



Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Decision Summary

Meeting: 24 June 2019

Agenda/Minutes: [Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 24th June 2019](#)

Chair: Cllr Lorna Dupre

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 Price, substituted by Cllr Davey Cllr Heylings, substituted by Cllr Fane Cllr Chamberlain, substituted by Cllr Topping. Cllr Jones

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2.	Declaration of Interests	Cllr Davey declared a personal, non-pecuniary interest in Item 6 – Affordable Housing update as his wife was employed as an Assistant Director at Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council with responsibility for Housing needs in Peterborough.
3.	Minutes	<p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 31st May 2019 were agreed and signed by the Chair with the following amendments:</p> <p>1) Apologies were sent by Councillors Conboy, Connor and Hay.</p> <p>7) Mayor for the Combined Authority – the Mayor confirmed that in response to questions asked by the Committee about Agri-tech, he supported it in a personal capacity.</p> <p>7) Mayor for the Combined Authority – with reference to the CAM, the Committee requested that there be a continuation and recognition of the work carried out by the previous Vice-Chair with regards to the scrutiny of transport.</p>
4.	Public Questions	There were no public questions received.
5.	Transport Briefing	<p>The Transport Programme Manager elaborated on his presentation and explained the CPCA (as the Local Transport Authority) had four main transport functional areas:</p> <p>a) Passenger transport - Bus service provision, light rail, tram and variations thereof</p> <p>b) Strategic transport schemes - Which are considered to have a major impact on mobility, and that typically require substantial capital funding</p>

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		<p>c) Transport planning - Developing strategies and plans that have broad, geographical coverage and require integrated transport solutions</p> <p>d) Engagement with national and regional bodies - Such as the Department for Transport, National Infrastructure Commission, the strategic road and rail authorities, and sub-national transport bodies.</p> <p>It was noted that Transport powers were transferred to the Combined Authority, while highway authority powers under the Highway Act 1980 remain with Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.</p> <p>It was confirmed that there are a number of existing funding streams including Central government funding, Devolution Deal and transport levy. These monies are reviewed through the CPCA assurance framework and allocated to relevant areas (highways Authority, Partner authorities or internal Transport delivery teams).</p> <p>Each potential project is reviewed by the CPCA under creation and development of a Project Initiation Document (initial business case) to establish merit of proceeding. This review would consider best delivery mechanism through funding agreement, Commissioner role or CPCA direct delivery.</p> <p>In response to questions asked, the Transport Programme Manager reported that a series of consultation events had been announced across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough for members of the public to have their say on the future of the area's Local Transport Plan to 2050 and that once the consultation had concluded, a report would be brought to the Board in the latter part of 2019. This would propose a long-term delivery plan for transport including proposed assessments mechanisms for future schemes.</p>

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		<p>A question was also raised as to the allocation and use of the Transport levy going forward and how this relates to bus subsidies. The programme manager identified that as part of the January CA Board approvals a Bus reform task group was established with relevant officer's from CPCA, Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to review and propose the bus subsidy strategy for future years and agree the allocation of transport levy in the future this is an ongoing piece of work. This January paper also confirmed that the current situation for managing buses would continue to March 2020</p> <p>It was explained that a report would also be submitted to the Board in July or September 2019 updating the progress from the Bus reform task group</p> <p>Members of the Committee asked for further information on the following in relation to transport delivery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where can members access the Letters of Intent or the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of the delivery instruments to see what had been commissioned by the Combined Authority • How many funding agreements and Letters of Intent were the transport team in receipt of • Could the authority acquire capital for delivery and control through partnership working • Could there be clarification on whether the work that is being undertaken on transport by the internal legal officers or by consultants. <p>The Transport Programme Manager informed the Committee that Letters of Intent and MoU's were held on an internal project delivery system. He was unable to</p>

