



Overview and Scrutiny Committee -Decision Summary

Meeting: 29th October 2018

Minutes: [Overview and Scrutiny Committee- Decision Summary](#)

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 Doug Dew substituted by Cllr Jon Neish. Cllr Tom Sanderson.
2.	Declaration of Interests	There were no declarations of interest.
3.	Minutes	The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th September were agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

		Under point 6.2 that 'Reassurance was provided from the Interim Chief Executive that there had been issues around the shortlisting process and documentation available and that shortlisting would be recorded in the future.'
4.	Public Questions	There were no public questions received.
5.	Interim Transport Plan	<p>The Committee received the report from the Transport Programme Manager which outlined the Local Transport Plan that had been agreed by the Transport Committee on the 10th October 2018. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were advised that district council officers and planning officers had been engaged by the project team and had been involved in two workshops that had taken place. • The officer agreed with members that it was important to tie in the programme of the Local Transport Plan to take into account the local plans for the district councils. • Members raised a concern that it appeared that only members would be consulted as they felt it was important that highways authority officers should be engaged with as they had a wealth of experience that should be utilised at each stage. • The Director for Strategic Planning who was in attendance at the meeting advised that all the strategies for the Combined Authority and local councils must tie into one another despite different timeframes and that the nonstatutory spatial plan would include the findings from the Local Transport Plan. • Members raised a concern that the HCV route map had not been taken into account in the Local Transport Plan and it was felt that this should be

		<p>integrated into the plan. Officers agreed to provide a written response to this query.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were concerned around the assumption made about the north and south of the county rather than the east and west of the county and queried where these assumptions had come from. The officer advised that the assumptions that had been made so far had come from the engagement that had been received from the workshops. • Members felt it would be helpful to receive a list of organisations and officers involved in the steering group and working group for the Local Transport Plan and also for the remits of the groups to be circulated to the committee to enable them to fully understand the processes being undertaken. • The bus review was underway and would be brought to the Board in the early part of next year which in turn would lead to a bus strategy. Consultation on this would be before April. • A question was asked around whether the Combined Authority was resourced enough to deal with the feedback that would be received from the consultation once it had been sent out to the public, the officer advised that there was staff to deal with the feedback received. <p>The Committee agreed that the Chair should ask the following questions to the Board on Wednesday 31st October:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Committee requests that the HCV route map is taken into account and is integrated fully with the Local Transport Plan. 2) The Committee raised concerns around the assumptions made over the North - South priorities over the East - West within the report and
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		<p>wondered how this assumption had been reached? There were also concerns raised that there appeared to be no reflection of the issues raised in the CPIER report?</p> <p>3) The Committee wanted to know that the level of consultation with the district councils at the initial stages would be thorough to allow the councils to incorporate the Local Transport Plan into their local plans.</p> <p>4) The Committee wanted reassurance that the Combined Authority would have the resources to manage the interest that would be received once the Local Transport Plan went out for consultation to the public?</p> <p>5) If the consultation responses created a need for phase three to be re-written would the Combined Authority be prepared to adjust the Local Transport Plan?</p>
6.	Performance Reporting	<p>The Committee received the report from the Director for Strategy and Planning. The following points were discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee were advised that the report was a proposal for the shape of future performance reporting; that the Board had requested something very clear, simple and transparent that had a small number of key performance indicators which would reflect the key commitments of the devolution deal for the Combined Authority. • The Director advised that there was always a trade-off between the need for clarity and the need for detailed information. The current form would be assessed and reviewed and if it needed to be amended in future then it would. • The Director advised that a more detailed version could be created for each individual committee to consider their own areas.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member raised a concern that environmental factors were not one of the key indicators and that this should be included, officers agreed that they would consider this point. <p>The Committee agreed that the Chair should raise the following point at the Board meeting on the 31st October 2018:</p> <p>The Committee felt that the performance reports that would be sent to the new Committees should contain greater detail than the overview report that would be sent through to the Board.</p>
7.	Chief Executives Letter	<p>The Committee was invited to ask questions to the Interim Chief Executive regarding the letter that had been published in the media recently regarding concerns about the governance of the Combined Authority. The following points were raised and discussed with the Interim Chief Executive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following receipt of the letter there has been engagement with CPSB to gain their views which had been fed into the review on the Combined Authority. • There was now a senior management team in place at the Combined Authority which had enabled the authority to move forward and as a result there was now active engagement with numerous stakeholders including the CPSB on a regular basis. • In response to a question raised about concerns on engagement in the investment and the skills and industrial strategies officers advised that the strategies were still in development and would need to go through the Board members before they could be discussed with the constituent councils. In terms of the investment strategy there was a process in place which needed to be set within the context of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

