



To: Councillor Lewis Herbert Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategy and Transformation

Report by: Chief Executive

Relevant scrutiny committee: Strategy & Resources  
23/1/2017  
Scrutiny Committee

Wards affected: Abbey Arbury Castle Cherry Hinton Coleridge East Chesterton King's Hedges Market Newnham Petersfield Queen Edith's Romsey Trumpington West Chesterton

## **PROGRESS UPDATE ON DEVOLUTION**

### **Not a Key Decision**

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#### **1. Executive summary**

- 1.1 In November 2016, Cambridge City Council and its partner authorities in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership all voted to agree the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Deal.
- 1.2 As part of Cambridge City Council's decision, it was agreed to bring a report to this committee on progress.
- 1.3 Since those decisions, Parliamentary processes have been initiated to formalise the establishment of the Mayoral Combined Authority, implement the governance arrangements, and prepare for Mayoral elections on 4 May 2017.
- 1.4 This report provides an update on those processes and progress towards implementation.

#### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Executive Councillor is recommended to report the contents of this report to the scrutiny committee and provide a verbal update on any additional information at the meeting.

- 2.2 That the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Lib Dem Group confirm their nominees to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Combined Authority which will be ratified by Council on 23 February.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 Cambridge City Council considered proposals for devolution in East Anglia on 23 March 2016. It rejected proposals to enter a Mayoral Combined Authority for Cambridgeshire, Peterborough, Norfolk and Suffolk, but committed to negotiate for a deal that better suited the needs of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 3.2 These negotiations led to a proposal for a devolution deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Following consideration by the Council on 27 June 2016, the Leader agreed the recommendation to consult the public on the proposals.
- 3.3 Following public consultation on the proposals, Council held an extraordinary meeting on 22 November 2016. At that meeting, both the Council and the Leader agreed to proceed with the devolution deal as proposed. The Leader also agreed that a report on progress towards implementation would be brought to this committee.
- 3.4 A further progress update will be given orally by the Leader at Full Council on 23 February 2017, with the opportunity for councillors to ask questions of the Leader at that point. This report may be published as a background paper to that item on the Council agenda.

### **4. Progress to date**

- 4.1 The next sections update the committee on the work which has taken place since the November Council meeting. The Leader and Chief Executive may provide further updates orally at the committee meeting.

### **Setting up the Combined Authority**

- 4.2 The final draft Parliamentary Order was laid in Parliament on 19 December 2016, and is due to be debated in Parliament during January 2017. This will enable the Mayoral election to be held on 4 May 2017, combined with County Council elections.
- 4.3 The Shadow Combined Authority met for the first time on 14 December 2016. At that meeting it made the following decisions:

1. Electing Councillor Steve Count (Cambs County Council) as chair,

2. Confirming members of the shadow combined authority as the seven local authorities and the GCGP Enterprise Partnership, with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group, Cambridgeshire Fire Authority and Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner as observers to the Combined Authority.
  3. Conferring voting rights to GCGP Enterprise partnership
  4. Appointing Cllrs John Holdich (Peterborough) and Robin Howe (Huntingdonshire) as vice chairs;
  5. Appointing interim statutory officers – Paul Medd (Fenland) as Chief Executive, Kim Sawyer (Peterborough) as Monitoring Officer and John Harrison (Peterborough) as Section 151 officer.
  6. Approving interim procedure rules
  7. Approving shadow overview and scrutiny arrangements
- 4.4 The process to recruit a permanent Chief Executive, has commenced, with appointments expected by the end of February/early March.
- 4.5 The Shadow Combined Authority will meet again on 31 January. If the Parliamentary order is approved, the Combined Authority will meet formally for the first time in February. At that meeting it will approve its constitution and formalise membership and appointments.

