



Appendix 6

Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Decision Summary

Meeting: 24th September 2018

<http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/meetings/overview-and-scrutiny-committee-4/?date=2018-09-24>

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.	Apologies	Apologies received from: Cllr Bradley, substituted by Cllr Julia Huffer; Cllr Grenville Chamberlain, substituted by Cllr Peter Topping.
2.	Declaration of Interests	There were no declarations of interest.
3.	Minutes	The minutes of the meeting held on the 23rd July 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

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		<p>Under matters arising Cllr Murphy raised a concern around information that the Chief Finance Officer had agreed to send over to him at the last meeting regarding financing for a housing project in Peterborough and he had not received this – officers agreed to look into and contact Cllr Murphy directly.</p>
4.	Mayor in Attendance	<p>The Committee welcomed the Mayor for the Combined Authority to the meeting and thanked him for attending to answer some questions from the committee about the staffing arrangements at the Combined Authority.</p> <p>The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee members asked the Mayor questions around the resignation of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), what processes had been followed, what advice had been given. The Mayor responded by saying that the CEO had resigned and therefore there had been no process to follow. Advice had been provided by legal officers and an agreement on a severance amount had been made to allow for the CEO to leave at the end of September and this would enable the Combined Authority to immediately start the recruitment process for a new CEO. • The amount that had been paid to the CEO was what he was entitled to and the amount would be released when it was appropriate to do so. • The Chair asked the Mayor if the resignation of the Chief Executive Officer had been requested and the Mayor responded that the Chief Executive Officer had resigned. • In response to a question about the interim arrangements being brought to the Board the Mayor advised that there had been an informal cabinet meeting in August where all members of the Board were informed of the situation and it was agreed following a democratic vote that the continuity of Kim Sawyer’s experience at the Combined Authority and John Hill’s extensive experience in local government made this the best option as an interim arrangement.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to a question on the recruitment process for the interim Chief Finance Officer the Mayor advised that the appointment had been made by the CEO who had the delegated power to make interim appointments. The preference would have been to appoint a permanent CFO but the candidate for the CFO role withdrew at the last minute so there was a need for a quick appointment, which was why an interim appointment was made by the CEO at the time. • In response to a question about staff appointments being made from the East Cambridgeshire area the Mayor stated that this was purely coincidental as all staff were appointed based on their skills and ability to do the job requirements. • In response to a question about the review being undertaken the Mayor advised that there had been an external audit which had stated that the Combined Authority was not failing, however with the resignation of the CEO it was felt that this was an appropriate time to have a review of the structure at the Combined Authority; this review would be reported to the Board. • The management of the Business Board would be covered by the interim Chief Executives as the Combined Authority was the accountable body for the Business Board. • In response to a question about a possible conflict of interest for the interim Chief Executives, the Mayor stated that John Hill was an experienced officer with an exemplary record who could be trusted to act appropriately in these situations. The Combined Authority by its nature had used and continued to use staff from constituent councils. • In response to concerns that the members raised regarding the constant revolving members of staff and the need for permanent staff at the Combined Authority the Mayor responded that he agreed that permanent staff were needed and that it had taken longer than he would have liked but it was important to get the right people. There were now three

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		<p>permanent directors in place for Housing; Business and Skills and Spatial Planning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In response to questions around work streams and delivery of projects the Mayor advised that the new committee system would give clear indication on the streams of work and would enable the Combined Authority to be more open and transparent. • In response to a question around project delivery and having sight of the different stages for each project, the Mayor advised that project information would become available when it was appropriate for it to come into the public domain and that the new committee system would enable the members to have greater sight of the stages for the ongoing projects for the Combined Authority. • The Committee were advised that the new staffing structure was being developed as part of the review and would be made available for members in the next six months. The interim staffing arrangements would be sent around to members after the Board had agreed the interim arrangements on the 26th September 2018.
5.	Community Land Trust Presentation	<p>The Committee received a presentation from Mr Stephen Hill from the Community Land Trusts Network. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members felt that the scale of the projects were too small to have a real impact on the issues in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; however it was important to realise that although the numbers were small the impact on individual villages was great. • How can CLT be better integrated in local plans is being looked at. • Members queried how the schemes could become money multipliers and were advised that whatever public resource goes in stays in and that progressively over time the schemes would get better. • Members were advised that people would be able to get mortgages for these properties.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The East Cambridgeshire Community Land Trust had very clear political leadership and a commitment to provide resources. The setting up of Palace Green Homes had helped a lot with the successes. • CLT had found there was a particular role for it to play where people were originally resistant to housing - each area has their own reasons for doing what they need in regard for CLT. <p>The Committee thanked Stephen Hill for his presentation.</p>
6.	Recruitment Process for the Director of Strategy & Planning	<p>The Committee received the report from the Interim Chief Finance Officer which outlined the recruitment process followed by the Combined Authority. The following points were raised during the discussion:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shortlisting process was an informal process that was not minuted. The responsibility for the informal process rested with the Head of Paid Service and the Employment Sub-Committee had the delegated power to make appointments. • Members felt it was not clear or transparent who had been involved in the shortlisting process; there was potentially a flaw in the system that allowed the process to be seen as broken. There were no formal minutes and no formal process for the shortlisting. • The provision for political balance on sub committees had been removed with agreement of the Board for the Employment Sub Committees but this would be reinstated by the changes to the constitution suggested for agreement at the Board meeting on Wednesday. <p>The Committee agreed that processes were not what they should have been and that the committee would continue to monitor this.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report.</p>
7.	Review of the Combined Authority Board Agenda	<p>The Committee reviewed the agenda due to come to the Board on Wednesday 26th September 2018. The Committee discussed the following items:</p> <p><u>Forward Plan</u></p>

