



# Combined Authority Board

## 5 June 2024 – Annual Meeting

Title:	Appointment of the Audit and Governance Committee 2024/25
Report of:	Edwina Adefehinti, Director Legal and Governance & Monitoring Officer
Lead Member:	Mayor Dr Nik Johnson
Public Report:	Yes
Key Decision:	No
Voting Arrangements:	A simple majority of all Members To be carried, the vote must include the vote of the Mayor, or the Deputy Mayor when acting in place of the Mayor.

### Recommendations:

A	Confirm that the size of the Audit and Governance Committee should be eight members; one member and one substitute from each Constituent Council and one independent person.
B	To agree the political balance on the committee as set out in Appendix A.
C	Confirm the appointment of the Member and substitute Member nominated by constituent councils to the Committee for the municipal year 2024/25 as set out in Appendix B.
D	Appoint the Independent Person, Mr John Pye as Chair for the municipal year 2024/25 and delegate the election of the Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee.
E	Raise the remuneration for the role of the Independent Person as the Chair of the committee on a pro-rated basis, to reflect the increased activity of the committee, to £4289 per annum.
F	Approve the appointment of David Harwood as the second Independent Person for the Audit & Governance Committee for a term of four years ending May 2028.
G	Raise the remuneration for the role of the Independent Person of the committee on a pro-rated basis, to reflect the increased activity of the committee, to £3068 per annum.

### Strategic Objective(s):

The subject of this report is linked to a statutory requirement under the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 requiring the Combined Authority to establish an Audit Committee.

A well-run Audit Committee will strongly support the Combined Authority in all its strategic objectives as outlined below.

	Achieving ambitious skills and employment opportunities
	Achieving good growth
	Increased connectivity
	Enabling resilient communities
	Achieving Best Value and High Performance

## 1. Purpose

1.1	The purpose of the report is to ask the Board to confirm the size and membership of the Audit and Governance Committee and to agree the political balance and the appointment of the Independent Person as the Chair for the municipal year 2024/25 and the appointment of the second Independent Person to sit on the Committee.
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## 2. Proposal

2.1	In accordance with the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017, the Combined Authority is required to establish an Audit Committee.
2.2	The Order 2017 sets out the rules for membership. The membership of the committee as a whole should reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties of the constituent councils when taken together. The balance is based on membership of political parties, not political groups, on constituent councils across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

## 3. Background

3.1	Since 2017/18, the Board has agreed that the Audit and Governance Committee should have seven constituent members: one Member from each Constituent Council, together with one Independent person. The Board are asked to agree that the size of the committee remains the same.																					
3.2	The implications of applying political proportionality to a seven constituent member committee are detailed in Appendix A. Accordingly constituent councils have nominated the members and substitute members listed in Appendix B for the municipal year 2024/25 based on the political balance calculation.																					
3.3	In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee is reserved to the Board. The Board has previously agreed that Mr Pye as the Independent Person for the Committee should be appointed as Chair of the Committee and has previously delegated the decision of electing a Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee to take place at their first meeting. The Board are asked to appoint the Independent Person John Pye as Chair for the municipal year 2024/25 and delegate the election of the Vice Chair to the Audit and Governance Committee.																					
3.4	In September 2023 the CA Board agreed that the recruitment of a second Independent Person be led by a panel of the Audit and Governance Committee and the proposed appointee be reported back. In April the Panel met and interviewed 4 candidates and agreed to recommend to the Board that David Harwood as the second Independent Person on the Audit & Governance Committee.																					
3.5	<p>Independent Person Remuneration</p> <p>The Board is responsible for setting the remuneration of the Independent Person. The original level was set at £3068 in 2021 following the reappointment of Mr John Pye as the Independent Person. A benchmarking exercise was carried out of the other Combined Authorities to determine the average allowance level set for Independent Persons. The below table shows the results:</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Combined Authority</th><th>Allowance</th><th>Meetings per Year</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>West Midlands</td><td>£ 10,003</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>West of England</td><td>£5,845</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Greater Manchester</td><td>£4,289</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>Cambridgeshire &amp; Peterborough</td><td>£3,068</td><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>North of Tyne</td><td>£1,000</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>South Yorkshire</td><td>£312.50 per committee meeting</td><td>4-6</td></tr></tbody></table>	Combined Authority	Allowance	Meetings per Year	West Midlands	£ 10,003	4	West of England	£5,845	4	Greater Manchester	£4,289	4	Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	£3,068	6	North of Tyne	£1,000	4	South Yorkshire	£312.50 per committee meeting	4-6
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	Given the number of meetings held at the CPCA for the Audit & Governance Committee per year it is proposed to increase the level of remuneration to £5092 for the Independent Person also appointed as the Chair. And to increase the level of remuneration to £3068 for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Independent Person from £1840.
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#### 4. Appendices

4.1	Appendix A. Political Balance on the Audit and Governance Committee
4.2	Appendix B. Nominations from Constituent Councils (to follow)

#### 5. Implications

##### Financial Implications

5.1	In accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017 no remuneration is to be payable by the Combined Authority to its members.
5.2	The appointed Independent person will receive an allowance of £3,068 per annum.
5.3	The appointed Independent Person who is also appointed as Chair will receive an allowance of £4289 per annum.

##### Legal Implications

5.4	These are dealt with in the report.
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##### Public Health Implications

5.5	None
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##### Environmental & Climate Change Implications

5.6	None
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##### Other Significant Implications

5.7	None
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##### Background Papers

5.8	<a href="#">Cambridge City Council AGM report</a>
5.9	<a href="#">Cambridgeshire County Council AGM report</a>
5.10	<a href="#">East Cambridgeshire District Council AGM report</a>
5.11	<a href="#">Fenland District Council AGM report</a>
5.12	<a href="#">Huntingdonshire District Council AGM report</a>
5.13	<a href="#">Peterborough City Council AGM report</a>
5.14	<a href="#">South Cambridgeshire District Council AGM report</a>