

Public

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority: Membership and Other Appointments

Meeting/Date: Council – 17 May 2023

Executive Portfolio: Executive Leader

Report by: Interim Managing Director

Wards affected: All

Executive Summary:

Issue

This report requests the Council to make appointments to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2023/2024.

Recommendations

- 1. Members are requested to make the following appointments/nominations to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority for the municipal year 2023/24:**
 - (a) appoint the Leader of Council to act as the Council's appointee to the Combined Authority and one substitute member;**
 - (b) nominate two members from the relevant parties as indicated in Appendix 1 (one from the Conservative party and one from the Liberal Democrat party) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and two substitute members from the same political parties as those appointed;**
 - (c) nominate one member from the Conservative party as indicated in Appendix 2 to the Audit and Governance Committee and one substitute member from the same political party.**
- 2. That the Managing Director be authorised to make any amendments to the appointments to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Audit and Governance Committee in consultation with the Political**

Group Leaders, if the political balance is amended by the Combined Authority between now and the next Council meeting.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 In accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017, each Constituent Council must appoint one of its elected members and a substitute member to the Combined Authority. Each Council made these appointments at its respective Council meeting in May 2017 for the 2017/18 municipal year and is requested to do so for each subsequent municipal year. The Council is now asked to appoint members and substitute members for the municipal year 2023/24.

Non-Executive Committees

- 1.2 The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2016 requires the Combined Authority to establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and an Audit Committee. The Order sets out the rules for membership. The membership of the Overview and Scrutiny and the Audit Committees 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.
- 1.3 On 4 May 2023, there were local elections for the East Cambridgeshire District Council, Fenland District Council, Cambridge City Council and Peterborough City Council. The Combined Authority has reviewed the political balance on constituent councils and has requested constituent councils to make the following appointments to these committees.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 1.4 The Combined Authority agreed that to ensure an equitable representation across each constituent authority, two members from each council should be appointed to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee representing a total membership of fourteen members.
- 1.5 The implications of applying political proportionality to a fourteen member Overview and Scrutiny Committee are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 1.6 The Council is required to nominate two members (one from the Conservative party and one from the Liberal Democrat party) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023/24 based on the political balance set out in Appendix 1.

Audit and Governance Committee

- 1.7 The Combined Authority agreed to establish an Audit and Governance Committee consisting of seven constituent members: one member from each constituent council.
- 1.8 The implications of applying political proportionality to a seven member Audit and Governance Committee are detailed in Appendix 2. The Council is required to nominate one member from the Conservative party to the to sit on the Audit and Governance Committee for the municipal year 2023/24 based on the political balance set out in Appendix 2.

Substitute Members

- 1.9 The Combined Authority has agreed that substitute members should be appointed for each position on the Audit and Governance Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Any substitute members should come from the same party as the Member they are substituting for to maintain political balance.
- 1.10 For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, if constituent councils have appointed members from the same political parties, those Councils might only wish to appoint one substitute rather than two. The quorum set down in legislation is two thirds of the total membership. Therefore, it is preferable to appoint two members in case both members are absent from a meeting and need to substitute.

Conclusion

- 1.11 All appointments and nominations made by constituent councils will be reported to the Combined Authority's annual meeting on 31 May 2023.
- 1.12 The political balance calculations in the Appendices are based on up-to-date statistics given by constituent councils and take account of the outcome of the local elections that took place on the 4 May 2023. However, there may be last minute changes in the lead up to constituent councils' annual meetings and Combined Authority's annual meeting on 31st May 2023
- 1.13 If there are consequential changes to the overall political balance, the Combined Authority may need to review the membership and the allocation of seats to political parties on the above committees. The Monitoring Officer will advise constituent councils if any subsequent changes have been necessary, and whether any changes need to be made to their nominations.
- 1.14 If there is no provision in constituent council's standing orders, the Council may wish to consider giving delegated powers for the Managing Director to approve any consequential changes to these appointments in consultation with the relevant Party Group leaders.

2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / QUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 2.1 In accordance with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Order 2017, no remuneration is to be payable by the Combined Authority to its members.

3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 These are set out in the report. The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2016 requires a combined authority to ensure that the members of the committee taken as a whole reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the constituent councils when taken together.

4. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 – Overview and Scrutiny Committee Political Balance Calculations

Appendix 2 – Audit and Governance Committee Political Balance Calculations

Accessible versions of the appendices are available on request from Democratic.Services@cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Previous Annual Meetings of Council held in May each year.