

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY CABINET MEETING HELD 17 NOVEMBER 2016

PRESENT:

Cabinet Members: Councillor Holdich (Chair), Councillor Elsey, Councillor Fitzgerald, Councillor Goodwin, Councillor Hiller, Councillor Lamb, Councillor Seaton, and Councillor Walsh

Cabinet Advisors: Councillor Casey and Councillor Stokes

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Smith.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

3. CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH DEVOLUTION

Cabinet received a report the purpose of which was to consider the outcomes of discussions held at the meeting of Full Council, prior to determining a number of recommendations as relating to a combined authority for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area, with a directly elected Mayor.

Cabinet debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- The Cabinet thanked all the officers that had worked on the proposals.
- It was advised that the wording of recommendation (vi) should be altered to read 'Councillor Holdich', rather than 'Leader of the Council'.
- It was further noted that on page 5 of the report, the fourth bullet point should read 'long-term *unemployed*', rather than 'long-term employed'.
- An emphasis on the health initiatives and powers of the Combined Authority would be determined within the Devolution 2 deal.
- Disappointment was expressed that the many opportunities presented to Members to receive briefings on the Devolution proposals were not utilised.

Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** that Cabinet agreed to:

- (i) consent to the Secretary of State making an Order to establish the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (Appendix A);
- (ii) consent to the Council being a constituent member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority with effect from the commencement date determined by the final Order;
- (iii) authorise the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to consent to the final draft Order and associated documents, specifically:

- to agree minor drafting amendments to the Combined Authority Order to be laid before Parliament;
 - to consent to the Council being included within the draft Parliamentary Order thereby reflecting this Council's decision
- (iv) authorise the Combined Authority to have a power to issue a levy to the constituent Councils in respect of any financial year. (This will be subject to the inclusion of a unanimity clause in the Combined Authority constitution on this specific matter).
- (v) to recommend to the Combined Authority that the costs of establishing the Combined Authority, holding the elections in May 2017 and running the Combined Authority (including Mayoral Office) for 2016/17 and 2017/18 are funded from the gain share grant provided by Government (as outlined in para 12.11)
- (vi) appoint the Councillor Holdich to act as Council's appointee to the Shadow Combined Authority and once established, to the Combined Authority;
- (vii) appoint Councillor Fitzgerald as Deputy Leader of the Council, to act as the substitute to the above (ref (vi));
- (viii) note the outcome of the public consultation on the establishment of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority as outlined in paragraph 5.1 and 5.2 and Appendices 2A - 2D;
- (ix) note the timetable for the implementation of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution Order as summarised in paragraph 7.1;
- (x) note the Government's response to the outline business case for Housing capital investment funds secured as part of the devolution deal as set out in Appendix 3.
- (xi) agree in principle, for a protocol requiring the Council Leader and the representative on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to report to each meeting of Council setting out the activities and decisions related to their respective roles within the Combined Authority.
- (xii) to request that the Member Officer Working Group develop the protocol through the Audit Committee with a view to inclusion of the protocol in the Council's constitution.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To consult on a scheme for the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area with a directly elected Mayor, in order to devolve powers from Government to a Combined Authority.

To bring additional new funding to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area with local decision making for these funds.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

The Governance Review considered a number of alternative options and concluded that the most appropriate option for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough was to establish a Mayoral Combined Authority.

If the Combined Authority was not established the Council would lose the opportunities made available through the devolution agreement, including:

- Funding for Housing development;
- Funding for Infrastructure growth;
- Additional powers to make decisions locally; and
- Government commitment to work with Peterborough to develop a Peterborough University and an Enterprise Zone.

Chairman
8.30pm – 8:35pm

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