

**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 22 October 2021

**Subject:** **Corporate matters**

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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:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To appoint private sector members to committees of the Combined Authority.
- 1.2 To consider the proposed debt cap for 2021/22.
- 1.3 To advise of work underway on the 2022/23 budget.

## 2. Information

### Private sector members

- 2.1 At its Annual Meeting on 24 June 2021, the Combined Authority approved the establishment of a new Culture, Arts and Creative Industries Committee. Following this decision, a private sector member recruitment campaign was undertaken to attract new members to the Committee.
- 2.2 At the conclusion of the recruitment process which was carried out in accordance with the **Recruitment and Appointment Procedure for Private Sector Representatives**, the LEP Board, at its meeting on 15 September 2021, received and approved recommendations in respect of membership of the Committee.

- 2.3 Further information on the nominations and the Panel members is included at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.4 In addition, following the dissolution of the Inclusive Growth and Public Policy Panel (“IGPPP”) and embedding consideration of inclusive growth into all Committees, the LEP Board was asked at its meeting on 15 September to consider recommending the appointment of two former members of the IGPPP to the following Combined Authority committees:
- Sam Keighley – Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee
  - Karl Oxford – Business, Economy and Innovation Committee

### **Debt cap**

- 2.5 At present the Combined Authority only has the power to borrow for transport and policing purposes. One of the benefits of the mayoral devolution deal was to extend this to the power to borrow for economic purposes. This was not included in the Order that created the Combined Authority with the then MHCLG requiring that this would follow afterwards, and after the agreement of a debt cap with Treasury. Other combined authorities have debt caps in place but this has not been required for West Yorkshire until now.
- 2.6 All authorities are required to set any programme of borrowing in the context that it must be affordable within the budget, meet the requirements of the Prudential Code and be within the approved Treasury Management Strategy. Calculations for an appropriate debt cap have focussed on being at a level to provide headroom above what will be put forward in the budget so as not to restrict the aspirations and abilities of the Combined Authority.
- 2.7 A submission was discussed with the Finance, Resources and Corporate Committee in the summer and made to HM Treasury. The requirement was to only provide figures for this year and next but once agreed this will enable the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to progress with the statutory order that will widen the borrowing powers.
- 2.8 HM Treasury has now offered a debt cap of £248.326 million, for the current year only i.e. to 31 March 2022, including Police and Crime. This covers existing debt of £150m and allows further borrowing of £98.326m in 2021/22. The offer is for the figure requested so it is recommended that this is accepted. HMT have advised that there will be a further process to establish a debt cap for subsequent years and we are also awaiting information on the timescale to progress the legislation that will enable borrowing for economic purposes.

### **2022/2023 budget**

- 2.9 Budget planning for 2022/23 is progressing with the work being led by the Finance, Resources and Corporate Committee. The Committee is meeting monthly, with two working groups established, one considering in more detail the transport elements of the revenue budget and other considering the strategic funding issues. Their next meetings will consider the feedback from the working groups, along with the impact and consequences of any funding

announcements from the Comprehensive Spending Review and the Autumn Budget on 27 October. A full report on the proposed 2022/23 budget will then be provided to the next meeting of the Combined Authority for consideration.

### **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 Inclusivity is 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.

### **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

5.1 The private sector member recruitment process was undertaken in line with the organisation's Equality and Diversity policy.

### **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 The financial implications are covered in the body of the report and relate to the recommended debt cap.

### **7. Legal Implications**

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

### **8. Staffing Implications**

8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

### **9. External Consultees**

9.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

### **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That the Combined Authority appoint private sector members to the Culture, Arts and Creative Industries Committee as set out in **Appendix 1** attached to this report.

10.2 That the Combined Authority appoint Sam Keighley as a private sector member of the Place, Regeneration and Housing Committee.

10.3 That the Combined Authority appoint Karl Oxford as a private sector member of the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee.

10.4 That the Combined Authority accept the debt cap of £248.326 million for 2021/22 as offered by HM Treasury.

10.5 That the Combined Authority note the work underway on the 2022/23 budget.

**11. Background Documents**

None.

**12. Appendices**

**Appendix 1** – Private sector member nominations to the Culture, Arts and Creative Industries Committee