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		<p>clarify the exact number that was held, but that he could report back the figure at a later date and noted that the legal negotiations were being worked on in- house. It was confirmed that the Authority was engaging with other Combined Authorities across England as part of the development of the business case.</p> <p>The transport programme manager confirmed that legal discussions between CPCA and other parties in regard to MoU's and Funding agreements etc were being led directly by CPCA.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the Transport Programme Manager for his attendance at the meeting.</p>
6.	Affordable Housing Update	<p>The Director of Housing and Development and the Programme Manager Affordable Housing gave a presentation to the Committee and updated members on the £170m Affordable Housing Programme. Of the £170 million, £70 million is ring fenced for new build Council rent homes in Cambridge City, leaving £100m allocated to deliver 2,000 new affordable homes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Main tenures of housing are affordable rent, social rent and shared ownership. Further information was provided which highlighted key milestones which included the first CPCA funded scheme to be completed in Soham in August 2018 and in March 2019 the approval of the creation of a Development Company. In all, 777 units had approval by CA Board to date.</p> <p>In response to questions asked, the Director of Housing and Development explained that there was ongoing dialogue with housing teams across the other local authorities. The £100m allocated to deliver 2,000 new affordable homes across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough had been split 60/40 between grants for affordable housing and a revolving loan fund. It was reported that the</p>

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		<p>Combined Authority would consider applications for funding to deliver new affordable homes across all tenures, provided the scheme has the support of the local planning authority. The team consults with LA Housing Strategy and Planning teams as part of the appraisal process.</p> <p>It was explained that risk assessments had been carried out on all proposed development and loan arrangements with an additional £31 million approved to projects as loan investment which would be repaid to the programme and would establish a recycling fund to go beyond the lifetime of the current programme (March 2022). The Committee discussed the timeline of the housing development and noted that they would be interested in receiving information about the proposed housing delivery timeline and that they were informed of all projects in the 'pipeline'. Committee members were reminded that the Housing and New Communities Committee receive programme performance updates on a roughly quarterly basis and that these are published on the CPCA website, and O&S members would be very welcome to attend these meetings.</p> <p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>That the Committee receive a trajectory of the delivery of housing projects and updated information on housing development at regular intervals, with the next being November 2019</p>
7.	Member Update on Activity of Combined Authority	No updates were received from members
8.	Review of Combined Authority Agenda	<p>The Committee reviewed the agenda due to come to Board on Wednesday 26th June 2019.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to raise the following questions to the Board:</p>

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		<p>Item 1.5 Forward Plan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Committee expressed concern at the late publication of the Board Forward Plan and asked for an assurance that in future this would be published in time to be considered by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee before the Board meeting. <p>Item 1.6 Appointment to Executive Committees</p> <p>The Combined Authority is currently reviewing its Constitution and governance arrangements which may have an impact on the functions and membership of the committees</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Can the Committee be provided with a comprehensive list of appointed senior officers at the Combined Authority? 3) What were the reasons for the amendments to the allocations to Executive Committees for 2019/20 specifically the revised Cabinet representation? 4) Can the Board ensure that frequent governance changes do not get in the way of the Authority achieving its strategic objectives; and note that governance changes also affect how Overview & Scrutiny works <p>Item 2.1 - Budget Monitoring Update</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Can the Committee be provided with more clarity on schemes and associated funding? Can the finance team provide a clear correspondence between lines in the budget and decisions by the Authority?

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		<p>Item 3.1(i) £100m Affordable Housing Programme – Scheme Approvals – Alexander House, Ely</p> <p>6) Can the Board confirm the Combined Authority is authorised to, and in a position to give commercial loans?</p> <p>How is the loan being secured and how does the interest rate compare to the market? Could a revised condition to increase the percentage of (16%) affordable housing units (to be provided from the total of 25 units) be approved</p>
9.	Combined Authority Forward Plan	<p>Committee expressed concern at the late publication of the Board Forward Plan and discussed the need for members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to access confidential Board papers and appendices in order to carry out their duties.</p>

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10.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Report	<p>The Committee received the report which outlined the work programme for the committee for the municipal year 2019/20.</p> <p>The Committee requested that an Affordable Housing Update report be brought to the November 2019 meeting.</p> <p>The Committee requested that a Budget Update report be presented to the meeting in October 2019.</p> <p>The Committee asked that the previous Vice-Chair of the Committee be invited to the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee pre-meet to update members on the work that he had accomplished in relation to the CAM metro.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to establishing 2 working groups, membership as below: CAM Metro – Councillors Gehring, Sharp, Price, Heylings and Whitehead (Cllr Conboy subject to availability)</p> <p>CAM Bus Review: Councillors Hay, Dew, Connor and Chamberlain (Cllr Murphy as a substitute member)</p>
11.	Date of Next Meeting	<p>The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be held at Fenland District Council (Council Chamber) with a start time of 11am on the 29th July 2019.</p> <p>The pre-meeting on the 29th July 2019 would be held at 10am in Room 38, Fenland Hall, March.</p>

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