



Overview and Scrutiny Committee Decision Summary

Meeting: 24 April 2020

Agenda/Minutes [Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 24th April 2020](#)

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 were received from: Cllr P Heylings (substituted by Cllr P Fane), and Cllr K Price (substituted by Cllr C McQueen)
2.	Declaration of Interests	There were no declarations of interest
3.	Minutes of the last meeting held on 24 February 2020	The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2020 were agreed as a correct record.
4.	Public Questions	There were no public questions received.

5.	The Mayor of the Combined Authority	<p>Mayor James Palmer was in attendance.</p> <p>Any decision related to the relocation of the Combined Authority offices would be presented to the Combined Authority Board as a matter of process.</p> <p>The Mayor gave his commitment that transport links into Alconbury would be provided for when the County Council moves its offices. A timeline for this implementation would be published.</p>
6.	The Chair of the Business Board	<p>Austen Adams, Chair of the Business Board was in attendance.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <p>a) The response from BEIS will be shared with the O&S Committee once established this is available publicly and also be made available on the Business Board website</p>
7.	Market Town Masterplans	<p>The East Cambridgeshire Market Town Masterplans would be presented to the Combined Authority Board in June 2020.</p>
8.	Chairman of the Independent Commission on Climate Change	<p>Process for the appointment of a Chairman was ongoing.</p> <p>The Commission appointees would take account of broad diversity requirements.</p> <p>Constituent authorities were being kept abreast of developments on technical work.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <p>a) Once appointed the Chair of the Commission be invited to attend the O&S Committee as soon as is practicable</p>

9.	Wisbech Rail Project	<p>The Final Business Case for the project was due in June 2020.</p> <p>There was ongoing liaison with Network Rail regard to the Ely expansion.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <p>a) Following publication of the Final Business Case a further update be presented to the O&S Committee</p>
10.	Overview & Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2019/20	<p>The report was endorsed.</p> <p>AGREED:</p> <p>a) The request by the Bus Review Task & Finish Group to continue its work to take into account the publication of the Bus Review Final Business Case in January 2020 be deferred for consideration by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee appointed for 2020/21</p> <p>b) The recommendations of the Bus Review Task & Finish Group were agreed</p> <p>c) The extension to the work of the CAM Metro Task & Finish Group to May 2020 was agreed</p> <p>d) It was agreed the Annual report be submitted to the Combined Authority Board</p>
11.	Combined Authority Board Agenda	<p>The following questions from the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee were:</p> <p>AGREED:</p>

		<p>a) When and how does the Combined Authority intend to publish the results of the recent public consultation on the CAM Metro, and how does it intend to use the response to guide its future work on this scheme?</p> <p>b) The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is concerned by the delay in the appointment of a Chairman of the Independent Commission on Climate Change. Can the Overview & Scrutiny Committee have a statement on the progress on an appointment, and on the progress of work in this area, and when the Committee might expect some engagement with the Chairman once appointed?</p> <p>c) What have been the additional set-up costs of the Angle Holdings traded companies as it is stated that some of these costs would have been incurred in any case?</p> <p>d) The answer provided to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in March on the plans by Homes England to proactively fund accessible homes and homes that tackle climate change indicated an allocation of £125 million of government monies is being made available through the Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee recognises this will be used to develop new affordable homes, which meet the needs of older people and disabled adults. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee has heard that, to date, just one disabled family has been assisted in the Combined Authority area. Can the Board assure the Overview & Scrutiny Committee that the Combined Authority will be doing all it possibly can to improve the accessibility of new homes and to achieve homes that meet the 2050 carbon-neutral target?</p>
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		<p>e) The Overview & Scrutiny Committee has expressed some reservation around the transparency of the process to date regarding the Combined Authority headquarters move to Ely. Can the Committee therefore be supplied with details of the process, both to date and moving forward, and when the Board is expected to be asked to make the decision regarding the lease at Alconbury and any new lease to be entered into?</p>
12.	Combined Authority Forward Plan	<p>AGREED:</p> <p>a) The O&S Committee appointed for 2020/21 to consider going forward</p>
13.	Overview & Scrutiny Work Programme	<p>AGREED:</p> <p>a) The O&S Committee appointed for 2020/21 to consider going forward</p>
14.	Committee Meetings – Lead Member Questions and Answers	<p>Questions for the Skills Committee from Cllr Coles:</p> <p>a) Regarding the Innovation fund item on the agenda: Is the premise of the fund still on target when the impact of social distancing is to have substantial and medium-term impact on the ability of training organisations to delivery any face-to-face training? Is there a review in place to consider how best to deliver training and skills through virtual and distance learning programmes over all areas if social distancing measures make standard training delivery more difficult? How nimble is the current strategy to the possible impact of longer-term social distancing measures?</p> <p>b) Regarding the Work Readiness and Careers Aspiration Pilot item on the agenda: We note the project is on hold for six months due to school closure measures. What is being done over this six-month period to ensure the project can restart after the pause in work – NEET learners are already the most difficult group to engage with in terms of training delivery. What assurances can be given that the participating students will remain engaged</p>

		<p>with the project and be guided into work in the current climate? What alternatives are in place to facilitate their continued engagement during the “lockdown” period?</p> <p>c) Regarding the ESB Board item on the agenda: Clearly the impact of the pandemic on businesses in the CA area has been profound and there are significant levels of uncertainty ahead as the country seeks to recover from the “lockdown”. How well is the ESB sighted on the impact of the pandemic measures on local business and how long will it take to be able to provide strategic leadership on what future skills development and learning programmes will be necessary to support local businesses in the recovery phase?</p> <p>Questions for the Housing & Communities Committee from Cllr Murphy:</p> <p>Questions for the Transport & Infrastructure Committee from Cllr Sharp:</p> <p>a) Budget & Performance Report: In terms of capital spend, a number of the projects have been delayed because of circumstances and now with Covid-19?</p> <p>b) Are there any thoughts on how this will affect the plan for deliverables for 2020/2021?</p> <p>c) Presumably, there may need to be a revision of the MTFP and budget for 2020/2021 and what is achievable in the new world that we are living in?</p> <p>d) Bus Review: The vision of the bus network is very laudable and when implemented will provide a solution in helping the transport infrastructure. How are we working with other counties to get connectivity to out of county locations around the area, as this affects a number of communities around the county?</p>
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		e) When the scheme is set-up, what proposals are there for encouraging people out of the car and onto public transport. We can set the system up and show that it runs well, but what positive steps can we make to increase usage?
15.	Date of next meeting	<p>AGREED:</p> <p>a) The Scrutiny Officer to circulate dates for week commencing 25 May 2020</p> <p>b) The meeting will be held virtually</p>

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