



## Overview and Scrutiny Committee\_ Decision Summary

**Meeting:** 21<sup>st</sup> September

<http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/meetings/overview-and-scrutiny-committee-21-september-2017/?date=2017-09-21>

Chair: Cllr John Batchelor

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting

Item	Topic	Decision <i>[None of the decisions below are key decisions]</i>
1.	<b>Apologies</b>	Apologies received from Cllr Yeulett and Cllr Mason, substituted by Cllr Davis.  Apologies received from Cllr Murphy.
2.	<b>Declaration of Interests</b>	There were no declarations of interest.
3.	<b>Minutes of the 24th July 2017</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 24th July 2017 were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Under item 4 Cllr Hayward asked that a point be added to record a question that had been raised regarding the inclusion of the A1 and the Alconbury Station.</li> <li>- Bullet point 5.2 should be re-worded to say 'The Portfolio Holder agreed to provide a note for Committee members with examples of this type of model of non-spatial planning and areas where it was used elsewhere in the country.'</li> </ul>

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	<b>Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2017</b>	The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2017 were agreed as a correct record.
4.	<b>Interview – Portfolio Holder for Homes and Communities</b>	<p>The Committee invited the Portfolio Holder for Homes and Communities to the meeting to talk about his transport plan and other issues which covered:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Housing Strategy for the Combined Authority aimed to accelerate the building of good quality homes that were both viable and affordable, appropriate and fit for purpose thus creating good communities.</li> <li>• Existing local plans would not be superseded, the purpose of the Combined Authority was to accelerate existing plans by unblocking barriers to delivery.</li> <li>• An example of the type of work the Combined Authority could do was the bid to the DCLG for the Cambridge Northern Fringe East.</li> <li>• Rents and tenure were part of the bigger picture when it came to the housing strategy and the Combined Authority was working with housing associations to create an approach to broker arrangements with private landlords.</li> <li>• The Combined Authority was encouraging modular housing. Traditional means of construction was still prevalent within the industry but some local landowners had shown a positive response to working with the Combined Authority.</li> <li>• Land banking by large developers was a key issue but things that could be done – district councils needed to have crisper means to deal with s106 agreements – sometimes it was made too complicated.</li> <li>• The Combined Authority was in the process of bringing forward proposals about the land commission; the land commission existed specifically to identify a pipeline</li> </ul>

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		<p>of public sector land that could be used to accelerate the provision of housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Combined Authority would have a design guide for housing to encourage housing developers to build greener properties.</li> </ul> <p>A full summary of the interview is in the minutes: <a href="http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/meetings/overview-and-scrutiny-committee-21-september-2017/?date=2017-09-21">http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/meetings/overview-and-scrutiny-committee-21-september-2017/?date=2017-09-21</a></p>
5.	<b>Amendment to Standing Orders for the Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee – Public Question Scheme</b>	<p>The Committee received the report from the Interim Legal and Monitoring Officer which outlined the process for amending the standing orders for the Committee in regards to introducing a Public Question Scheme.</p> <p>The Committee voted 6 in favour and 6 against having a public question scheme.</p> <p>As there was no clear majority the motion for a public question scheme to be introduced at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee failed.</p>
6.	<b>Review of Combined Authority Agenda</b>	<p>The Committee considered the agenda that had been published for the upcoming Combined Authority Board meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>Members asked a question regarding the appointment of the Chief of Staff role and how this had come about. They were advised that the Mayor was entitled to appoint a Chief of Staff and this role did not require an interview to be undertaken. There had been a job description written and the salary had been weighted following the usual HR process. The reason for the change from the original role of political advisor was that as the process had developed it had become clear to the Mayor that the role was much wider than that of a Political Advisor.</p> <p>It was not unusual for Mayor's to have advisers; All Combined Authority Mayor's had Political Advisors or a Chief of Staff.</p> <p>Members felt that it was important that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee learnt its</p>

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		<p>support to the bid to the DCLG for the Cambridge Northern Fringe East proposals as they felt it was important to show that there was county wide and cross party support for this proposal.</p> <p>The Committee voted 8 in favour, with 2 abstentions to write a letter of support to the Mayor to express the Committee's support for the Cambridge Northern Fringe East bid to the DCLG.</p>
7.	<b>Combined Authority Forward Plan</b>	<p>The Committee noted the forward plan of the Combined Authority Board.</p> <p>The current forward plan is at <a href="http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Combined-Authority/Forward-Plan-Update-25-August.pdf">http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/assets/Combined-Authority/Forward-Plan-Update-25-August.pdf</a></p>
8.	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Work Programme</b>	<p>The Committee agreed to amend the work programme to include the following points:-</p> <p>The Committee requested that the substitutes for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be invited to the November training session with the CFPS.</p> <p>The Committee requested that written responses to the questions submitted by Committee members be provided by the Portfolio Holders at future meetings.</p> <p>The Committee requested that a briefing meeting with the CEO be added into the work programme mid cycle so they could be kept updated on the Combined Authority work.</p>
9.	<b>Date &amp; Location of Next Meeting</b>	<p>The next meeting would be held at East Cambs District Council on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2017.</p>