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| <b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH<br/>COMBINED AUTHORITY – SHADOW<br/>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b> | AGENDA ITEM No. 4 |
|  | PUBLIC REPORT     |

**TITLE: MEMBERSHIP, POLITICAL BALANCE AND SUBSTITUTES**

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| <b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>               |  |
| <b>FROM :</b>                                      |  |
| <b>Lead Officer</b>                                | Kim Sawyer, Interim Monitoring Officer |
| <b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>                             |  |
| The Shadow Committee are asked to note the report. |  |

**1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the current political balance on the Committee, the possible implications on the political balance following the local elections, and the appointment of substitute members to take effect from the annual meeting of the Combined Authority.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 sets out the rules for membership. The membership of the Overview and Scrutiny and the Audit Committees as a whole should reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties of the constituent councils when taken together.

2.2 The balance is based on membership of political parties, not political groups, on constituent councils.

2.3 The Board in March ratified its previous decision that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee should have 14 members. The allocation of seats between parties is set out in Appendix 1.

**2.4 Substitute Members on the Committee**

2.5 The Board agreed that constituent councils should be advised to appoint substitute members to take affect after the Board’s annual meeting. Any substitute members should come from the same party as the Member they are substituting for to maintain political balance.



2.6 For the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, if constituent councils have members from the same political parties, ie East Cambs and Fenland, those Councils might only wish to appoint one substitute rather than two. However, it is preferable to appoint two members in case both members are absent from a meeting and need to substitute.

## 2.7 **Elections**

2.8 The above political balance calculations was based on statistics given by constituent councils in January 2017. However, Cambridgeshire County Council has elections on 5 May which could impact on these calculations, particularly in relation to the smaller parties. Therefore, the Monitoring Officer will need to review the calculations after the election, when the County Council is able to make the information available to her.

2.9 If there are changes to the political balance, the Combined Authority Board might need to review the distribution of seats to different political parties and to constituent councils.

## 3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 In accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017, no remuneration is to be payable by the Combined Authority to its members.

## 4. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 These are dealt with in the report.

## 5. **EQUALITIES IMPLICATION**

5.1 N/A

## 6. **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

6.1 Agenda and minutes for meetings of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Authority Board are available on the Cambridgeshire County Council website.

## 7. **APPENDICES**

7.1 Appendix 1 – Allocation of seats



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

## Appendix 1

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ALLOCATION OF SEATS

| <b>Council</b>                        | <b>Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Representatives</b> |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Huntingdonshire District Council      | 1 Conservative, 1 Independent                                   |
| East Cambridgeshire District Council  | 2 Conservatives   |
| South Cambridgeshire District Council | 1 Conservative, 1 Liberal Democrat                              |
| Fenland District Council              | 2 Conservatives   |
| Cambridge City Council                | 1 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat                                    |
| Cambridgeshire County Council         | 1 Conservative, 1 UKIP  |
| Peterborough City Council             | 1 Conservative, 1 Labour  |

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