

## CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

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REPORT OF: Democratic Services Manager

TO: Civic Affairs Committee

2/6/2014

WARDS: None directly affected

### **CAMBRIDGE AREA JOINT COMMITTEE**

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#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The County Council has established a Cambridge Area Joint Committee at its Annual Council meeting on 13 May 2014. The City Council is invited to appoint to it.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to put forward nominations (six) to Council for the County Council Cambridge Area Joint Committee.

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Executive Councillor for Planning and Climate Change and the Director of Environment with their County Council equivalents have been in discussions to 're-establish' a joint committee to deal with certain transport/highway issues, following the County Council abolishing all 5 county/district area joint committees in December 2012. The County Council report is **appended**, gives the background and sets out the terms of reference of this new committee. The six appointments to this Committee will be subject to political proportionality rules as explained on the Civic Affairs Committee agenda (item 6).

#### **4. IMPLICATIONS**

- (a) **Financial Implications** – if the city council manages the committee, there will be a resource requirement which will need to be contained within existing budgets.
- (b) **Staffing Implications** – as above.

- (c) **Equal Opportunities Implications** none
- (d) **Environmental Implications** none
- (e) **Procurement** none
- (f) **Consultation and communication** none
- (g) **Community Safety** none

**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None

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**CAMBRIDGE AREA JOINT COMMITTEE****To:*****Constitution and Ethics Committee*****Date:****22nd April 2014****From:*****Executive Director: Economy, Transport and Environment*****Purpose:****To seek the agreement of the Constitution and Ethics Committee on the proposal to establish the Cambridge City Joint Area Committee and to agree proposed Terms of Reference. If agreed, the proposal will be referred to Full Council for inclusion in Part 3C of the Council's Constitution.****Recommendation:****That the Constitution and Ethics Committee recommends to Full Council:**

- 1. To establish a Joint Area Committee covering the county divisions within the Cambridge City Council administrative area;**
- 2. To approve the proposed Terms of Reference set out in Appendix 1; and**
- 3. To authorise the Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Constitution and Ethics Committee, to make any amendments to the Constitution and to the proposed Terms of Reference necessary or incidental to the establishment of this Joint Area Committee.**

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## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. In the past, Committees were established to deal with local decisions regarding traffic management matters within each district council area known as Area Joint Committees (AJC). These Committees comprised members from the County Council and the relevant district council.
- 1.2. In recent years, the use of these Committees became less frequent and all the district councils, with the exception of Cambridge City Council withdrew their support. The County Council then withdrew support for all of these Committees and their operation ceased during 2012/13.
- 1.3. However, Cambridge City Council continued to support the AJC concept. At its meeting of 21 May 2013, Full Council agreed to re-establish Area Joint Committees (AJCs) covering district council boundaries, where there was support from the relevant district council.
- 1.4. All district councils were asked if they supported establishing an AJC. Cambridge City Council expressed a desire to establish an AJC. All other district councils stated that they did not support AJCs in their areas.
- 1.5. Under the new committee governance system, the Joint Area Committee to be set up with the City Council, to discharge the functions delegated within the attached Terms of Reference and which would also comprise membership of the two authorities, would be a stand alone committee similar to those contained in Part 3C of the new Constitution which will take effect from the Annual meeting of Full Council on 13 May 2014.

## 2. PROPOSED CAMBRIDGE CITY JOINT AREA COMMITTEE

- 2.1. Discussions have taken place between the relevant portfolio holders of the two councils who have agreed the proposed Terms of Reference shown in **Appendix A**.
- 2.2. The Terms of Reference have been drafted taking cognisance of the Council's emerging Committee System. If the recommendations are agreed by the Constitution and Ethics Committee for recommendation to Full Council, the proposal and terms of reference will as stated in paragraph 1.5 above be included in Part 3C of the Council's Constitution, subject to obtaining Full Council approval.

Source Documents	Location
Minutes – Council Meeting 21 May 2013	<a href="http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=418">http://www2.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CommitteeMinutes/Committees/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=418</a>

**CAMBRIDGE CITY JOINT AREA COMMITTEE**  
**Proposed Terms of Reference**

- A new Joint Area Committee will be formed to consider and determine significant transport issues within Cambridge City, and to advise on, but not determine, schemes of strategic importance within the Cambridge City Area.
- Decisions taken by the Joint Area Committee will be in accordance with the policies of Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridge City Council and available budgets. A decision taken by the Joint Area Committee under delegated powers may be subject to reconsideration by a constituent authority where it conflicts with agreed policies or budgets of that authority.
- The powers of the Joint Area Committee comprise:
  1. Determining priorities for the Local Highway Improvement Initiative, having regard to the budget available.
  2. Consider and advise on the need for traffic management, parking, regulation, cycle and pedestrian schemes of more than local significance, and the results of consultations, having regard to available resource.
  3. Advise the County Council and City Council on on-street and off-street parking charges.
  4. Advise on priorities for Section 106 funding for traffic management and other transport schemes
  5. Determining objections relating to Traffic Regulation Orders of significance, when referred by the relevant member or officer under the County Council's scheme of delegation.
  6. Resolving detailed design issues for traffic management proposals
- The Joint Area Committee will be made up of 12 members, comprising equal numbers from each constituent authority. Members to be appointed will be in a manner as deemed appropriate by the relevant authority in compliance with the law.
- The quorum of a meeting will be as follows:
  1. [3 ] members from Cambridgeshire County Council
  2. [3 ] members from Cambridge City Council
- The Committee to meet, in public, at least once a year and no more frequently than once every two months, and only if there is relevant business to discuss.
- The chairman/woman of the Committee to alternate between the two authorities on an annual basis, and to be elected by the members of the Committee.
- A vice-chairman/woman to be elected by the committee from the council that does not hold the chair.
- Every decision on an item on the agenda shall be taken by a vote. If there are

equal numbers of votes for and against, the Chairman will have a second or casting vote

- Administrative arrangements for the committee are to be shared between the two authorities
- The Committee will be open to the public to attend
- Members of the public will be permitted to speak at meetings in accordance with the County Council's procedures for speaking at Council meetings.
- All papers will be made available to the public and published on the Councils' websites and conform with both authorities Access to Information Rules.