



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Executive

**Date:** 06 February 2017

## **DEVOLUTION UPDATE**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (“the Board”) on the current status of devolution in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is recommended to note this report.

### **3. Creation of a shadow Combined Authority**

3.1 In May 2015, the Government announced its intention to bring forward legislation to support the English devolution process. The Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016 made provision for further devolution of powers within England. Devolution is the granting of powers and funding from Central Government to local areas. It enables decision-making and resources to be managed locally. It involves the creation of a new Combined Authority, chaired by a Directly Elected Mayor.

3.2 In November 2016, the various councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough voted to support a devolution deal for the county. A Combined Authority Shadow Board has been created until 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The board consists of eight members with voting rights comprising the leaders of the councils and the chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership. There are three observer members with speaking rights including the Police and Crime Commissioner, the chair of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire and Rescue Authority and a member from the Clinical Commissioning Group. The Combined Authority also has the right to co-opt additional non-voting representatives when needed.

### **4. Community Safety and Devolution**

- 4.1 In November 2016, the devolution deal was signed off. For Community Safety this set out that:

“68. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough recognise the need to meet our communities’ desire for increased visibility and responsiveness of public services to day to day community safety (such as parking, speeding, anti-social behaviour, fly-tipping). This is alongside addressing the rising needs of the most vulnerable (such as the frail elderly, victims of domestic violence or child sexual exploitation).

69. Good progress has been made by local partners to integrate our frontline response to the most vulnerable, including the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub, Victim and Witness Hub, Troubled Families programme, and safe and well visits between the fire service and adult social care, linked to wider blue light collaboration. We will continue to join up our approach and explore how we can integrate our response to the root causes of vulnerability.

70. Working with Government the Combined Authority will explore the potential development of a more integrated pathway of service delivery to address the causes of offending behaviour early, before escalation that requires more costly interventions, with the aim of reducing the use of courts and prisons. Government will support this approach by working with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to explore possible integration and early interventions.

71. In addition to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough’s participation in the GPS pilot, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will work with Government to strengthen their role in commissioning of offender management services and explore the potential for a more integrated approach to criminal justice in the area.”

- 4.2 The formation of the Combined Authority provides an opportunity to ensure a more effective and efficient system for residents of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, with clear priorities around housing, skills and employment and including community safety.
- 4.3 Preliminary work has started an assessment of the current partnership landscape and how this can be streamlined using existing statutory requirements and statutory boards/groups in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough including the Safeguarding Boards, Health and Wellbeing Board and Countywide Community Safety board and Community Safety Partnerships, while improving outcomes.
- 4.3 Discussions between the OPCC with the Ministry of Justice and the Home Office in December and January have highlighted the opportunities within the current devolution deal around co-design and co-commissioning of criminal justice services and funding approaches.

## **5. Timeline**

- 5.1 Mayoral elections will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017, with the shadow Combined Authority Chairs and Vice chairs appointed till 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017

## **6. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note this report.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Source Document(s)</b> | <b>Shadow Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority meeting papers. 14<sup>th</sup> December 2016.</b><br><a href="https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/527/Committee/40/Default.aspx">https://cmis.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ccc_live/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/527/Committee/40/Default.aspx</a><br><b>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution proposal.</b><br><a href="https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/devolution">https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/devolution</a> |
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