

Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority

Reports from Constituent Council Representatives on the Combined Authority

The following meetings have taken place in July and August 2023.

Skills and Employment Committee

Date 3 July 2023 Councillor Eileen Wilson Decision Summary Attached as appendix 1.

Transport and Infrastructure Committee

Date 12 July 2023 Councillor Peter McDonald Decision Summary Attached as appendix 2.

Audit and Governance Committee

Date 7 July 2023 Councillor Geoff Harvey Decision Summary Attached as appendix 3.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date 24 July 2023 Councillor Michael Atkins Decision Summary Attached as appendix 4.

Combined Authority Board

Date 26 July 2023 Councillor Bridget Smith Decision Summary Attached as appendix 5.

Skills and Employment Committee Decision Statement

Meeting:3 July 2023Agenda/Minutes:Skills and Employment Committee 3 July 2023Chair:Councillor Lucy Nethsingha

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting:

1 Announcements, Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Mr Patel, Cllr Benney, Cllr Carling, Cllr Wade and Cllr Ayres who was substituted by Cllr Allen.

No declarations of interest were made.

2 Minutes and Action Log

The minutes of the meeting on 5 June 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

Updates to the outstanding actions on the action log were given and noted by the Committee. The log would be amended to reflect the updates.

3 Public Questions

4

No public questions were received.

Employment and Skills Strategy Implementation Update

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS):

a) To note the progress of the Implementation of the Employment and Skills Strategy

5 District and Unitary Council Employment and Skills Profiles

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS):

- a) To note the District and Unitary Council Employment and Skills Profiles that have been compiled to inform strategy, policy, and strategic commissioning.
- b) To note a summary of CA commissioning and its alignment to addressing local need.
- c) To consider how well district and unitary council initiatives contribute to the wider Employment and Skills Strategy that all constituent councils have approved

6 AEB Local Fund Allocations 2022-23

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS):

- a) Recommend the Combined Authority Board approve allocations from the Local Innovation Fund 2023- 24 to the organisations listed in the report
- b) Recommend the Combined Authority Board delegates 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 the report.
- c) Recommend that the Combined Authority Board delegates 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

7 UK SPF – Skills Projects and Succession Planning for Skills Brokerage Service

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS):

- a) To receive further detail in relation to three Combined Authority wide UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) projects as identified within the published UKSPF Investment and Implementation plans Note the publication of the LSIP
- b) To endorse the outlined approach to developing a suitable vehicle for the collective delivery of the three projects.
- c) To note that the Assistant Director Skills in consultation with the Lead Member for Skills will identify and implement a best value delivery model in respect to the projects outlined within the proposal. This will include identification of the preferred delivery mechanism and development of strategic commissioning if appropriate.

8 Budget and Performance Report – July 2023

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS):

a) To note the full year budget for 2023/24.

9 Skills and Employment Committee Agenda Plan

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS):

a) That the Skills and Employment Committee Agenda Plan be noted.

10 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS) a) To remain in public session

11 Growth Works Management Update to Year 3, Q9 (to April 2023)

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS)

a) To note the Growth Works Programme Performance Update to Year 3, Quarter 9 (to April 2023)

12 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 4 September 2023

Transport and Infrastructure Committee Decision Statement

Meeting:12 July 2023Agenda/Minutes:Transport and Infrastructure Committee 12 July 2023Chair:Councillor Anna Smith

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting:

1 Announcements, Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies were received from Business Board Representatives Rebecca Stephens and Andy Williams, and also from Cllr McDonald.

Cllr Seaton declared an interest in item 4 on the agenda as he was a trustee of FACT Community Transport which was a charity that provided transport services to people who had difficulty using conventional modes of transport.

2 Minutes and Action Log

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS)

- a) That the minutes of the meeting of 14 June 2023 be approved as an accurate record subject to the following amendment:
 - That Cllr Seaton be added to the list of attendees as he was present for the meeting.
- b) That the Action Log be noted.

3 **Public Questions**

There were no public questions received.

4 Place and Connectivity Monthly Highlight Report – June 2023

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS):

a) That the Transport and Infrastructure Committee note the report.

5 The Combined Authority's proposed response to National Highways Strategic Road Network Initial Report (RIS3) Consultation

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS):

That the Transport and Infrastructure Committee

- a) provide feedback on and approve the Combined Authority's proposed strategic response to Government consultation on National Highways' Strategic Road Network initial report which includes future priorities for the next road period – Roads Investment Strategy 3 (RIS3).
- b) Delegate authority to the Interim Head of Transport, in consultation with the Chair of the Transport and Infrastructure Committee to refine and finalise the Combined Authority's response (as at Appendix 1) following feedback from the Committee and submit a response to National Highways.

