

Audit and Governance Committee Decision Summary

Meeting: 17 December 2021

Agenda/Minutes: [Audit and Governance Committee – 17th December 2021](#)

Chair: John Pye (Chair and Independent Person)

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting

Item	Topic	Decision <i>[None of the decisions below are key decisions]</i>
1	Apologies and Declarations of Interests	<p>Apologies were received from Cllr Shaz Nawaz, Peterborough County Council who was substituted by Cllr Mohammed Haseeb.</p> <p>Apologies were also received from Cllr's Graham Bull and Mac Maguire, Huntingdonshire District Council; and Cllr Tony Mason, South Cambridgeshire District Council whose substitute Cllr Peter Fane joined the meeting remotely.</p> <p>No disclosable interests were declared.</p>
2	Chair's Announcements	<p>The Chair made the following announcements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Given this meeting was rearranged from the scheduled date on 26 November due to issues of quoracy the Chair encouraged members to have a dialogue with their named substitutes to avoid the risk of future meetings being inquorate and having to be abandoned. 2. The Chair informed the Committee of the latest public health guidelines encouraging business at meetings to be reduced and to only consider items which require a timely decision. To that end the Chair proposed to reduce the agenda for the meeting and suggested deferring items 4, 6, 10, 12 and 13 on the agenda to the next meeting of the Committee. This was agreed.

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		<p>3. The development session on the role of the Audit & Governance Committee and projects would be rescheduled to 2022.</p> <p>4. The Chair informed the Committee that an Independent Person for the Authority's complaints procedure has been appointed and the decisions had been ratified by the Combined Authority Board. David Pearl had been appointed with the reserve Independent Person being Gillian Holmes.</p>
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Action Notes	<p>The minutes from the meeting held on 24 September 2021 were agreed as a correct record.</p> <p>The Actions from the previous meeting were noted.</p>
4	Combined Authority Update	This item was deferred.
5	Corporate Risk Register	<p>The Committee received the report from the Monitoring Officer The Committee questioned whether risks 21 and 32, related to housing, should be increased and have the same scores, which is currently not the case. This Committee's concerns would be raised with the Director of Housing.</p> <p>The Committee noted the report.</p>
6	Internal Audit	This item was deferred.
7	External Audit	<p>The Committee received the report from the Deputy Finance Officer and Mark Hodgson, from Ernst & Young.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED:</p> <p>a) The management letter of representation for the external audit opinion.</p>
8	Annual Accounts and Annual Governance Statement	<p>The Committee received the report from the Deputy Chief Finance Officer.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED:</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to approve the annual accounts; b) to approve the Annual Governance Statement.
9	Re-tendering Process	<p>The Committee were requested to consider a recommendation to opt into the national scheme for auditor appointments for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28. The Combined Authority Board would be considering this at their January 2022 meeting.</p> <p>The Chair asked the Committee if they were content with the recommendation to opt into the national scheme and make a recommendation to the Combined Authority Board on that basis. The Chair moved to support the recommendation, and this was seconded by Cllr Brown.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to support opting into the national scheme for auditor appointments for the period 2023/24 to 2027/28; b) to make a recommendation to the Combined Authority Board on this basis.
10	Climate Change	This item was deferred.
11	Combined Authority Constitution Review	<p>The Committee received the report which asked them to review the amendments to the Combined Authority Constitution following the annual review.</p> <p>The Committee AGREED to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Approve the revisions following the annual review of the Constitution, subject to the amendment suggested in 11.3 above; b) Recommend the revisions to the Combined Authority Board.
12	Treasury Management Strategy	This item was deferred.
13	Trading Companies	This item was deferred.

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14	Work Programme	The work programme was noted. With regard to the deferred item on Trading Companies, there was a request for further information and background on the Combined Authority Board oversight of the subsidiaries as well as a list of the Board members for each Company.
15	Date of next meeting	The Committee would next meet on Friday, 28 January 2022 at 10:00 at Sand Martin House, Peterborough. This was a change of venue from East Cambridgeshire District Council, Ely.