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

Date: 15 September 2021

Subject: **Governance Arrangements**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To provide the LEP Board with an update on the process to seek new private sector members for the Culture, Arts & Creative Industries Committee.
- 1.2 To receive recommendations in relation to private sector membership of the Culture, Arts & Creative Industries Committee and to recommend these to the Combined Authority. These recommendations will be tabled at the meeting.
- 1.3 To receive the recommendation and nominate a named substitute member for the co-optee LEP Board Member.

2. Information

2.1 The LEP Board, at the meeting on 28 April 2021, received a report outlining proposed changes to the Combined Authority's committee structure including thematic committees, previously known as advisory Panels, to become decision making 'portfolio' committees. This report was considered by the Combined Authority on 22 April 2021 and it was agreed in principle, with approval gained to establish the following Committees at the Combined Authority's Annual Meeting on 24 June 2021.

- Business, Economy & Innovation Committee
- Employment and Skills Committee
- Climate, Energy & Environment Committee
- Finance, Resources & Corporate Committee
- Place, Regeneration & Housing Committee

2.2 In addition, and in view of the Mayoral pledge relating to a Creative New Deal for West Yorkshire, it was also proposed that a **Culture, Arts and Creative Industries Committee** be appointed, which would be chaired by the Mayor.

- 2.3 Consequently, a private sector Members recruitment campaign has been underway since early August 2021 in order to attract new Members for the Culture, Arts & Creative Industries Committee. The closing date for those wishing to be considered was 30 August 2021.
- 2.4 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.
- 2.5 The opportunity was promoted via an online recruitment pack and shared across numerous digital channels including social media, LinkedIn and via Board Members and other networks throughout August 2021. The advertisement included positive images of people of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) heritage and women, with a view to attracting a more diverse range of candidates.
- 2.6 Response to the recruitment campaign was very encouraging, with applicants from a range of sectors, backgrounds, geography and experience.
- 2.7 The campaign resulted in **27 applications (12 female, 5 BAME)** from business leaders across the region (44% and 19% respectively of total applications).
- 2.8 As set out in the **Recruitment and Appointment Procedure for Private Sector Representatives**, Committee Chairs may interview candidates for their respective Committee, with the appropriate Committee lead officer to attend in support, by way of an Appointments Panel. Shortlisted candidates were therefore invited to attend an interview with the Appointments Panel in early September 2021, comprising the Mayor, an existing Private Sector LEP Board Member and supported by the appropriate Committee lead officer. Of the total 27 applicants, 10 candidates (5 female, 5 male, 2 BAME) met with the Appointments Panel.
- 2.9 Following the conclusion of the interview process, the LEP Board is now asked to receive the recommendations of the Appointments Panel and recommend these to the Combined Authority at its next meeting on 21 October 2021. As the interview process concluded after the publication of the LEP Board agenda these recommendations will be tabled at the meeting.
- 2.10 In addition, following the dissolution of the Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel and embedding consideration of inclusive growth into all committees, the LEP Board is asked to consider recommending the appointment of two former members of the Panel to the following Combined Authority committees:
- Sam Keighley – Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee
 - Karl Oxford – Business, Economy and Innovation Committee

Co-optee Member on the LEP Board

- 2.10 The LEP has previously agreed in principle to appoint a co-optee Member to the LEP Board from business representative organisations to support the

LEP's agenda and core priorities and strengthen representation from business groups on the Board. The LEP Constitution provides that the term of office for each co-optee will be **one year**, subject to any exceptional circumstances.

- 2.11 The LEP Board was advised verbally at its meeting on 8 June that member organisations had been in discussions to consider and agree on this co-optee Board Member. These consisted of the Mid Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce, the CBI, the FSB and IoD. They subsequently reached the decision that this co-optee Board Member should be Sandy Needham of the West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and the LEP Board approved this recommendation at their 8 June meeting.
- 2.12 Further to this appointment, it is proposed that Beckie Hart of the CBI be the named substitute member for Sandy Needham in order to ensure business representation at each meeting of the LEP Board.

3. Clean Growth Implications

- 3.1 None arising directly from this report.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 Inclusivity will be fully embedded in the objectives of each thematic committee of the Combined Authority, including the Culture, Arts & Creative Industries Committee. The designation of an inclusivity lead to each Committee will assist in embedding Inclusive Growth as a 'golden thread' through the Combined Authority's decision-making arrangements. It is anticipated that each Committee will be responsible for inclusive growth indicators relevant to its remit.
- 4.2 All members of the LEP Board, including co-optee Members, will be expected to promote the cause of inclusive growth.

5. Equality & Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Work to implement this recruitment process was undertaken in line with the organisation's Equality and Diversity policy building on and enhancing the good practice of the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships Review.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 None arising directly from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

8.1 None arising directly from this report.

9. External Consultees

9.1 None arising directly from this report.

10. Recommendations

10.1 The LEP Board is asked to:

- note the contents of this report
- consider the recommendations in relation to private sector membership of the Culture, Arts & Creative Industries Committee as at **Appendix 1** tabled at the meeting.
- consider recommending the appointment of Sam Keighley as a private sector member of the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee.
- consider recommending the appointment of Karl Oxford as a private sector member of the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee.
- propose the above appointments to the Combined Authority at their 21 October meeting.
- approve the recommendation and nominate Beckie Hart of the CBI as the named substitute member for the co-optee Board Member role, currently held by Sandy Needham of the West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce.

11. Background Documents

11.1 [HM Government \(2018\), *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*](#)

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Private Sector representatives on Culture, Arts & Creative Industries Committee – *To be tabled at the meeting.*