6 **ITSO approved Contracts for English National Concessionary Travel Scheme (ENCTS)**

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS):

That the Transport and Infrastructure Committee

a) Note the content of the paper and offer feedback on the options proposed for the delivery of the contracts for HOPS and Smartcard Services.

7 Transport and Infrastructure Committee Agenda Plan

RESOLVED (UNANIMOUS):

a) That the Transport and Infrastructure Committee Agenda Plan be noted.

8 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 13 September 2023.

Audit and Governance Committee Decision Statement

Meeting:7 July 2023Agenda/Minutes:Audit and Governance Committee 7 July 2023Chair:John Pye (Chair and Independent Person)

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting:

ltem	Торіс	Decision [None of the decisions below are Key Decisions]
1.	Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest	Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Inskip, substituted by Cllr Caroline Shepherd. No disclosable interests were declared.
2.	Chair's Announcements	The Chair advised that the Adult Education Budget had been scheduled last on the agenda to accommodate the need to move into exempt session if required by the Committee and asked members if they wished to discuss the exempt information. The Committee agreed they did not wish to discuss the exempt information.
3.	Minutes and Action Log	The minutes of the meetings held on 9th June 2023 were approved as a correct record and the Action log noted. Under consideration of the Action Log the Executive Director for Resource and Performance provided an update on the resilience of the Finance team.
4.	Improvement Framework	The Committee received the report which provided the Audit and Governance Committee with an opportunity to review progress in June against the key areas of concern identified by the External Auditor in his letter dated June 2022 and February 2023, and the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in its letter dated January 2023.
		 The Committee RESOLVED: a) Note the progress made in June against stated areas of improvement identified by the External Auditor in June 2022 and Best Value Notice received in January 2023 as reported to the CA Board on 31 May 2023. b) Note the outcomes of the recent staff survey undertaken in March 2023 c) Note the confirmation of appointment of Chair, Independent Improvement Board.
5.	Corporate Risk Register	 The Committee received the report which provided a progress update on the refreshed risk register, risk dashboard and heat map. Committee RESOLVED: a) To note the refreshed Corporate Risk register report, risk dashboard and heat map. b) To note the procurement and implementation of corporate risk software. c) To note that a risk appetite session has been undertaken with the CA Corporate Management Team and a risk appetite statement drafted

6.	Internal Audit Action Tracker	 The Committee received the report which provided a progress update on the Internal Audit Action Tracker. Committee RESOLVED: a) To note the progress on the Internal Audit Action Tracker, June 2023. b) To note the procurement and implementation of corporate risk / internal audit software to track internal audit actions
7.	Proposed Changes to Constitution following Procurement Review	 The Committee received and agreed the report which requested that the A&G Committee recommend to the Combined Authority Board to a) approve the changes to the Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's) within the constitution which is to be discussed and approved at Board on 26 July 2023. b) Recommend to the Combined Authority Board to approve the Procurement Strategy and Procurement policy document which is to be discussed and approved at Board on 26 July 2023.
8.	Treasury Management Outturn Report	The Committee received and noted the report which requested them to review the actual performance to 31st March 2023 against the prudential indicators included within the Treasury Management and Capital Strategies
9.	Draft Accounts 22/23	The Committee received and noted the report which requested the Audit and Governance Committee to note the draft Annual Governance Statement and Statement of Accounts for the 2022/23 financial year.
10.	Member Officer Protocol Report	 The Committee received the report which requested they review the Member/Officer Relations' Protocol. The Committee RESOLVED: a) The updated protocol incorporating the changes suggested by the Committee be presented to the CA Board for approval with a covering report which would highlight the strong feeling of the Committee in regard to breaches of the code. b) A further report be provided to the A&G Committee in September which would place the protocol into context and provide a background to the CPCA, the challenges and actions taken to address these.
11.	Co-Option of Independent Members	 The Committee RESOLVED: a) review the suggested update to the Combined Authority constitution and to provide recommendations to the Board to adopt the proposed changes as revisions to the Constitution, so that a co-opted independent member and substitute from constituent authorities can be appointed. b) recommend to the Combined Authority Board to delegate the recruitment, selection and appointment of an independent co-opted member(s) to the Audit and Governance Committee and that the arrangements for the selection of such members be delegated by the Audit & Governance Committee in consultation with the Monitoring officer. c) Agree that the role of any independent co-opted member(s) from a constituent authority is not remunerated but note that they will receive expenses in line with the authority's current