- The legal advice that had been provided to Mayor regarding the resignation of the Chief Executive Officer had been provided by an independent legal source and had not been provided in house.
- The previous Chief Executive Officer had requested that no further details around his personal data be released however, it could be looked into whether there was a non - disclosure agreement.
- Members queried who had made the decision to make the payment and when and were advised that the Mayor would have made the decision and there would have been a Mayoral decision notice which would be confidential, but officers could check and provide a date for the decision notice.
- Members queried if other staff contracts allowed for similar severance payments and were advised that it would depend on the conditions of the termination.
- Members were advised that the Audit and Governance Committee had requested that the external auditor look into the severance payment when the final year accounts were considered. The Chair advised she would discuss this with the Audit Chairman and report back to the committee on this.
- Members asked if it would be possible to view the contract of employment for the Chief Executive Officer post and were advised that this was a confidential document, but that legal advice would be taken to see if it could be disclosed to the committee members.
- The Chair asked whether the company that had been referenced in the letter released to the media had in fact been created and officers advised that no company had been formed.

		The members thanked the Interim Chief Executive Officer for attending and answering the committee's questions.
8.	Review of the Combined Authority Board Agenda	<p>The Committee reviewed the agenda due to come to the Board on Wednesday 31st October 2018.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the following items:</p> <p><u>Item 2.4 - Cambridge Autonomous Metro: Update</u> Members raised concerns around the quality of the report and queried what the purpose of the report was and asked whether the precise remit that had been provided to the consultants to write the report could be circulated to the committee.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the following should be asked at the Board meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Committee requested that more detail be included in future reports and asked if the remit that was provided to the consultants to produce this work could be provided to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. 2) The Committee also requested that further information around financing be provided?
9.	Member Update on Activity of Combined Authority	<p>The Committee received a brief update from Cllr Sargeant as Acting Chair of the Task and Finish Group.</p> <p>The Group had met with the Director of Transport and Interim Chief Finance Officer and had interviewed a potential consultant. Following this meeting the members had raised some concerns that the work the consultant would do would replicate the exact work other advisors had already provided the Combined Authority and therefore would not add any value.</p> <p>The members had requested that the Scrutiny Officer contact Centre for Public</p>

		<p>Scrutiny to gain some advice and possible support and they would be discussing this at their next meeting which would be held at the close of this meeting.</p> <p>Cllr Sargeant proposed that the terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group be amended as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To review the processes, evidence gathering, consultation and decision making in the development of the MRT project including comparing and contrasting with the development of any similar infrastructure initiatives and any lessons therein learnt 2) To ensure that the MRT project fits within an integrated transport network which will deliver against the broader objectives of the Combined Authority, the analysis and recommendations of the CPIER Report and will align with schemes being delivered by GCP, the emerging Local Transport plan and the Bus Strategy? <p>The Committee agreed to amend the terms of reference. No other member updates were received.</p>
10.	Constitution Update	<p>Members received the report from the Scrutiny Officer which outlined the changes to the constitution agreed by the Combined Authority Board on the 26th September.</p> <p>A member queried whether the new committees would be taking any key decisions for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to call in and were advised that only key decisions which had been delegated by the Board would be made by the committees.</p> <p>Members requested that all dates for the Transport, Skills and Housing Committees be circulated to the committee.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report.</p>

11.	Combined Authority Forward Plan	The Committee considered the Combined Authority Forward Plan and requested that the Bus Strategy item that was being taken to the November Board meeting be brought to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee November meeting.
12.	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 the Bus Strategy be added to their November agenda.</p> <p>The Committee requested that the Investment Strategy/MTF Plan be added to the November meeting.</p> <p>The Committee requested that the Scrutiny Officer extend the length of the meeting to accommodate the larger agenda for November's meeting.</p>
13.	Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting would be held on the 26th November 2018 at East Cambridgeshire District Council.

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