



COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD

WEDNESDAY, 5 JUNE 2024 – ORDINARY MEETING

Venue:	ARU Peterborough, Bishop's Road, Peterborough, PE1 5BW	
Time:	10.17 am to 11:40am	
Present:	Dr Nik Johnson Councillor Chris Boden Councillor Sarah Conboy Councillor Dennis Jones Councillor Lucy Nethsingha Councillor Anna Smith Councillor Bridget Smith Nitin Patel	Mayor Fenland District Council Huntingdonshire District Council Peterborough City Council Cambridgeshire County Council Cambridge City Council South Cambridgeshire District Council Vice Chair of the Business Board
Co-Opted Members:	John O'Brien Councillor Edna Murphy	Integrated Care Board Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority
Apologies:	Councillor Anna Bailey Darryl Preston Al Kingsley	East Cambridgeshire District Council Police and Crime Commissioner Chair of the Business Board

Minutes

1	Petitions
	No petitions were received.
2	Public Questions
	One question was received in advance of the meeting in accordance with the procedure rules in the Constitution. A copy of the question and response will be appended to the minutes of the meeting.
3	Forward Plan
	On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Anna Smith, it was resolved unanimously to: A Approve the Forward Plan for June 2024.
4	Budget Outturn Report 2023-24
	The Assistant Director, Finance, introduced the report and highlighted key points to Board members. The following points were raised and discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Concerns were raised about the revenue slippage, questioning whether this is a systemic issue and how it compares with other Mayoral Combined Authority positions. Officers agreed to conduct a benchmarking exercise at service level.As an organisation there is more to be done terms of monitoring and delivery, with a concern that this has meant we have not delivered what we were aiming to. The newly appointed Executive Director for Resources is keen to strengthen the financial management of the authority.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was explained that some of the extra underspend is treasury management surplus which was bigger than anticipated, caused by capital being unspent which creates a circular issue. Officers committed to doing more to ensure processes are stronger so the money that is there is spent to deliver the priorities the Board has agreed in a timely manner. • The issue of last-minute offers of funding through devolution was highlighted and how the authority has been caught by that. Can messaging be taken back to Government if this is a wider issue and not specific to the CPCA. • More detail was requested on the slippage around the Net Zero Hub. Officers explained that of the £10.5m reported underspend, £4.6m was for the retrofit programme and the remaining £5.9m is receipts in advance so not actual underspend. A more detailed breakdown was agreed to be shared with Board members. • The second phase of the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) had issues nationally; with the criteria developed by government making it incredibly difficult for households to apply. The terms of funding were changed in March 2024, relaxing the criteria but there are still high levels of cancellations so this is being monitored closely. • The Net Zero Hub team were praised for their efforts and enthusiasm, and the need for greater freedoms to use the funding as we see best was highlighted. <p>On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Chris Boden, it was resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>A Note the unaudited outturn position of the Combined Authority for the 2023/24 financial year</p> <p>B Approve the requested slippage of unspent project budgets on the approved capital programme of £59.3m, and on the revenue budget of £14.9m.</p>
5	<p>Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2023/24</p>
	<p>On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Dennis Jones, it was resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>A Defer this item to the next meeting of the Combined Authority Board (24 July 2024).</p>
6	<p>Member Development Annual Report</p>
	<p>The Director, Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer, presented the report and highlighted key points to members.</p> <p>The following points were raised and discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As Lead Member for Governance, Councillor Edna Murphy emphasised the need for a comprehensive training program for members, noting the significant progress made in recent years. She stressed the importance of members being aware of their roles and responsibilities and having access to appropriate information. She expressed enthusiasm for the development program and the need for it to align with schedules and make efficient use of time. She also expressed anticipation for internal recognition of participation and the importance of feedback. • Board members commended the improvements in the induction program and noted that councillors are gaining a better understanding of the Combined Authority. A session for all members of constituent councils outlining the role and work of the Combined Authority was suggested, possibly as a webinar. • Availability of training throughout the year, especially for last minute substitutes was raised. Flagging which training sessions would be most beneficial for Members on the different committees was also proposed. The option of self-study units was also suggested. • Concerns were raised about the timing of training during the pre-election period, including the all member induction session. Officers confirmed that a follow-up on the induction can be held later in the year if required and it was stated that recordings and training materials will be

