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**Report to:** Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

**Date:** 21 November 2019

**Subject:** **Governance Report**

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## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To inform Members of a change in the local authority membership of the Board.
- 1.2 To receive and consider the recommendation from the Appointments Panel to appoint a new private sector LEP Board member.
- 1.3 To recommend minor changes in the private sector membership of two LEP Panels be adopted by the Combined Authority at its next meeting.

## 2. Information

### Local Authority membership

- 2.1 Councillor Box, Leader of the Council of the City of Wakefield has announced that he will be stepping down as Leader with effect from 30 November. The Board will be updated verbally on any changes to the Board membership as a consequence of this change.

### Private sector membership

- 2.2 In July 2018 Government published its review of LEPs (*Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*) to set out its future requirements on leadership and organisational capacity; accountability and performance, and geography.
- 2.3 The LEP submitted its implementation plan in October 2018, showing the steps it would take to ensure it meets the requirements, thereby putting the City Region in a strong position to secure further funding and powers and use them effectively to benefit local businesses and communities.
- 2.4 By spring 2020, the LEP arrangements in the City Region must include a LEP Board where: at least two-thirds of members come from the private sector, at least a third of members are women, and the Board otherwise reflects the diversity of the City Region.

- 2.5 At the June 2019 meeting the Board approved a recommendation that the Combined Authority's Managing Director be given delegated authority to commence recruitment in accordance with the LEP Board's Recruitment Procedure and to take such associated actions as are necessary to meet the Government's compliance requirements within their imposed deadlines.
- 2.6 During the summer, informal discussions with Government officials highlighted the need for an in year movement of Board composition to work towards a more diverse representation and therefore an imperative for the LEP to act now in order that LEP arrangements in the City Region meet Government's requirements.
- 2.7 Consequently, a LEP Board private sector Member recruitment exercise has been underway since September 2019. This was an open and transparent process, consistent with the LCR Assurance Framework and with due regard to the LEP Board's Diversity and Equality Policy. The imminent timing of this meant it was required in addition to a proposed recruitment process which will be considered in the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships item to be considered at the meeting.
- 2.8 The opportunity was promoted via an online recruitment pack and shared via numerous digital channels and networks throughout October 2019.
- 2.9 Response to the recruitment was very encouraging, with applicants from a range of sectors, backgrounds, geography and experience.
- 2.10 Shortlisted candidates have been invited to attend an interview with the Appointments Panel in mid-November. The Appointments Panel consists of the LEP Chair, a local authority representative, LEP Diversity Champion (a private sector Board Member) and an officer of the Combined Authority.
- 2.11 Following the conclusion of the interview process, the recommendation from the Appointments Panel will be shared with Members of the Board at the meeting for the Board's consideration.

#### Panel Membership change

- 2.12 The LEP Constitution provides that the Combined Authority may appoint any member of the LEP Board to be a member of a Combined Authority panel or committee.
- 2.13 Nicola Greenan, a private sector LEP Board Member, currently sits on the Business, Innovation & Growth Panel (BIG) as well as the Inclusive Growth & Public Policy Panel (IGPPP). The Board is asked to recommend that Nicola Greenan's membership on the IGPPP ceases and membership of the Place Panel commences simultaneously, and that the recommendation be taken forward for adoption by the Combined Authority at its next meeting.

### **3. Financial Implications**

3.1 None

### **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 Should the LEP Board not take the steps outlined in the report, there is an increased risk that the City Region's future LEP arrangements will not fully comply with Government's requirements. That means future funding and powers could be jeopardised.

### **5. Staffing Implications**

5.1 None

### **6. External Consultees**

6.1 None

### **7. Recommendations**

7.1 That the LEP Board:

- Note any change in the local authority membership of the Board as advised at the meeting.
- Consider the recommendation of the Appointments Panel.
- Recommend that the changes to the private sector membership of the Combined Authority Panels, set out in paragraph 2.13 above, be adopted by the Combined Authority at its next meeting.

### **8. Background Documents**

8.1 None

### **9. Appendices**

9.1 None