

Public

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Protocol

Meeting/Date: Council – 22nd February 2017

Executive Portfolio: Councillor G J Bull – Deputy Leader

Report by: Elections and Democratic Services Manager

Ward(s) affected: All

Executive Summary:

This report is to consider proposed arrangements to allow the Council's appointee to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to provide a briefing report/update to each meeting of the Council outlining the activities and decisions of the Combined Authority.

Recommendations:

The Council is requested to consider the inclusion of a protocol to enable the Council's appointee to provide a briefing report/update to each meeting of the Council outlining the activities and decisions of the Combined Authority and to enable Councillors to ask questions for a response or comment on concerns or issues.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider proposed arrangements to allow the Council's appointee to the Combined Authority to provide a briefing report to each meeting of the Council outlining the activities and decisions of the Combined Authority.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Council at an extraordinary meeting on 16th November 2016 consented to the Secretary of State making an Order to establish the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and the Council being a constituent member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority with effect from the commencement date determined by the final Order.
- 2.2 The Executive Leader of the Council was nominated as the Council's appointee to the Combined Authority, with Councillor D Brown as the Council's substitute Member.

3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Provision currently exists in the Council's Constitution for questions by Members to the Executive Leader or other member of the Cabinet. Members then have an opportunity to ask questions without notice. If they wish to raise questions that require a more comprehensive detailed answer, they are asked to give advance notice so that the necessary information can be obtained in advance of the meeting.
- 3.2 In accordance with the Council's Constitution it is proposed to consider the inclusion of a protocol in line with the existing procedure for "Questions by Members", with a ten minute period for questions to the Executive Leader specifically on the activities and decisions of the Combined Authority.
- 3.3 A copy of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority protocol is attached at Appendix A.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 4.1 As the Council has agreed to become a constituent Member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, Members of the Council will have an opportunity to ask questions and comment on issues associated with decisions being taken by the Combined Authority.

5. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix A - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority Protocol

BACKGROUND PAPERS

District Council Constitution – March 2016

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**CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – ORAL
QUESTIONS AT DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Members will have an opportunity to ask questions and comment on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority issues at meetings of the District Council except extraordinary or special meetings of the Council and the first Annual meeting of the Council;
- The Council's appointee on the Combined Authority will prepare a short paper for inclusion on the Agenda setting out the activities and decisions of the Combined Authority;
- Councillors may ask questions for a response by the Council's appointee on the Combined Authority or simply comment on concerns or issues;
- If Members wish to raise questions or issues requiring a detailed response, it will usually be helpful if they give advance notice so that the necessary information can be obtained in advance of the meeting;
- The usual five minute time limit will apply to all speeches;
- The Chairman of the Council will exercise discretion over the amount of time allocated to the discussion of this item or the maximum time allowed for these questions and answers will be 10 minutes.