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

Date: 15 June 2022

Subject: **Nominations to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority and its committees and appointments to outside bodies**

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1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To ask the LEP Board to:

- nominate a LEP Member and Substitute LEP Member to the West Yorkshire Combined Authority (“the Combined Authority”),
- nominate LEP Board members to committees of the Combined Authority,
- note an update provided in relation to the process undertaken to seek new private sector co-opted members for the Combined Authority committees
- consider recommendations in relation to private sector membership of the Combined Authority committees and to recommend these to the Combined Authority. These recommendations will be tabled at the meeting.
- nominate a member and substitute member to the Transport for the North (TfN) Partnership Board, and
- note the LEP’s representative to external bodies – to be tabled at the meeting.

2. Information

Nomination of LEP Member and Substitute

- 2.1 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2014 (“the 2014 Order”) although modified by West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021 continues to provide that the Combined Authority shall appoint a member of the LEP nominated by the LEP to be a Combined Authority Member, (“the LEP Member”). The Combined Authority must also appoint a Substitute LEP Member, to act in their absence.

Nominations to Combined Authority committees

- 2.2 As the LEP Board are aware, the Combined Authority changed its committee structure in June 2021 including setting up thematic committees, previously known as advisory Panels, to become decision making 'portfolio' committees. These comprise:-
- Business, Economy & Innovation Committee
 - Climate, Energy & Environment Committee
 - Culture, Sport, Arts & Creative Industries Committee
 - Employment and Skills Committee
 - Finance, Resources & Corporate Committee
 - Place, Regeneration & Housing Committee

LEP Board membership on Combined Authority and its committees

- 2.3 A number of private sector LEP Board members are members of the thematic committees and the Deputy Chair for each of these is a LEP Board member. The current LEP Board membership is set out in the schedule at **Appendix 1**. The LEP Board is asked to confirm whether they wish to make any changes to the nominations to the Combined Authority in relation to the current LEP Board representation on the thematic committees including the Deputy Chair arrangements. In particular, the following vacancies arise as a result of members terms expiring on the Board and changes in members preference:-

- **Combined Authority** - substitute
- **Employment & Skills Committee** – one vacancy in membership (to hold the role of Deputy Chair)
- **Finance, Resources, and Corporate Committee** – one vacancy in membership (to hold the role of Deputy Chair)
- **Transport Committee** – vacancy in private sector membership – one position with voting rights

Nominations to the Combined Authority for private sector (non LEP Board) representation on Combined Authority committees

- 2.4 A private sector Members recruitment campaign has been underway since early April 2022 in order to attract new private sector Members for the Combined Authority committees. The closing date for those wishing to be considered was 20 May 2022.
- 2.5 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.
- 2.6 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 April/May 2022. 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.

- 2.7 Response to the recruitment campaign was very encouraging, with applicants from a range of sectors, backgrounds, geography and experience.
- 2.8 The campaign resulted in **48 applications (19 female, 12 BAME)** from business leaders across the region (40% and 25% respectively of total applications).
- 2.9 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 June, comprising the Committee Chair, the Private Sector Committee Deputy Chair and supported by the appropriate Committee lead officer. Of the total 49 applicants, 32 candidates (12 female, 8 BAME) met with the Appointments Panel.
- 2.10 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 Annual Meeting on 23 June 2022. As the interview process concluded after the publication of the LEP Board agenda these recommendations will be tabled at the meeting.
- 2.11 The LEP Board are also asked to confirm the continuation of existing nominations to the Combined Authority's Committees, in accordance with the schedule attached as **Appendix 1** to this report, again for consideration at the Combined Authority meeting on 23 June.

Transport for the North (TfN)

- 2.12 TfN seek a nomination each year for a representative from each of the 11 local enterprise partnerships within the TfN area to be appointed to the **TfN Partnership Board** at their annual meeting. The TfN annual meeting this year is on 30 June 2022. A substitute is also required. The practice to date is that TfN Board co-opts each LEP representative on the Partnership Board as a non-voting member of the TfN Board.

LEP Chair appointment to other bodies

- 2.13 The Board are asked to note any LEP appointments to other bodies to be tabled at the meeting.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 A LEP Board member and other private sector representatives are to be nominated to the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

4.1 Inclusivity will be fully embedded in the objectives of each thematic committee of the Combined Authority.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

5.1 Inclusivity will be fully embedded in the objectives of each thematic committee of the Combined Authority.

6. Financial Implications

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

7. Legal Implications

7.1 The 2014 Order does not require the Combined Authority's LEP Member or their substitute to be a private sector representative. However, private sector representation secures direct private sector input into the Combined Authority membership.

7.2 By law, the Combined Authority's LEP Member must be non-voting. However, the voting Combined Authority Members may resolve that this provision does not apply.

8. Staffing Implications

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

9. External Consultees

9.1 None

10. Recommendations

That the LEP Board:

10.1 Nominates Mark Roberts to be the LEP Member on the Combined Authority, and nominates a Substitute LEP Member on the Combined Authority.

10.2 Confirms its current nominations for private sector LEP Board membership (and roles of Deputy Chairs) on the Combined Authority's committees as set out in Appendix 1 subject to any changes agreed by the Board at the meeting.

10.3 Nominates to committees to be appointed by the Combined Authority at its Annual Meeting, in accordance with Appendix 1 of the report and the proposals in relation to new private sector representatives as tabled at the meeting (Appendix 2).

10.4 Nominates a LEP Board member to be a member of TfN's Partnership Board to be re-appointed at the TfN annual meeting, together with a substitute,

noting that TfN current practice is to co-opt the LEP's representative on the Partnership Board to the TfN Board.

10.5 Notes any LEP Board appointments to other external bodies as tabled at the meeting.

11. Background Documents

11.1 None.

12. Appendices

12.1 Appendix 1 – private sector representative nominations to the Combined Authority's Committees.

12.2 Appendix 2 – recommendations for nominations for new private sector representatives onto the thematic committees following a recruitment exercise (to be tabled at the meeting)