

REPORT TO: Council
LEAD OFFICER: Interim Chief Executive

26 January 2017

Appointment of Two Councillors to the Scrutiny Committee of the Combined Authority

Purpose

1. This report requests the Council to appoint two representatives to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.
2. Appointments to Committees are not key decisions and so this was not published in the Forward Plan.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that Council

Appoint two members (one from the Liberal Democrat Group and one from Conservative Group) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority.

Background

4. The Council at its Special Meeting on 17 November agreed to being a constituent member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. This includes a requirement under the draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Devolution Order 2016 (Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Ref: 17 November 2016 Appendix 1B) to establish an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The scrutiny arrangements were summarised in that Council report (Ref: Appendix 1C).
5. The composition of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must reflect the political balance across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. To ensure an equitable representation across each constituent authority, two members from each Council will be appointed to the Committee representing a total membership of fourteen members.
6. The implications of applying political proportionality to a fourteen member Overview and Scrutiny Committee are detailed in **Appendix 1**. The Council is required to appoint two members, one from the Labour Group and one from the Conservative Group. Although the formal Combined Authority will not be established until the end of February or early March, the appointment of members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will enable them to begin discussions on the practical arrangements for the scrutiny of the Combined Authority.

Implications

7. The Combined Authority will not have a Member Allowance Scheme. Any expenses for out of borough travel and subsistence can be claimed under the Council's Member Allowance Scheme.

8. The Draft Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2016 currently before Parliament states, “The combined authority must (a) appoint such a number of members of each of the constituent councils to an overview and scrutiny committee, so 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”. This means that the Scrutiny Committee must be politically balanced based upon the membership of political parties within the Councils across the county.

Background Papers

None

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