Combined Authority Board: Decision Summary

Meeting: Wednesday 26 July 2023 Published: Friday 28 July 2023

Decision Review deadline: Friday 4 August 2023



Any key decision/s set below will come into force and may be implemented after 5.00pm on the fifth clear working day after publication of the decision, unless they are called-in [see note on call in below], with the exception of any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

# 1 Announcements, Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lucy Nethsingha (Councillor Elisa Meschini substituting) and Darryl Preston (John Peach substituting).

There were no declarations of interest.

# 2 Combined Authority Membership Update July 2023

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Note the appointment by Peterborough City Council of Councillor Andy Coles as the member and Councillor Jackie Allen as the substitute on the Audit and Governance Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023-24.
- B Note the appointment by Cambridge City Council of Councillor Tim Griffin as the second representative on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023-24.
- C Note the temporary change to Cambridge City Council's substitute member on the Audit and Governance Committee from 6 June 2023 to 12 June 23
- D Note the appointment by Cambridgeshire County Council of Councillor Lorna Dupré on the Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023-24.
- E Note the appointment by Cambridgeshire County Council of Councillor Anna Bradnam as the Liberal Democrat substitute for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023-24.
- F Note the appointment by Peterborough City Council of Councillor Steve Allen as the substitute on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023-24.
- G Note the appointment by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority of Councillor Edna Murphy as their representative on the Combined Authority Board, with Councillor Mohammed Jamil as the substitute.
- H Note the temporary change to Peterborough City Council's substitute member on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 10 July 2023 to 15 July 2023.
- I Approve the appointment by the Mayor of Cllr Sarah Conboy to the position of Lead Member for Devolution.

# 3 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings on 31 May 2023 were approved as an accurate record and signed by the Mayor.

The minutes action log was noted, with an inaccuracy in action 235 to be updated.

### 4 Petitions

No petitions were received.

### 5 Public Questions

Three public questions were received in advance of the meeting in accordance with the procedure rules in the Constitution. A copy of the questions and responses can be viewed <a href="here">here</a> when available.

## 6 Forward Plan

It was resolved unanimously to:

A Approve the Forward Plan for July 2023

# 7 Combined Authority Chief Executive Highlights Report

It was resolved to:

A Note the contents of this report.

# 8 Budget Update Report

It was resolved by a majority to:

- A Note the fully year budget for the financial year 2023-24
- B Note the correction of the funding source for Skills provision in for the financial year 2023-24
- C Note the projected overachievement of Treasury loan interest for 23-24, and approve the allocation of £485k to address emerging pressures and strategic priorities as set out in section 6.

## 9 Procurement Review

It was resolved unanimously to:

- A Approve the Implementation of the high-level action plan as set out in Appendix 2 Action Plan
- B Approve the recruitment of the additional posts noted in the high-level action plan (2 procurement and contracts officers and 1 contract manager) and note that the costs of these posts can be covered from existing budgets in 2023-24 but will need to be built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2024-25 onwards.
- C Approve the Procurement Policy attached to this report
- D Approve the Procurement Strategy attached to this report
- E Approve the revised Contract Procedure Rules attached to this report and note the intent to maintain **the Guidance Document** as an Appendix to the main Constitution **subject to the Guidance document coming back to Board in September.**

## 10 Review of the Constitution

## 10a. Member Officer Protocol

It was resolved by a majority to:

- A Review the Member/Officer Protocol and comment on whether any further amendments are required.
- B Approve a yearly review of the protocol to be delegated to the Audit & Governance committee.
- C Authorise the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee to make any make any changes to the protocol arising from the review and any further changes deemed necessary.
- D Note the information regarding instances when members have had to be reminded of the Protocol and officer seeking advice on whether the protocol would apply.

# 10b. Appointment of Independent Members

It was resolved unanimously to defer this item to the September meeting of the Combined Authority Board.

# 10c. Greater South East Net Zero Hub Delegations [KD2023/033]

It was resolved unanimously to

A Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Resources and Performance and any replacement (or substitute) as set out in table 1, to make decisions on behalf of the Combined Authority when sitting on the Net Zero Hub Board(s).

# 11 Improvement Plan Update

It was resolved unanimously to

- A To note the progress on addressing the key areas of concern identified by the External Auditor in June 2022 and in the Best Value Notice received in January 2023
- B To note the observations on progress following the meeting of the Independent Improvement Board meeting on 17 July
- C To note the establishment of the Office for Local Government by the Department of Levelling up, Housing and Communities to oversee best value standards and intervention
- D To approve a further £250K of funding from the Programme Response Fund to ensure that the Improvement Programme can deliver the required actions to demonstrate required improvement to both DLUHC and the External Auditor
- E To note the feedback from the recent staff survey held in May 2023
- F To note the appointment of Chair, Independent Improvement Board

# 12 Corporate Performance Report – 2023/24 Baseline

It was resolved to:

- A Note working list of Corporate Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and approach
- B Consider progress of initial performance data, progress in delivery of most complex programmes, projects and activities.
- C Note progress to evaluate impact of the original Devolution Deal Investment Fund
- D Note plans to develop the Combined Authorities (CA's) Performance Management Framework (PMF)
- E Review and comment on the relevance and accessibility of the performance information presented in this report.

