

**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 9 March 2021

**Subject:** **Governance Arrangements**

**Director:** Angela Taylor, Director, Corporate Services

**Author:** Angie Shearon, Governance Services Manager

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 advise the Combined Authority of changes to Leeds City Council's Combined Authority member and substitute member and the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee member.
- 1.2 To note a change in nomination from Leeds City Council to the Place Panel and approve the appointment.
- 1.3 To consider a recommendation received by the LEP Board to appoint a non-voting advisory representative of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) for the Yorkshire & Humber to the Employment and Skills Panel.
- 1.4 To note the resignation of Andy Clayton, independent member of the Governance & Audit Committee and consider arrangements for commencing recruitment and convening an interview panel to fill the vacancy.
- 1.5 To consider interim chairing arrangements for the Governance & Audit Committee.

## **2. Information**

### Leeds City Council - Appointments

- 2.1 Following a change in Leadership at Leeds City Council, the Council have provided formal notification of a change in their appointments to the Combined Authority as follows:
- Councillor James Lewis to replace Councillor Judith Blake as the Combined Authority member,
  - Councillor Debra Coupar to replace Councillor James Lewis as the substitute Combined Authority member.
- 2.2 The Council have also provided notification of a change of appointment to the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee (membership of the Committee is ex-officio) as follows:
- Councillor Helen Hayden to replace Councillor Lisa Mulherin
- 2.3 Furthermore, the Council have provided notification of a change in their nomination to the Place Panel as follows:
- Councillor Helen Hayden to replace Councillor Lisa Mulherin

### Employment & Skills Panel - Advisory Membership

- 2.4 The Combined Authority currently appoints a number of advisory committees (panels) which advise both the Combined Authority and the LEP. The advisory committees comprise of voting local authority and private sector representatives together with non-voting advisory representatives providing valuable expertise and knowledge in their particular field.
- 2.5 At its meeting on 24 February, the LEP Board considered the merits of appointing a TUC representative to the Employment & Skills Panel. The TUC has extensive knowledge and insight into business needs around skills and employment, together with years of experience supporting employees to train and re-skill. They have contributed to priority areas of the work of both the Combined Authority and LEP in the past 18 months, most notably the Future Ready Skills Commission and the Economic Recovery Board. It is particularly important that the Combined Authority acquire this insight and support as the region enters a period of economic recovery.
- 2.6 Due to the TUC's role and scale of engagement in the employment and skills arena, the LEP Board consider that their input into the work of the Employment & Skills Panel would be invaluable and therefore recommend that the Combined Authority approve the appointment of a non-voting advisory representative from the TUC to the Employment & Skills Panel.

## Governance & Audit Committee – Recruitment of an Independent Person/Chairing arrangements

- 2.7 Governance and Audit Committee membership must by law include at least one independent member. The Combined Authority's Governance & Audit Committee comprises of four Combined Authority members and two independent members. The committee is currently chaired by one of the two independent members, Andy Clayton, who recently resigned his position on the committee due to increased work commitments.
- 2.8 By law, the vacant position of independent member must be advertised. Authority is sought from the Combined Authority for the Head of Legal & Governance Services to commence recruitment arrangements including convening an interview panel to make recommendations to a subsequent meeting of the Authority.
- 2.9 In order to facilitate the timely filling of any future in-year independent member vacancies, authority is sought from the Combined Authority for the Head of Legal & Governance Services to convene the necessary interview panel to make recommendations to a subsequent meeting of the Authority.
- 2.10 There is one more remaining meeting of the Governance & Audit Committee scheduled in the current municipal calendar (18 March) and the Combined Authority is therefore asked to consider chairing arrangements for that meeting. Chairing arrangements for all the Combined Authority's committees will be reviewed and re-approved at its annual meeting on 24 June 2021.

### **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 3.1 None.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 None.

### **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 Costs of advertising for an independent person will be met from existing budgets.

### **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 Governance and Audit Committee membership must by law include at least one Independent Member, and the membership of an audit committee taken as a whole must by law reflect so far as reasonably practicable the balance of political parties for the time being prevailing among members of the constituent councils (West Yorkshire councils) when taken together.
- 6.2 Political balance requirements under Section 15 Local Government and Housing Act 1989 apply to appointing members of Combined Authority to ordinary committees and sub-committees, unless waived in accordance with

Section 17 of the 1989 Act. The Governance and Audit Committee is not an ordinary committee for this purpose.

- 6.3 An Independent Member may not be appointed to the Governance and Audit Committee unless the vacancy has been advertised.

## **7. Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

## **8. External Consultees**

- 8.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 That the Combined Authority notes Leeds City Council's change in appointments to the Combined Authority and the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee as detailed in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 above.
- 9.2 That the Combined Authority appoint Councillor Helen Hayden to the Place Panel.
- 9.3 That the Combined Authority considers the recommendation of the LEP Board to appoint a non-voting advisory representative from the TUC to the Employment & Skills Panel.
- 9.4 That the Combined Authority note the resignation of Andy Clayton, independent member of the Governance & Audit Committee and the arising vacancy for both a member and chair.
- 9.5 That the Combined Authority authorises the Head of Legal & Governance Services to progress recruitment and appointment arrangements to the current independent member vacancy on the Governance & Audit Committee.
- 9.6 That, in respect of any future in-year vacancies, the Combined Authority delegates arrangements for convening an interview panel and making subsequent recommendations to the Authority to the Head of Legal & Governance Services.
- 9.7 That the Combined Authority consider interim chairing arrangements for the Governance & Audit Committee.

## **10. Background Documents**

- 10.1 None.

## **11. Appendices**

- 11.1 None.