	<p>available on the Member Hub once it is live. The Democratic Services team is ready to provide advice and ad-hoc training for last minute substitutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Member Newsletter was highlighted as a really useful source of information for members, filling a communications void. A desire for this to be promoted more widely was expressed. • Councillor Dennis Jones expressed an interest in being a champion for training, acting as a conduit for members. Officers gladly accepted this offer. <p>It was approved unanimously to:</p> <p>A Note the Member Development Annual Report.</p> <p>B Note the training sessions held and the planned prospectus for the new municipal year.</p> <p>C Note the objectives as being to assist Members in carrying out their roles efficiently, and to maintain the highest standard of elected Members in carrying out their responsibilities to the Combined Authority and the communities they serve.</p>
7	<p>Appointments to Outside Bodies</p>
	<p>On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Chris Boden, it was resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>A Defer this item to the next meeting of the Combined Authority Board (24 July 2024).</p>
8	<p>Combined Authority Chief Executive Highlights Report</p>
	<p>The Chief Executive introduced the report and took the opportunity to thank everyone involved in UKREiiF, emphasising how much positive feedback had been received both during and following the event.</p> <p>Members also expressed gratitude for all the support they received around the event and asked for thanks to be passed back to everyone.</p> <p>It was resolved to:</p> <p>A Note the contents of the report</p>
9	<p>Combined Authority Annual Report 2023-24</p>
	<p>The Chief Executive introduced the report which highlight the work of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority during 2023/24.</p> <p>Members expressed a desire for there to be an opportunity for full discussion outside of the pre-election period so requested the Annual Report be brought back to the next meeting of the Combined Authority Board. Officers confirmed they would make sure this discussion could take place at the next meeting on 24 July 2024.</p> <p>It was resolved to:</p> <p>A Note the content of the report.</p>
10	<p>Improvement Plan Update</p>
	<p>The Interim Programme Director, Transformation, introduced the report, highlighting key points to members.</p> <p>Board Members expressed thanks to the team for the ongoing work.</p> <p>It was resolved to:</p> <p>A Note the progress in March against the identified areas of ongoing concern set out in the Best Value Notice received in January 2024.</p> <p>B Note the update from the Chair, Independent Improvement Board following the meeting held on 7 May 2024</p>

11	<p>Updates to the Constitution</p>
11a	<p>LGA Model Code of Conduct</p> <p>The Director, Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer introduced the report, and highlighted the benefit of adoption of the Model Code of Conduct for consistency and uniformity.</p> <p>The comments from a Board Member were also highlighted; the request to remove the section empowering the Monitoring Officer to determine whether a complaint is politically motivated or vexatious. The Monitoring Officer explained that the paragraph has been in the CPCA constitution since the authority's inception and emphasised that any complaint received is dealt with in consultation with an Independent Person. Both the Combined Authority's current Independent Persons are ex solicitors with no political affiliation.</p> <p>Councillor Bridget Smith, a board member for the Local Government Association involved in the creation of the model Code of Conduct, explained that there is every argument in favour of having the same code within constituent authorities and the Combined Authority. Members should be aspiring to the same standards. She emphasised the amount of work that went into developing the Model Code of Conduct and suggested that it would be foolish to reject it or any element of it.</p> <p>The recommendations were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A The CPCA Board is invited to consider the matters raised in this report and consider whether the Local Government Model Code of Conduct be adopted in full or part. B The CPCA Board is invited to consider whether the associated guidance on the Model Code of Conduct should be adopted in full or in part. C The CPCA Board is invited to consider whether the associated guidance on complaint handling should be adopted in full or in part D The CPCA Board is invited to consider the requests from the combined authority board member <p>Following the above considerations, it was proposed by Councillor Edna Murphy, seconded by Councillor Bridget Smith and resolved unanimously to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Adopt the Local Government Model Code of Conduct in full. B Adopt the associated guidance on the Moden Code of Conduct in full C Adopt the associated guidance on complaint handling in full.
12	<p>Appointment of Independent Remuneration Panel</p>
	<p>The Director, Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer introduced the report and highlighted key points to members.</p> <p>On being proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Dennis Jones, it was resolved unanimously to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the Members' Allowance Scheme for the Combined Authority in relation to the Mayor's allowance. B Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the allowance for the two Independent Persons for the Audit & Governance Committee. C Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the allowance for the members for the Audit & Governance Committee. D Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the allowance for the members for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. E Agree that an Independent Remuneration Panel be constituted to review the allowance for travel and subsistence of all Combined Authority members including co-opted members.