# 13 Shaping the Future

It was resolved unanimously to

- A To endorse the planned refresh of the previous Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Independent Economic Review (CPIER) evidence base to inform a new State of the Region Review and provide comment on the emerging areas outlined in para 2.6.
- B To endorse the co-development of a Shared Vision for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough as a Place and provide comment on the approach outlined in para 2.14 2.16.
- C To approve drawdown of £320k funding from the Programme Response Fund in the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), with £150k to deliver the State of the Region Review and £170k for the Shared Vision.
- D To note the alignment with the development of the Strategic Infrastructure Delivery Framework (SIDF) as agreed as the Environment & Sustainable Communities Committee on 12 June 2023.

# 14 Local Highways Capital Grant Allocations [KD2023/031]

It was resolved to note:

- A The Mayor's intention to allocate grants totalling £31,677,000 to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council in line with the Department for Transport formula for determining each council's share.
- B The Mayor's intention to allocate the Highways capital grants at the same rates to Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council for the two subsequent financial years.
- C Subject to a) the Mayor is recommended to allocate the grants as set out in the report.

# 15 Recommendations from the Skills and Employment Committee

It was resolved unanimously to approve all the recommendations as set out below:

Contract Awards to Independent Training Providers [KD2023/004]

- A approve contract awards for the Adult Education Budget, Free Courses for Jobs and Multiply to Independent Training Providers for the 2023/24 academic year.
- B delegate authority to the Assistant Director Skills in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to enter and sign contracts for services with the Independent Training Providers set out in this report and make in-year adjustments to contract values based on performance.
- C note the contract awards for Skills Bootcamps for the 2023/24 financial year.
- D allocate £1m of recycled funds from the AEB Reserve Fund to be released for the additional commissioning of Free Courses for Jobs (Level 3).

## Proposals for External Funding

A allocate £300,000 from the Local Innovation Fund from the 2023/24 Medium Term Financial Plan to be used as potential 'match-funding' for proposals.

AEB Local Innovation Fund Allocations 2023/24 [KD2023/028]

- A approve allocations from the Local Innovation Fund 2023-24 to the organisations listed in this report.
- B delegate authority to the Assistant Director Skills in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to enter and sign grant funding agreements with the organisations set out in this report.
- C delegate authority to the Assistant Director Skills in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, to procure, tender and award and sign a three-year contract for services for the ESOL Single Point of Contact (SPOC) following conclusion of procurement.

## 16 Recommendations from Environment and Sustainable Communities Committee

Community Homes Support

It was resolved by a majority to:

A discontinue providing a support service and further grant funding to community homes groups from 31 July 2023.

# 17 Recommendations from Transport and Infrastructure Committee

It was resolved unanimously to approve all the recommendations as set out below:

**Active Travel Update** 

A approve the drawdown of £55,485 subject to approval funding in the Medium-Term Financial Plan to approved budget, to enable the continuation of the Love to Ride behavioural change programme for a further year across the Combined Authority area

- and to drawdown £12,000 for Living Streets Walk to School Wow programme in Peterborough.
- B delegate authority to the Interim Head of Transport in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into Grant Funding Agreements with Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

# Regional Transport Model [KD2023/016]

A delegate authority to the Interim Head of Transport in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement for the Transport Model Project with Peterborough City Council.

# 18 Recommendations from Business Board

It was resolved unanimously to approve all the recommendations as set out below:

Business Board Plan for Remaining Strategic Funds [KD2023/029]

A Approve the proposed plan for allocating the Recycled Growth Funds and Enterprise Zone Income for 2023-24 and the following 3 financial years, subject to more detailed and costed business model being brought back to the Business Board.

Business Board Priority Sector Strategies [KD2023/031]

- A Approve the plan to create a 'New Economy' team using £1.15m revenue of recycled Growth Funds and Enterprise Zone income
- B Approve the release of the £1.15m subject to completion of the workplan for the new team resources
- C Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Growth in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer to utilise this financial year's funds to draw up a workplan, job descriptions and begin recruitment and make appointments of required resources.

## Rural England Prosperity Fund Implementation

- A Approve the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Addendum (Appendix 2)
- B Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Growth to approve in consultation with Local Authority partners, the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer, minor changes as set out in Appendix 1a and 1b.
- C Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Economy and Growth to approve the terms of Grant Funding Agreements associated with the delivery proposal (as set out in the REPF Addendum, Appendix 2) in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer.
- D As the Accountable Body, the Combined Authority shall ratify all grant funding decisions made by the four District Authority panels, which shall include a Combined Authority Officer, with regards to Rural England Prosperity Funds & that all payments will be retrospectively paid by the Combined Authority to successful grant applicants on receipt of valid evidence of payments being made and checks being completed by the District Authorities.

### Notes:

- a) Statements in **bold type** indicate additional resolutions made at the meeting.
- b) Five Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may call-in a key decision of the Mayor, the Combined Authority Board or an Officer for scrutiny by notifying the Monitoring Officer, except for any key decision on a matter dealt with under the special urgency provisions set out in the Constitution which may be implemented immediately.

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