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

Date: 20 January 2021

Subject: **Corporate Performance Report**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the LEP Board with an update on a range of corporate and governance matters.

2. Information

- 2.1 As previously agreed, a corporate performance report is now being submitted to each meeting of the LEP Board, to provide information on budgets, performance management, risk, audit, scrutiny and any other matters that emerge. This is in line with recommended practice as set out in the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships document and in line with the commitments in the Assurance Framework.

Revenue Budgets 2020/21

- 2.2 A summary of the 2020/21 spend as at November 2020 compared to the approved revenue budget is attached at **Appendix 1**. A RAG rating has been included to identify budgets that need further review.
- 2.3 The 'red' areas of concern are related to the Covid-19 pandemic., with key impacts being felt across commercial income, bus station costs, commission from travel card / MCard sales, bus revenues (for gross cost contracts) and transport service costs.
- 2.4 Work continues to develop a balanced budget position by the financial year end, taking into account the budget gap caused by Covid-19, which has only been met in part by additional government funding.

2020/21 LEP Annual Delivery Plan and Corporate Plan

- 2.5 The LEP Annual Delivery Plan, as approved at the September meeting of the LEP Board has been designed as a standalone document, but also forms an

integral part of the organisation's overarching Corporate Plan, which sets out the priorities for the LEP and the Combined Authority as a whole.

- 2.6 The wider Corporate Plan is structured around four overarching corporate priorities of boosting productivity, delivering 21st Century transport, enabling inclusive growth and supporting clean growth. A comprehensive suite of performance indicators has been developed to measure the organisation's specific contribution towards achieving these four corporate priorities. An assessment of progress against these indicators for the financial year to date has been undertaken and a summary of the results of this is provided in **Appendix 2** as part of the wider corporate performance snapshot.
- 2.7 The analysis of performance against objectives to date reflects a positive position overall. Most of the indicators are assessed as green, indicating objectives supporting the strategic aims and themes for the region have been achieved.

Statutory Accounts 2019/20

- 2.8 The 'normal' deadline for approving the statutory account is 31 July each financial Year. Due to the national pandemic this was extended to 30 November 2020 for the 2019/20 accounts. These accounts were presented on time for audit and Mazars (external auditor) reported their findings to the Governance and Audit committee on 27 November 2020. An unqualified audit opinion, without modification, was given on the financial statements and also an unqualified value for money conclusion. The accounts were published by the statutory deadline of 30 November 2020.
- 2.9 The LEP financial statement (audited as part of the overall annual audit) is unchanged from the draft one published earlier in summer 2020 and is published on the LEP website.

Corporate risk update

- 2.10 In line with the provisions of the corporate risk management strategy, regular review of the key strategic risks affecting the organisation continues to be undertaken and the corporate risk register updated accordingly.
- 2.11 A summary of the headline strategic risks is included at **Appendix 2** to this report. This summary also includes the key strategic risks related to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. These strategic risks are supplemented by detailed operational risks which are being managed through the organisation's Gold command incident response structure, which is coordinating the response to, and recovery from, the Covid-19 pandemic.

Internal Audit

- 2.12 The internal audit plan as approved by the Governance and Audit Committee of the Combined Authority covers the activities of the whole organisation. To date no audit assignments specifically on LEP activities have yet been

completed for 2020/21, with a significant proportion of audit resource this year being focussed on supporting the work on becoming a mayoral combined authority. Work is now underway on drafting the internal audit plan for 2021/22 and views are invited on appropriate areas for inclusion.

- 2.13 The team has recently updated the whistleblowing policy and procedure, bringing together the existing Combined Authority and LEP policies to provide greater transparency and ease of access for the user. The process and decision makers have been clarified in the revised version and other minor changes made. This is attached at Appendix 3 for consideration.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 2.14 At its last meeting the Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the response to Covid-19 including the work of the Economic Recovery Board, as well as information on corporate performance. A number of working groups have also met to consider specific elements of the mayoral preparation workstreams, including the revised assurance framework, finances and organisational preparedness.

3. Clean Growth Implications

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 As set out in the report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report.

6. Staffing Implications

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

7. External Consultees

- 7.1 None.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1 That the LEP Board note the corporate performance information provided.
8.2 That the LEP Board consider the revised whistleblowing policy.

9. Background Documents

- 9.1 None.

10. Appendices

Appendix 1 – 2020/21 Revenue budget monitoring

Appendix 2 – 2019/20 Corporate performance update

Appendix 3 – Whistleblowing policy and procedure