13	<p>Adult Education Budget Delegated Authority (Amendment)</p>
	<p>The Assistant Director for Skills introduced the report and highlighted key points to Members.</p> <p>On being proposed by Councillor Lucy Nethsingha, seconded by the Mayor, it was resolved unanimously to:</p> <p>A Delegate authority to the Assistant Director, Skills, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enter into, sign and award grant agreements or awards to training providers to deliver Adult Skills Funds to include but not limited to Adult Education Budget, Free Courses for Jobs and Innovation Fund with providers chosen via the relevant procurement exercise. • Where appropriate, extend contracts using existing providers.
14	<p>Recommendations from Business Board</p>
	<p>The Board was advised that all recommendations had been supported by the Business Board at its meeting on 13 May 2024.</p> <p>On being proposed by Nitin Patel, seconded by the Mayor, it was resolved unanimously to approve all the recommendations as set out below:</p> <p>Strategic Growth Fund and Levelling Up Fund Update (Gainshare) [KD2024/024]</p> <p>A Notes the updates on development of the Strategic Growth Fund and Levelling Up Fund contained within this report.</p> <p>B Recommends that the Combined Authority Board reallocates a maximum of £1.5 million unspent capital from the completed Growth Works programme to the Strategic Growth fund to increase the total budget available for this fund.</p> <p>Business Board Members advised and requested that the transferred £1.5m capital funds are ring fenced notionally to be used for specifically for economic / growth projects and investments.</p> <p>Business Board Annual Report and Delivery Plan 2024-25</p> <p>A Approve the Business Board’s Annual Report & Delivery Plan 2024-25</p> <p>B Recommend the Combined Authority Board approves the Business Board’s Annual Report & Delivery Plan (2024-25), and for this to be submitted to the Cities and Local Growth Unit</p>

Chairman at the meeting on
Wednesday, 5 June 2024

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Combined Authority Board Meeting

5 June 2024 – Ordinary Meeting

Title:	Public Questions
Public Report:	Yes

Question 1 – from The Save Wilburton from Overdevelopment Community Group

To	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Board
	<p><i>Question: We write to you as residents of the community of Wilburton in East Cambridgeshire.</i></p> <p><i>In April 2020 the Mayor’s office submitted a letter in support of a planning application by the SWCLT and Laragh Homes to develop ‘Camps Field’ in Wilburton, asserting its ‘community benefits’. Subsequently, in 2022, the Combined Authority determined that this ‘Statement of Community Benefit’ had been improperly submitted, and requested that it be withdrawn from the planning application.</i></p> <p><i>An investigation was initiated by the Scrutiny and Oversight Committee in July 2022 into areas concerning the Combined Authority’s governance with specific regard to their housing programme. This investigation has been delayed.</i></p> <p><i>On 26th April 2024 the Camps Field planning application was formally ‘Disposed Of’ by the LPA under Article 40 of the General Development Procedure Order (2015). With the application now terminated, we wish to ask a public question of the Combined Authority regarding the progress of the promised 2022 enquiry.</i></p> <p><i>Please could you provide an explanation for its delay, an update with respect to the ‘Key Lines for the Enquiry’ set out in the 25th July 2022 Oversight & Scrutiny Committee Agenda (page 80), and a timeframe for its completion.</i></p>
	<p>Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your question. The relevant committee to respond to this question is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Your question will therefore be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chair of the Committee is expecting the question at the July meeting.</p> <p>I want to thank you personally for your question and acknowledge that you first contacted myself about this matter as far back as 2021. It was raised with senior officers at the Combined Authority at the same time. It has taken far too long to get to where we are today.</p> <p>I am pleased to understand that as a direct result of your community group’s hard work and efforts over many years that the representative voice of your community has been recognised and the planning application that has caused so many concerns to so many residents has been finally “disposed of”. It is to your credit that even though your community is no longer facing the prospect of a large development that your campaign group remains committed to understand the circumstances not only of the improperly submitted “Statement of Community Benefit” but also the much wider and systemic question in regard to the Combined Authority’s governance with specific regard to their housing programme.</p> <p>July 2022 was when the investigation was first discussed and initiated by the Scrutiny and Oversight Committee. The reasons for the delay are unclear but in preparing to answer this question I have been reassured by senior officers of the CPCA and the Chair of the O&S Committee they are now in the position to move forward at pace.</p>

I have always shared your concerns and as far back as summer 2023, throughout 2022 and as recently as December 2023 I have been raising these issues within the organisation and with external independent organisations.

From July 2022 onwards, I want to acknowledge the support of senior officers both within my own organisation and in those external bodies in their willingness to take the very concerns your community has raised seriously and begin the appropriate processes and investigations. On a final note, I will add that the Combined Authority as an organisation has been through huge changes over the last few years.

I am proud to be the Mayor and Leader of this organisation and I am reassured that in answering your question in full we will be able to demonstrate how the organisation has changed for the better and how we are now well placed to serve all the residents and communities of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough