



Cambridgeshire
County Council



ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

Report To: Corporate Governance Committee
Lead Officer: Executive Director

3 September 2014

Greater Cambridge City Deal Governance: Establishment of Joint Committee

Purpose

1. To consider proposals to establish an integrated governance framework for the Greater Cambridge City Deal.
2. This is not a key decision; the report is for information.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the Committee:
 - (a) Note the report and
 - (b) Consider any recommendations for Cabinet's consideration of this matter

Reasons for Recommendations

4. The report and appendices set out the draft governance arrangements for the City Deal. They have been brought forward at this stage to allow members of the Committee to have an early engagement with the emerging issues well in advance of the formal decision making process later in the autumn.

Background

5. The Greater Cambridge City Deal document (**Appendix A**) was signed on 19 June 2014 on behalf of all five local partners (Cambridgeshire County Council, Cambridge City Council, South Cambridgeshire District Council, the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership and the University of Cambridge) and Government.
6. The Greater Cambridge City Deal is underpinned by a commitment to deliver transformative economic benefits through investment in infrastructure and through a collaborative governance framework, featuring an Executive Board that brings together the partner organisations (the Council, Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, University of Cambridge and Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Enterprise Partnership) and a wider Assembly. An effective and efficient governance structure is recognised in the deal document as key to the delivery of the infrastructure programme and to planning effectively for future growth.

Considerations

7. It is envisaged that the governance framework will consist of a five person Executive Board, supported by a 15 person Assembly that comprises of a mix of elected Members and wider stakeholders. The Assembly is envisaged to perform an advisory function in support of the work of the Executive Board, which is expected to

be the decision-making body for those issues within the remit of the governance framework.

8. Partners have expressed a preference for the creation of a Combined Authority, however legislation governing Combined Authorities will need to be amended if such a body is to be created in this area. An initial consultation was undertaken on potential changes to this legislation earlier this year, to which the partners submitted a combined response. It is unclear at this point when changes to legislation can be expected to be proposed by Government.
9. In the interim period, before a Combined Authority can be established, the partners have committed to set up a Joint Committee to drive greater coordination and closer working.
10. The final decision on the establishment of the City Deal governance framework will be made by Full Council on 27 November 2014, subject to the Committee's comments and the approval of Cabinet. Similar processes are currently being followed within Cambridge City Council and the County Council.

Executive Board

11. Terms of Reference for the Executive Board are attached at **Appendix B**. The Committee is invited to comment on the Terms of Reference for the Executive Board.
12. The Executive Board is expected to consist of one representative from each of the five partner organisations, with each organisation determining its own representative. It is proposed that the Leader of the Council should be appointed to represent the Council on the Executive Board. The Committee's views are sought on this proposal.
13. Each partner organisation will also need to appoint a named substitute representative who may act in all respects as a voting member of the Executive Board in the absence of the voting member appointed. The Committee's views are sought on this proposal.
14. Due to restrictions in legislation governing Local Authority Joint Committees, it is anticipated that the three Local Authority representatives on the Executive Board would hold voting powers, whilst the representatives of the University of Cambridge and Local Enterprise Partnership (who would be co-opted) would act as non-voting members. The Local Authority representatives would commit through the Terms of Reference to act with due regard to the opinions of those representatives.
15. Where possible, it is expected that the Executive Board would operate on the basis of consensus to ensure that decisions taken have the backing of Members across the city-region. It is recognised that this may not always be possible, and this is addressed in the Terms of Reference.

Assembly

16. It is anticipated that the Assembly will play an advisory role, acting as a forum for discussion with a wider range of stakeholders, with the relationship between the Executive Board and Assembly being flexible enough for the Executive Board to determine what issues should be taken to the Assembly and when.
17. The most appropriate structure for the Assembly to be constituted as, in order to fulfil its advisory role, is a forum convened by the Executive Board, which is relatively

loosely defined in order to allow it to be utilised to maximum effectiveness in supporting decision-making.

18. Draft Terms of Reference for the Assembly are set out at **Appendix C**. The Committee is invited to comment on the Terms of Reference for the Assembly.
19. It is proposed that the Assembly consist of 15 representatives, with three nominated by each partner organisation. The representatives nominated by each Council will need to be drawn from within that organisation, however that requirement does not exist for the representatives of the University of Cambridge and Local Enterprise Partnership.

Strategic spatial/transport planning

20. Throughout the deal process there has been a shared desire amongst the partner organisations to integrate more closely the Councils' responsibilities relating to strategic spatial and transport planning. Through the deal document we have committed to formalise the existing good joint working arrangements as part of the move towards a Combined Authority structure. It should be noted that the emerging Local Plans for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire have not yet been adopted.
21. The most effective means by which this integration could be achieved would be to merge the statutory Local Plan-making responsibilities of Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council with the County Council's transport strategy powers relating to the city-region to form a single Growth Plan when the Local Plans are next reviewed – and we have committed to begin an early review in 2019 to take into account the changed circumstances arising from substantial City Deal investment.
22. As it stands the only means by which this could be done would be through the formation of a Section 29 Committee, which would require a parliamentary process to establish and revoke. However, there is unlikely to be a workload for such a body at this point in time, and the requirement to form a Section 29 Committee would be expected to be superseded by the creation of a Combined Authority. No action is therefore proposed at this time, but in coming years it may prove necessary to propose such action.
23. The Chairman of the Committee together with the Executive Director have prepared a summary presentation at **Appendix D** to allow the Committee's consideration to be focussed on the key emerging issues.

Options

Executive Board Terms of Reference

24. The Committee could agree to the Terms of Reference for the Executive Board as attached at **Appendix B**. Alternatively, it could recommend changes to the Terms of Reference, which would need to be discussed between the partner organisations before being taken to the relevant committees in the coming months.

Executive Board representation

25. The Committee could agree the proposal that the Leader of the Council be appointed to represent the Council on the Executive Board. It could alternatively offer a different

proposal for the most appropriate representative, which would be taken into account when the final decision is made.

Assembly Terms of Reference

26. The Committee could agree to the Terms of Reference for the Assembly as attached at **Appendix C**. Alternatively, it could recommend changes to the Terms of Reference, which would need to be discussed between the partner organisations before being taken to the relevant committees in the coming months.

Implications

27. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Legal

28. The chief legal officers from each of the three Councils have played an active role in developing the draft terms of reference attached at **Appendices B and C**.

Consultation responses (including from the Youth Council)

29. This report sets out the emerging issues relating to the Governance Issues for the Greater Cambridge City Deal. No consultation has taken place at this point in the process although this report and appendices will form a useful

Effect on Strategic Aims

30. The Greater Cambridge City Deal is wholly aligned with the Council's Long Term Vision.

Background Papers

Greater Cambridge City Deal document

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/city-deals-greater-cambridge>

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