

Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 10 December 2020

Subject: **Governance Arrangements**

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Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	N/A

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To consider nominations received from the LEP Board for the appointment of three LEP Board private sector representatives to the Combined Authority advisory committees (panels) as detailed in this report.
- 1.2 To receive the recommendations in **Appendix 1** in relation to private sector representatives of the Combined Authority advisory committees (panels).
- 1.3 To note ongoing work by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for future reforms to the overview and scrutiny function.
- 1.4 To consider a request to authorise the Head of Legal & Governance Services to convene an Independent Remuneration Panel to advise the Combined Authority on the level of allowance for a future Mayor.

2. Information

Advisory Panel Membership

- 2.1 The Combined Authority currently appoints a number of advisory committees (panels) which advise both the Combined Authority and the LEP.

2.2 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.

2.3 At its meeting on 3 September, the LEP Board considered a number of expressions of interest from new LEP Board members who wished to join the Authority’s panels. As a consequence, the Board agreed to make the following nominations to the Combined Authority for membership of the panels:

Board Member:	Organisation/ Sector	Proposed panel appointment:	Proposed term of office
Helen Featherstone	Yorkshire Sculpture Park / Culture	Place Panel	to 31/12/2023
Kamran Rashid	30 Chapel Street / Third Sector	Inclusive Growth & Public Policy Panel	to 31/12/2023
Kully Thiarai	Leeds 2023 / Culture	Inclusive Growth & Public Policy Panel	to 31/12/2023

2.4 The proposed terms of office are in line with the current approach to panel appointments. The Combined Authority is however asked to note that this will be kept under review and is subject to any changes in the decision-making structures and procedures of the Combined Authority and the LEP which may flow from the proposed move towards a mayoral combined authority.

2.5 Furthermore and subsequent to the private sector representatives recruitment exercise at the beginning of the year, a number of existing panel members’ terms of office are coming to an end imminently, and it is proposed that their terms are extended as a reflection of the valuable contribution they make to the work of the advisory panels and the LEP as a whole.

2.6 Therefore, following nominations made by the LEP Board at their meeting on 17 November, the Combined Authority is asked to approve term of office extensions of **private sector representatives** to the advisory panels, as set out in **Appendix 1**.

2.7 The Combined Authority is asked to also note that appointments longer than the next municipal year **may** need to be subject to a caveat relating to any potential changes to governance arrangements further to the West Yorkshire devolution deal and in accordance with being MCA ready. For this reason it is proposed to extend the panel members’ terms of office by just **one further year**.

2.8 The public sector membership of Panels will remain unchanged, subject to any further decisions by the Combined Authority, reflecting all ten former Leeds City Region authorities (Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Craven, Harrogate, Kirklees, Leeds, North Yorkshire, Selby, Wakefield), where those authorities wish to remain involved and there is continuing mutual strategic benefit.

Proposed Overview and Scrutiny reforms

- 2.9 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has been considering how the existing arrangements for scrutiny may need to change in order to address the needs of the mayoral combined authority. The Committee and working group have analysed the Combined Authority's current scrutiny structure, looked at other mayoral combined authorities' scrutiny arrangements, and in particular how scrutiny operates in other regional authorities including in the Greater London Authority and in central government.
- 2.10 This will build on the desire of West Yorkshire authorities to enhance and expand scrutiny as referenced in the March 2020 devolution deal. With this will potentially come a need for increased support from the officer scrutiny team and these requirements will need to be considered in the context of the budget setting process underway.

Appointment of an Independent Remuneration Panel

- 2.11 The draft West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2020 is expected to be made in January 2021 at which point the Combined Authority will take on new Combined Authority functions. It is intended to propose changes to the Authority's governance arrangements to reflect these changes at its next meeting in February 2021.
- 2.12 The Authority will subsequently take on new mayoral functions with the appointment of a Mayor for West Yorkshire in May 2021. Under the terms of the draft Order, the Combined Authority may pay an allowance to the Mayor if it has considered a report published by an independent remuneration panel (IRP) established by it which contains recommendations for such an allowance. The Authority is not bound to accept those recommendations, save that the allowance paid by the Authority cannot exceed the amount specified in the recommendations made by the IRP. The draft Order states that the IRP must consist of at least three members none of whom is also a member of the Authority, one of its committees or sub-committees or a member of a constituent council (or is disqualified from the same).
- 2.13 In order for an IRP to be convened and report in a timely manner to the Combined Authority following the making of the Order, authority is sought from the Combined Authority for the Head of Legal & Governance Services to convene the necessary IRP to make recommendations to a subsequent meeting of the Authority.

3. Clean Growth Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 None.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report but enhanced scrutiny arrangements may require further resource.
- 5.2 The costs of convening an IRP will need to be met by the Authority as part of the previously approved MCA ready budget.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

7. Staffing Implications

- 7.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report but enhanced scrutiny arrangements may require additional resources.

8. External Consultees

- 8.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 That the Combined Authority considers the nominations made by the LEP Board for additional appointments to be made to the Combined Authority's advisory panels as set out at paragraph 2.3 of this report, and, if agreed, makes the respective appointments as proposed.
- 9.2 That the Combined Authority resolves to approve the recommendations in relation to private sector representatives of the advisory panels as set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 9.3 That the Combined Authority notes the work underway on developing a future Overview and Scrutiny model, and the increased resources this may need.
- 9.4 That the Combined Authority authorises the Head of Legal & Governance Services to convene an independent remuneration panel to make recommendations to the Combined Authority as to the allowance that shall be payable to the Mayor.

10. Background Documents

- 10.1 None.

11. Appendices

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Private Sector representatives on advisory panels