		 expenses policy, and note that if the Committee decides to co- opt an independent member from outside a constituent council through an open advertisement in the future then such a role would be subject to a review of potential remuneration by the Independent Remuneration Panel. d) Approve the proposed process for recruitment.
		After Action The paper intended for the July CA Board was withdrawn after discussion between the Chair, the Executive Director for Resource & Performance, and the Monitoring Officer, and offline agreement of the Committee. Two separate papers will be brought to the September Meeting addressing a co-opted Independent councillor and an Independent Person.
12.	Work Programme	 The Committee RESOLVED: a) Approve the draft work programme b) Add a development session as discussed earlier in the meeting on how to scrutinise the draft accounts effectively.
13.	Date and Time of Next Meetings	Friday 7th July 2023 Venue: Pathfinder House, Huntingdon
14.	Adult Education Budget Report	The Committee received and noted the report which updated the Audit & Governance Committee of the results of Funding Assurance Audits which had taken place in relation to funding received in the 2021/22 academic year.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Decision Statement

Meeting:24 July 2023Agenda/Minutes:Overview and Scrutiny Committee 24 July 2023Chair:Councillor Andy Coles (Vice Chair)

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting:

Item	Торіс	Decision [None of the decisions below are Key Decisions]
1.	Apologies for Absence	Apologies received from Cllr Atkins, substituted by Cllr Bradnam, Cllr Goldsack substituted by Cllr Count, Cllr Cane substituted by Cllr Shepherd, Cllr Neish substituted by Cllr Corney, Cllr Haseeb substituted by Cllr Bi and Cllr Van de Weyer substituted by Cllr Fane who has been temporarily appointed as substitute to the Committee for this meeting.
2.	Declarations of Interest	No declarations of interest were made.
3.	Public Questions	There were no public questions
4.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting and Action Log	 RESOLVED a) The minutes be amended at 9.3 to state that the strategy was welcomed but was somewhat wordy and members would welcome a succinct summary be provided at the commencement of the paper. b) That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2023 be approved as a correct record and that the Action Log be noted.
5.	Improvement Framework Report	 The Committee received the report which set out for the Overview and Scrutiny the progress made on identified areas of improvement and provided an update on the procurement review which had been undertaken by PWC. The Committee RESOLVED:- a) To note the report b) To recommended to the CA Board that Best Value is made more implicit within the policy and that a codicil to that effect is presented to the CA Board for them to approve at their meeting on the 26th July 2023.
6.	Implementing the Scrutiny Function	 RESOLVED: a) to note the progress made in implementing the recommendations agreed on 19 June 2023 to deliver new Overview & Scrutiny arrangements b) defer nominating and appointing members to rapporteur roles for Thematic Committees until the informal session on the 30th August with the appointments made on this date to be ratified at the September meeting. c) approve the draft work programme for 2023/24 attached at Appendix 2.

7.	Access to Information	The Committee received the report which presented the Access to Information Protocol and requested its feedback, endorsement and comments before it is presented to the Combined Authority Board to approve. RESOLVED:- a) Not to endorse the Access to Information Protocol and request that an alternative protocol be brought back to a later meeting for the members to consider.
8.	Combined Authority Forward Plan	The Committee had agreed to defer the appointment of Lead Rapporteurs and therefore there was no member update.
9.	CA Board Agenda	The Committee submitted no questions to the CA Board and AGREED that in future to enable the CA Board item to be more effective that the Chair and Vice Chair would identify an item from the Board agenda which could be scrutinised in greater detail by the Committee
10.	Date of next meeting	 Informal O&S meeting – 30th August 2023 Time TBC Venue – Virtual via Teams Microsoft. Public OSC meeting - Monday 18th September at 11am. Venue: 1am at Bourges Viersen Rooms, Town Hall, Peterborough PE1 1HF

Combined Authority Board Decision Statement

Meeting:26 July 2023Agenda/Minutes:CA Board 26 July 2023Chair:Mayor Dr Nik Johnson

Summary of decisions taken at this meeting:

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 <u>here</u> 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
- a. 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.
- b. Appointment of Independent Members

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

c. 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.