

## REPORT TO CABINET

<b>Open</b>		Would any decisions proposed :		
<b>Any especially affected Wards</b>	Operational	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide	YES/NO	
		Need to be recommendations to Council	YES/NO	
		Is it a Key Decision	YES/NO	
Lead Member: Cllr Graham Middleton E-mail: cllr.graham.middleton@west-norfolk.gov.uk		Other Cabinet Members consulted: Cllr Brian Long		
Lead Officer: Ray Harding E-mail: ray.harding@west-norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial:		Other Members consulted:		
		Other Officers consulted: Management Team		
Financial Implications	Policy/Personnel Implications	Statutory Implications	Equal Impact Assessment	Risk Management Implications
NO	YES	NO	NO	NO

Date of meeting: 6 August 2019

### **STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT – CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY**

#### **Summary**

This report proposes the establishment of a Strategic Partnership Agreement between the borough council and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). The agreement whilst at a high level commits both parties to work together for mutual benefit on strategic issues with a 'cross border' dimension such as investment in key road and rail infrastructure (A47, A10, King's Cross to King's Lynn rail) and on skills development.

This agreement seeks to build on existing partnership working to share information, data and evidence and to develop a coordinated approach to the Local Growth Fund.

Regular meetings will be held and where appropriate a joint funding approach may be taken, also in conjunction where possible with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP).

Joint approaches to government may also be taken forward, for example with regards to funding for major infrastructure investment.

#### **Recommendation**

Cabinet is recommended to endorse and sign up to the Strategic Partnership Agreement attached at Appendix 1.

#### **Reason for Decision**

To ensure that the borough council and the CPCA establish a firm strategic

basis for mutually beneficial joint working.

## **1 Background**

- 1.1 The borough council was formerly a member of both New Anglia and Cambridge Peterborough LEPs. A government sponsored review determined that councils could in future only be in one LEP and this council agreed to withdraw from the Cambridgeshire/Peterborough LEP at the Cabinet meeting of 18 September 2018.
- 1.2 However, government also stipulated that, where such changes occurred, cross border cooperation agreements should be put into place. This borough has many issues of mutual beneficial interest with the CPCA such as the A47, A10, rail connections to Cambridge and London, the College of West Anglia has sites in both areas, the skills agenda, housing markets, commuting travel to work areas all across the administrative boundaries.
- 1.3 The borough council is also able to put forward funding proposals to the CPCA's LEP Growth Fund until all of the money is allocated. It is therefore considered to be beneficial for the borough as a whole to develop this relationship.

## **2 Options Considered**

- 2.1 There are really only two options – either to establish a strategic partnership agreement with the CPCA or not to do so.

## **3 Policy Implications**

- 3.1 This proposal would continue the principles of past joint working with the Cambridgeshire authorities.

## **4 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications pertaining to this report.

## **5 Personnel Implications**

- 5.1 There are no personnel implications

## **6 Statutory Considerations**

- 6.1 There are no statutory considerations.

## **7 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 7.1 N/A

## **8 Risk Management Implications**

- 8.1 The only real risk identifiable is to not proceed with this proposal as this would result in greater difficulties arising in achieving effective and impactful joint work on key strategic projects are programmes.

## **9 Declarations of Interest / Dispensations Granted**

- 9.1 None.

## **10 Background Papers**

Cabinet report 18/9/18