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**Report to:** Governance and Audit Committee

**Date:** 22 July 2021

**Subject:** **Governance arrangements and forward plan**

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## **1. Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To note the updated position of the Combined Authority's governance generally.
- 1.2 To note the governance arrangements for the Governance and Audit Committee.
- 1.3 To note the proposed work programme for the year.

## **2. Information**

### Combined Authority governance update

- 2.1 The Combined Authority at its meeting on 9 March 2021 agreed to adopt a Constitution, in readiness for its new functions as a Mayoral Combined Authority, including the transfer of PCC Functions. Further documents within the Constitution were approved by the Combined Authority at its meeting on 22 April 2021 to come into effect on 10 May, after the election of the Mayor. The Combined Authority also approved a restructure of its Committee arrangements.
- 2.2 At the annual meeting, the Combined Authority approved the Constitution as a whole, following amendments proposed for clarity and updating, this included the amended terms of reference for each of the Committees.
- 2.3 The annual meeting also noted the proposed appointment of Alison Lowe as the **Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**. The Mayor's recommendation was reviewed by the Police and Crime Panel on 18<sup>th</sup> June and subsequently confirmed.

- 2.4 In terms of the transfer of PCC Functions, the annual meeting noted the Mayor's arrangements for PCC Functions as set out in the new and revised scheme of governance documentation. This documentation consists of a **Scheme of Consent for the Chief Constable** and the **Mayor's PCC Scheme of Delegation**. Additionally, the terms of reference of the existing Joint Independent Audit and Ethics Committee have been reviewed to ensure it is enabled and effective in providing independent review of the governance arrangements of the West Yorkshire Police and of the Mayor's PCC Functions.
- 2.5 The scale and complexity of the Combined Authority's governance arrangements has increased as a Mayoral Combined Authority and will continue to do so as the new governance arrangements bed in, are monitored, and where necessary revisions are made going forward to ensure that the constitutional arrangements continue to be fit for purpose and operationally effective.

#### Governance and Audit Committee

- 2.6 At the annual meeting, the Combined Authority resolved to appoint the Governance and Audit Committee on the **terms of reference** attached as **Appendix 1** to this report. The following changes have been made:
- footnote 5, which clarifies the Governance and Audit Committee's role in relation to the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (the LEP),
  - to state the Committee is authorised to receive and consider an annual report from the Joint Independent Audit and Ethics Committee,
  - confirmation throughout that the remit of the Committee extends to PCC functions, and
  - to confirm that the Committee is authorised to consider complaints referred by the Police and Crime Panel.
- 2.7 **Membership arrangements** remain as for last municipal year, save for a change in the second Independent Member. The Head of Legal and Governance Services arranged for an interview panel to be convened and recommendations were made to the Combined Authority. At the annual meeting, the Combined Authority appointed Debbie Simpson as the second Independent Member.
- 2.8 No changes have been made to the **quorum** of the Committee, which remains 3, and **voting** arrangements are also unchanged.
- 2.9 The Combined Authority also appointed Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe as Chair of the Committee and Councillor Tim Swift as deputy.
- 2.11 The Combined Authority also agreed meetings dates for the Committee, as follows:
- 22 July 2021
  - 30 September 2021
  - 13 January 2022

- 10 March 2022

2.12 A proposed forward plan of work is attached as Appendix 2, reflecting the key responsibilities of the Committee and noting that agenda items can be added during the year as required.

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

3.1 There are no climate emergency implications directly arising from this report.

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

4.1 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report.

### **5. Financial Implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

### **6. Legal Implications**

6.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **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 Governance and Audit Committee notes the governance arrangements approved by the Combined Authority at the Annual Meeting on 24 June 2021.

9.2 That the Governance and Audit Committee considers the proposed work programme at Appendix 2.

### **10. Background Documents**

None.

### **11. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for the Governance and Audit Committee

Appendix 2 – Draft work programme