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		<p>The Board had agreed to provide more detail on the Forward Plan but this had not been the case.</p> <p>Officers advised that speculative items could be added to the Forward Plan but there was a possibility they would be removed. The Chair advised that there needed to be an understanding of what was happening and more clarity on which topics would be discussed by the Board and if they were deferred why this was so.</p> <p>The Committee were advised that the new Committee system should help to achieve this.</p> <p><u>Constitutional Arrangements</u> Members discussed the call-in procedures for the new committees and whether they had concerns. Most members felt the suggestion removed the chance of call in's being duplicated and that the committee could still scrutinise a topic even if it was not called in.</p> <p>Members were advised that the Mayor had the power to nominate members to sit on the new committees, but the Board had the power to appoint.</p> <p><u>Business Board</u> Members were advised that the funding for the Business Board was not affected and would remain as it currently was until 2020. The report asked for comment on the geography of the Business Board which if it was reduced in size may create an impact on funding in future.</p> <p>The new Business Board members were outlined in the Business Board papers.</p>

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		<p><u>Appointment of the Interim Chief Finance officer and the Interim Chief Executive Arrangements</u> Members discussed their concerns around the constant stream of interim staff and felt this should fed back to the Board members. The members also felt that they should request further detail around the interim arrangements for the Chief executive role and how responsibilities would be shared and whether they would be part time or full time roles.</p> <p><u>Housing Strategy</u> Members were disappointed in the standard of the report and felt it was of poor quality. As the Board recommendation was to adopt the report they felt this should be highlighted to the Board members.</p> <p>The members referenced the £60m within the Housing Strategy that would be used for grants for social housing providers but were concerned about the claw back provisions which would mean that housing associations were not able to sign up to providing houses for the Combined Authority which felt like an unnecessary restriction. Officers agreed to look into this and report back to the committee.</p> <p>Members raised concerns around the effectiveness of additionality. They were not convinced that safeguards were in place to oversee implementation and felt this should be raised with the Board and that the committee should consider housing again, particularly additionality. The Committee felt it was important to seek assurances that the £100m was being allocated as government had intended them to be in the original devolution deal.</p> <p><u>Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Economic Review</u> The members felt that this was an excellent report and should be taken into account across the decision making of the Combined Authority and shouldn't just sit within the remit of the Business Board.</p>

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		<p>The Committee agreed that the following questions and comments should be made by the Chair to the Board;</p> <p><u>Item 1.11 and 1.12 Appointment of Interim Chief Finance Officer and Interim Arrangements for Chief Executive.</u></p> <p>1) The Committee had concerns around the constant changing of interim staff appointments and wanted assurance that the appointment process for permanent staff was being set up so that in future the mistakes made during recent appointments were rectified.</p> <p>2) The Committee requested more clarity around the CEO interim arrangements; in particular how the responsibilities would be shared between the two members of staff and whether they would be part time or full time roles?</p> <p><u>Item 2.1 Housing Strategy</u></p> <p>1) The Committee would like to seek assurances that the £100m for housing is being allocated as government intended it to be under the devolution deal?</p> <p>2) The Committee expressed disappointment in the standard of the report as it was felt that reference to other areas were not relevant.</p> <p>3) Whether the CA was achieving additionality was not clear from the report and was a continuing concern for the committee.</p> <p><u>Item 3.3 Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Independent Economic Review</u></p> <p>1) The Committee felt that this was an excellent report and should be used and taken into account across the whole decision making of the Combined Authority and not just be used within the remit of the Business Board.</p>
8.	Member Update on Activity of Combined Authority	Cllr Sargeant informed the Committee that the Task and Finish Group for the Mass Rapid Transport would be meeting after the close of the O&S meeting.

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		<p>The Committee agreed that members covering particular areas should attend the relevant committees once they were set up and report back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at future meetings.</p> <p>No other member updates were received.</p>
9.	Overview and Scrutiny – Call In Process	The Committee agreed that they would defer the report and requested that officers did further work on it before it came back to the committee.
10.	Combined Authority Forward Plan	The Committee had discussed the Forward Plan earlier in the meeting and had no further comments to make.
11.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Report	<p>The Committee received the report which outlined the work programme for the committee for the municipal year 2018/19</p> <p>The Committee requested that a training session be arranged for the end of January or beginning of February to consider the new committee system.</p> <p>The Committee requested that a further housing paper be brought to the October meeting and that it should focus on the issue of additionality.</p> <p>The Committee requested that the Transport Plan be brought to the committee in January for them to consider and feed any recommendations to the Board.</p>
12.	Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting would be held on the 29 th October 2018 at Peterborough City Council.