account the degradation of the land.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the review needed to consider the impact of Brexit within the report.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that they would ask the following question at the Combined Authority Board meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Item 1.6 – Constitution – Committee Structure</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Committee requested that the O&amp;S Committee is represented in the new structure as separate to these new committees.</li> <li>2) The O&amp;S Committee had concerns around the consistency in the terms of reference for each of the new committees proposed.</li> <li>3) Would the new committees have a role in developing strategy in the areas they cover?</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Item 2.1 - Delivering the Mayoral Transport Strategy</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The Committee welcomed the positive view and change of perspective on the use of buses &amp; P&amp;R however they had concerns around the proposal that some P&amp;R be temporary in their nature and that there would be no buildings and a lack of toilet provision included on these sites?</li> <li>2) The Committee had some concerns around partnership working and that many council's local plans relied upon the transport schemes – could there be more clarity around the relationships between the Combined Authority and their relevant partners in these schemes?</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Item 3.1 - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER) Progress Update</li> </ul> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The committee requested that soil depletion should be taken into consideration when considering the long term outlook for agricultural industries in the north of the County.</li> <li>2) The Committee requested that the impact of Brexit be included within the final report.</li> </ol> |

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|------|---|--|
|      |   | <p>➤ Item 3.3 – Affordable Housing</p> <p>1) Please could the Board request that officers provide a briefing document that outlines the criteria that will be used for analysing the need for affordable housing across the Combined Authority area and the how bids are being assessed.</p>   |
| 7.   | <b>Member Update on Activity of Combined Authority</b>  | <p>Cllr Mike Sargeant provided a short update on the Task and Finish Group for Mass Rapid Transport and advised that the group were still waiting to receive a CV for the consultant for members to consider.</p> <p>Officers agreed to chase this and report back to the group members.</p> <p>No other member updates were received.</p>   |
| 8.   | <b>Reconsider the Amendment to Standing Orders for the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee – Public Question Scheme</b> | <p>The Committee received the report which asked the Committee to consider whether they would like to adopt a Public Question scheme.</p> <p>The Committee members felt that it was important to give the public question scheme a trial.</p> <p>Some members were concerned it could be used for making political points.</p> <p>The Committee were advised that any questions received would be assessed by the Monitoring Officer to ensure they were relevant to the committee.</p> <p>The Committee agreed they would like to introduce a question time scheme.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to recommend to the Combined Authority Board that the Constitution (Chapter 8 - Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules) be amended to include an overview and scrutiny question time scheme as set out in Appendix 1b of the report.</p> |
| 9.   | <b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Budget Proposal</b>  | <p>The Committee received the report which provided the Committee with an opportunity to discuss whether they would like to recommend to the Combined Authority Board that a budget be allocated for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to help support their work programme.</p> <p>Members felt that an amount similar to that already proposed for the Task and Finish group would be sufficient for the committee's needs and that if over the year it was not required then it would be returned.</p>  |

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|      |  | <p>The Committee agreed there should be a budget proposal taken to the next Board meeting to request an amount of 20k for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be made available for their work programme over the course of the year.</p>   |
| 10.  | <b>Combined Authority Forward Plan</b>             | <p>The Committee discussed the Forward Plan for the Combined Authority Board.</p> <p>The Committee felt that the Forward Plan was only useful for looking ahead for two meetings and it would be helpful if the Committee could get a better idea of what other reports were upcoming, even if these reports changed over time.</p> <p>Cllr Sargeant raised the point that the most recent Forward Plan was published after the Committee met and requested that this be looked at by officers to enable the committee to review the most up to date plan at the meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Gehring felt that the committee needed to be more proactive when considering items on the Forward Plan.</p> <p>The Chair advised that if members had any items from the Forward Plan they would like to add to the Committee's work programme to email her or the Scrutiny Officer and it would be considered.</p> <p>The Committee agreed they would ask the following questions at the Board meeting on Wednesday:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Item 1.5 - Forward Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The publication date of the Forward Plan is after the date the O&amp;S Committee meet which makes it difficult for members to consider upcoming items, could an earlier publication date be considered?</li> <li>2) Currently the Forward Plan only lists reports coming to the Board for the next couple of months – could other upcoming reports be added to the Forward Plan, even if the exact date cannot be included?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 11.  | <b>Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Report</b> | <p>The Committee received the report which provided the Committee with the draft work programme for the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year and asked them for comments and suggestions.</p>  |

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|------------|-----------------------------|--|
|            |                             | <p>The Committee requested that an update on the Skills Strategy be brought to the October meeting.</p> <p>The Committee requested that they receive a presentation on Land Value Capture at their November meeting.</p> <p>The Committee requested that a report on how the Combined Authority was working with investors and Investment Strategy Update be brought to the November meeting.</p> <p>The Committee requested that a representative from the Community Land Trust company be invited to the September meeting to give a presentation.</p> |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>Date of Next Meeting</b> | The next meeting would be held on the 24 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Cambridgeshire County Council   |