### **Overview and Scrutiny in the Combined Authority**

- 4.6 The Combined Authority (CA) will have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as reported to Council in November. The Shadow Board received a report seeking authority to set up a shadow overview and scrutiny committee to assist in the development of the Combined Authority, and in particular the scrutiny arrangements, and to agree the process for nominating to the committee. They also noted the proposal to appoint a scrutiny officer to support the Committee. It was proposed that it should have 14 members. The Committee needs to be politically proportionate across the CA area and each local authority will be invited to nominate two Councillors as laid out in appendix A to this report to achieve that political balance
- 4.7 The City Council's representatives will be nominated by the leaders of the Labour Group and Liberal Democrat Group and confirmed by Council on 23 February 2017.
- 4.8 Proposals for scrutiny of the City Council's representative on the Combined Authority will be brought to Civic Affairs Committee on 15 February 2017, as recommended in the report to Council on 22 November 2016.

- 4.9 The Combined Authority's detailed standing orders have not been determined at the time of writing this update report. It is anticipated that members of the public will be able to ask questions as part of the arrangements that will be put in place.

### **Combined Authority workstreams**

- 4.10 Officers from across the constituent councils and the GCGP Enterprise partnership have been working with nominated council Leaders to develop work plans across the topic areas covered by the deal. These are all at different stages of development and will report into the combined authority over coming months.

- 4.11 The GCGP Enterprise Partnership has commissioned work on an economic strategy that will provide the basis for Mayoral Combined Authority's economic plans and investments. That is currently anticipated to be ready for consideration by the time of the March meeting of the Combined Authority.

- 4.12 Work is also underway to consider how the Mayoral Combined Authority will relate to the Greater Cambridge City Deal, and to seek as much alignment and coherence in strategy and investment planning as possible between the City Deal, Combined Authority and LEP going forward.

### **Housing**

- 4.13 There two pots of housing money covered by the devolution deal £100m for the wider geography and £70m ring-fenced for Cambridge.

- 4.14 An officer-led Housing Task Force across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has been developing the business case for the £100m affordable housing fund. Meetings have been held every other week and the work of the group has been supplemented with input from specialist housing consultants. The aim is to get sign off of the draft business case by DCLG and Treasury Committee in February /March 2017. This is needed for the release of the £100m funds including draw down of an initial £20m of funding in the current financial year.

- 4.15 The £70m grant specifically for housing in Cambridge will be cross-referenced in the business case. Reports will be submitted to the Housing Scrutiny Committee in March 2017 on the first schemes to be brought forward under the programme, together with detail on the first two years of the five year programme. The legal agreement to form the Cambridge Investment Partnership, the Council's joint venture with Hill, has been signed and this will be the main delivery vehicle for the

investment of the £70m grant to provide 500 socially rented homes in Cambridge.

- 4.16 Alongside the development of the business case, ideas are also being developed about how the £100m and £70m fund and the associated development programme will be managed and monitored and how these arrangements will fit with the governance of the Combined Authority.

## 5. Implications

(a) **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications of this update report. The financial implications of the devolution deal were set out in reports to Council in November, listed as background papers to this report.

(b) **Staffing Implications** (if not covered in Consultations Section)

There are no direct staffing implications from this update report. In addition to the statutory officers who have been formally appointed, “in-kind” officer support is going into the combined authority from a range of officers across the constituent councils in this initial transition period, including from the city council.

(c) **Equality and Poverty Implications**

There are no equality and poverty implications of this update report. An EqIA has not, therefore, been produced for this report, but a Communities Impact Statement has been produced for the devolution deal more widely, as linked to the November Council report.

(d) **Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental implications of this update report.

(e) **Procurement**

There are no procurement implications of this update report.

(f) **Consultation and communication**

There is no consultation planned on the contents of this report. The Combined Authority will continue to issue communications around progress with the devolution deal as appropriate.

(g) **Community Safety**

There are no community safety implications of this update report.

## 6. Background papers

- 6.1 These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

[Council Report March](#)

[Council Report June](#)

[Council Report November](#)

Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements for the Shadow Combined Authority  
[\[Report to the Shadow Combined Authority 14 December 2016, agenda item 7\]](#)

## **7. Appendices**

Appendix A      Spreadsheet detailing political proportionality of scrutiny committee

## **8. Inspection of papers**

8.1    To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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