

COMBINED AUTHORITY MEETING

31 May 2024

COMBINED AUTHORITY GOVERNANCE

Report of the Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To consider an update of some of the governance arrangements of the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That the Combined Authority approves the amendment to Part 9 of the Constitution, namely the inclusion of 2 additional delegations, as set out in paragraph 4.2 of this report.

2.2 That the Combined Authority considers whether to continue to permit the webcasting and public participation of Combined Authority Meetings with immediate effect and the extension of webcasting and public participation to all public Meetings of the Combined Authority, subject to the availability of webcasting equipment and staff. Approval for the Interim Monitoring Officer to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution to facilitate this.

2.3 That the Combined Authority approves an allowance to the Independent Remuneration Panel Members in the sum of £500 per annum per Panel Member (£250 per annum pro rata where necessary), in addition to reasonable expenses incurred by the Panel Members.

3.0 Background

3.1 This report provides an update on the governance arrangements since the inception of the York and Combined Authority in December 2023 and the first Meeting of the Combined Authority in January 2024.

4.0 Constitution

4.1 The Combined Authority will recall that at their Meeting on 22 January 2024, the Constitution of the Combined Authority was approved, with amendments being approved in March 2024. Further amendments have been approved by the Interim Monitoring Officer under the urgency provisions of the Combined Authority in order to ensure a smooth transition into the Combined Authority of the former Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

4.2 A subsequent amendment has been identified as being necessary in order to ensure the safe and legal operation of the Combined Authority. The proposed amendment consists of two further Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Function delegations within Part 9 of the Constitution (PCC & FRA Functions – Governance Documents). The proposed additional delegations are set out below:

Ref	Function	Restrictions / conditions	Consultation requirements	Delegation	Sub-Delegation
59	Vetting decisions in respect of the Chief Constable (in accordance with prevailing College of Policing Guidance)			Monitoring Officer	Corporate Director for the Office of Police, Fire and Crime Deputy Monitoring Officer
60	Vetting Decisions in respect of staff within the OPFCC			Monitoring Officer	Corporate Director for the Office of Police, Fire and Crime Deputy Monitoring Officer

4.3 The Combined Authority are asked to consider whether to make this subsequent amendment to Part 9 of the Constitution. A link to the full Constitution can be found below.

4.4 The Combined Authority will also recall that at the January 2024 Meeting they resolved that Combined Authority Meetings would be webcast and also that public participation would be allowed under the Chair’s discretion until a Mayor was elected. The Constitution currently permits webcasting for Combined Authority Meetings, therefore, should the Combined Authority agree to continuing webcasting of Meetings, then consideration should be given as to whether all Meetings (i.e. Combined Authority, Overview and Scrutiny, Audit and Governance Meetings) held in public should be webcast. This would be subject to the availability of equipment and staff in order to facilitate webcasting of all Meetings, as this service is currently provided to the Combined Authority by City of York and North Yorkshire Councils. The same consideration will need to be given by the Combined Authority around public participation, which will also require an amendment to the Constitution.

5.0 Independent Remuneration Panel Allowance

5.1 The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2023 provides that the Combined Authority may pay the expenses incurred by the Independent

Remuneration Panel established, in order to carry out its functions and that the Combined Authority may pay the members of the Panel such allowances or expenses as the Combined authority may determine.

5.2 The Independent Remuneration Panel have undertaken work recently in two phases, making recommendations in respect of the Mayor's allowance and more recently in respect of the Deputy Mayor, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and Independent Member/Person appointments, with further work anticipated within the next 12 months, in the form of a review of all allowances.

5.3 In view of the time spent by the Panel in undertaking these reviews, it is recommended that an allowance is paid to each Panel Member for work undertaken, such allowance, to be set at £500 per annum per Member. This is the median allowance paid by each of the Constituent Authorities to their Panel Members. One Member has undertaken part of the review, therefore, it is recommended that £250 is paid to this Member. This allowance would be in addition to expenses incurred (i.e. travel costs for in person meetings).

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 This report sets out an update to the existing governance arrangements and notes any allowances that may be paid to Members, including Independent Remuneration Panel Members.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 The legal implications of any amendments to the Constitution or other related governance arrangements are contained within the body of this report.

8.0 Equalities Implications

8.1 Any Constitution specific equalities implications are contained within the document.

9.0 Environmental Implications

9.1 The environmental including climate change implications of creating the Combined Authority and obtaining additional funding and powers under the Devolution Deal have been considered in previous reports to the constituent authorities. This report looks purely at the governance arrangements for the Combined Authority.

10.0 Combined Authority Areas Impacted (Council Areas/Wards/Divisions)

10.1 York and North Yorkshire Council areas.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 That the Combined Authority approves the amendment to Part 9 of the Constitution, namely the inclusion of 2 additional delegations, as set out in paragraph 4.2 of this report.

- 11.2 That the Combined Authority considers whether to continue to permit the webcasting and public participation of Combined Authority Meetings with immediate effect and the extension of webcasting and public participation to all public Meetings of the Combined Authority, .subject to the availability of webcasting equipment and staff. Approval for the Interim Monitoring Officer to make any necessary amendments to the Constitution to facilitate this.
- 11.3 That the Combined Authority approves an allowance to the Independent Remuneration Panel Members in the sum of £500 per annum per Panel Member (£250 per annum pro rata where necessary), in addition to reasonable expenses incurred by the Panel Members.

12.0 Reasons For Recommendations

12.1 To ensure that the York and North Yorkshire Combined authority has a governance framework to facilitate continuance of its operation in accordance with any legal requirements.

13.0 Contact Details

For further information please contact the authors of this Report.

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Background papers - [240507-YNCA-Constitution.pdf \(yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.yorknorthyorks-ca.gov.uk/240507-YNCA-Constitution.pdf)

Appendices – None