

Audit and Governance Committee Decision Summary

Meeting: 13 January 2023
 Agenda/Minutes: [Audit and Governance Committee](#)
 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	Apologies were received from Councillor Wilson and Councillor Ali No disclosable interests were declared.
2	Chair's Announcements	Members were instructed to disregard Chapters 4 and 7 of Appendix 2 (working copy of the revised Constitution) as the Governance Arrangements Report, which detailed a proposed new committee structure, meant that further amendments to these chapters of the Constitution would be required. The subsequent amendments would be reported to the committee at a later date.
3.	Procurement Policy	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <p>1. That the Audit & Governance Committee submit the following feedback to the Combined Authority Board ahead of their review of the policy at their meeting on 25 January 2023.</p> <p>a) That the impact of the new procurement policy needed to be monitored over the first year to see if there were any adverse consequences; either to value for money or on fair competition.</p> <p>b) That the policy should include an annual review of the nature and size of contracts.</p>

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		<p>c) That the policy should define what is meant by a 'local supplier'.</p> <p>d) That every effort should be made to minimise the bureaucracy of the procurement process in order to aid small businesses.</p>
4.	Revisions to the Constitution	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Monitoring Officer be invited to redraft some sections of the Constitution, as outlined in the feedback given to the Combined Authority Board, to improve clarity and avoid ambiguity. 2. That the draft be reviewed for grammatical and spelling errors, and for consistency of language eg. the use of Combined Authority or Combined Authority Board 3. That the committee's comments on the revisions to the Constitution be fed back to the Board ahead of their meeting on 25 January 2023.
5.	Governance Arrangements	<p><u>RESOLVED:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) That the committee's comments on the governance arrangements, be fed back to the Combined Authority Board ahead of their meeting on 25 January 2023. b) There was confusion about the way that the voting arrangements were articulated in the draft. The committee could not support the proposals as currently presented, ie that only Members of the Board would be entitled to vote, as their understanding was that the new thematic committees were there to reduce the workload of the Combined Authority Board. However, the

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		<p>committee was supportive of the general move to thematic committees and the delegation of work <i>if</i> they were given the ability to vote.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The terminology be reviewed so that there was a consistent approach rather than, for example, the alternating use of thematic, and executive, committees. 2. The Monitoring Officer confirmed that under the terms of the 2017 order that combined authorities were unable to pay allowances. However, in order to assist the constituent councils with their own remuneration deliberations, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority should provide assessments of the work involved in committee roles. 3. The Combined Authority Board would have to take particular care of conflicts of interest when ratifying the appointments of chairs of the committee, given that constituent councils were likely to put forward members with experience and ability in these roles who likely sat on other committees and boards. 4. It was not clear how the concept of informal advisory groups would work in practice and how they linked in with the committees. It was felt it would be useful to include information on who calls for these groups, how their brief was set and how they were organised. It was suggested that in six months' time and in the light of some experience, further clarity on their operation should be provided. 5. The Combined Authority Board needed to establish resource requirements and make suitable financial provision to deliver the governance requirements. 6. The Key Functions of the Combined Authority Board (as shown in Appendix A to the report) be amended so that they better captured the requirements of

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		<p>the authority's response to the concerns expressed in the external auditor's letter of 1 June 2022. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. That the Combined Authority Board's responsibility for driving performance of key deliverables and performance measures for good growth be elevated to a key function and included in the list (a)- (q) and reflected throughout the terms of reference. b. A dynamic element to the key functions be included so that for example (a) should read to set, <i>review, keep up to date and revise</i> the long-term vision of the Combined Authority. c. That a substantive reference to communication and consultation be included as, for example, consultation on the budget was a statutory responsibility d. That the wording of (n) - to exercise general power of competence - be exemplified with a much clearer and stronger statement as to its meaning. <p>7. The voting arrangements of the Combined Authority Board be explained and set out in the Terms of Reference.</p>
11.	Date and Time of Next Meetings	<p>Friday 27 January 2023 10.00am</p> <p>Venue: Pathfinder House, Huntingdon</p>