

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Decision Summary

Meeting: 23 August 2021

Agenda/Minutes: [Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 23 August 2021](#)

Chair: Cllr Lorna Dupré

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 J. Rippeth substituted by Cllr P. Fane Apologies received from Cllr M. Atkins, no substitution.
2.	Declarations of Interest	There were no declarations of interest.
3.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.
4.	Public Questions	There were no public questions received.
5.	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Arrangements	The Committee noted the update. The Committee agreed to hold an informal workshop on the role of scrutiny with regard to trading companies.
6.	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme	Whilst some indication of the Mayor's emerging priorities was welcomed the discussion around the report provided, and the work programme and prioritisation led to the following points being raised:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• More clarity is required around the Mayor's emerging priorities, as well as some further information around each shared with the Chair and Vice-Chair• Further information on the Local Transport Plan would be welcomed as a report is being taken to the September Combined Authority Board• The delivery methods for each of the priorities needs to be known• The Committee would wish to know the metrics for measuring compassion <p>It was suggested the Mayor be approached to provide the Committee with an explanatory paragraph on each of the four themes he had highlighted, and the Chair agreed to contact the Mayor's office to request this. The first Mayoral Question Time scheduled for November 2021 might be an opportune time to raise the Public Service Reform Commission it was agreed.</p> <p>It was agreed that whilst more information on the Mayor's priorities is awaited the Committee should move forward with its own agenda setting. Therefore, the following items were proposed for future Committee meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affordable housing• The active travel agenda• The devolution deal• The CAM (particularly in relation to the financial implications of the cessation of the programme)
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-scooters • The Climate change contribution of the Combined Authority <p>It was agreed that the theme for the Committee meeting in September 2021 be transport. As Chair of the Transport & Infrastructure Committee the Mayor should be invited to attend the meeting, in that capacity, to answer questions. The key areas the Committee agreed should be considered to enable it to reflect on what it should focus on moving forward are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active travel • The Local Transport Plan • The key route network • Buses and Railways • E-scooters • Road changes • CAM
7.	Mayor's Question Time – Format Proposal	<p>Members raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed format does not give enough time for open dialogue as it only allows one follow-up question per pre-planned question. The committee raised a concern as to whether this would prevent further dialogue within the session

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed frequency of the Mayoral Question Time in Overview and Scrutiny meetings is currently once a year, the members find that this is not enough and would recommend meeting four times a year as per the expectation of the previous Mayor • There would be benefits to having structure to the question time, focused themes for each of the four sessions would be an efficient way of adding structure • Recommendation that there would be a further explanation of the role of Overview and Scrutiny, and the differences between an Overview and Scrutiny Mayoral Question Time and one held outside of committee meetings <p>Members agreed to recommend a non-time limited quarterly meeting, allowing further follow up questions to create more of an open discussion, and a possible theme of each Question Time session</p>
8.	Combined Authority Board Agenda	<p>It was agreed to put a general question to the Combined Authority Board, thus:</p> <p>The Committee is concerned that three of the four substantive items on the agenda for the Board have been placed on the agenda by way of general exception notice. What plans does the CA have to ensure that adequate notice is given for significant decisions in future?</p> <p>It was agreed that the Committee put the following questions to the Combined Authority Board in relation to agenda item 2.4:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Does the Combined Authority have an accommodation strategy; and if not, why not and what plans are there to develop one? If it does have an accommodation strategy how does the suggestion of

		<p>purchasing a freehold for a premises at Alconbury align with this strategy?</p> <p>2) The Combined Authority surrendered the lease on the previous accommodation at Alconbury due to public transport access. Therefore, what has happened in the interim to change that view?</p> <p>3) What analysis has been done to suggest Alconbury is a suitable venue for the Combined Authority?</p> <p>4) What are the overall costs for surrendering the lease of the previous premises at Alconbury?</p>
9.	Combined Authority Forward Plan	The Forward Plan was noted.
10.	Date and Time of Next Meeting	The next meeting would be held on the 27 September 2021.

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