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

Date: 21 September 2022

Subject: **Governance Arrangements**

Led by: Mark Roberts, Interim Chair

Lead Officer: Caroline Allen, Head of Legal & Governance Services

1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To ask the LEP Board to:

- note an update in relation to the process to recruitment a new private sector LEP Chair and Board Members
- approve the proposal in relation to the revising of governance arrangements between meetings
- approve the proposal in relation to the remuneration review for the new Chair between meetings.
- confirm a LEP **Diversity Champion**.

2. Information

Recruitment of LEP Chair and Board Members

- 2.1 At the June Annual meeting authority was given for the interim Chair to explore options and progress a recruitment process to fill three private sector representative vacancies, in consultation with the LEP Chief Executive.

Background

- 2.3 In February 2020, it was agreed that given the exceptional circumstances of the [Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships](#) review (2018) and the ongoing negotiations to agree a devolution deal for West Yorkshire, the current LEP Chair's tenure would be extended for up to two years to the Annual Meeting in 2022. At the end of this two-year period, the maximum nine-year term of the Chair will have been reached and a new LEP chair appointed.

- 2.4 The second year of the extended term was subject to a light-touch review in the context of the future role of LEPs and future role profile of the next LEP chair. The review was considered and the final year agreed at the LEP board in April 2021.
- 2.5 The publication of the Levelling Up White Paper in February 2022 and the further detail provided by Government in March in the [Guidance to Integrate LEPs into Local Democratic Institutions](#) clarified that for LEPs within Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) areas, the LEPs would be integrated into the MCA.
- 2.6 The Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Integration Plan was submitted to Government on 27 July 2022. The latest indication is Government will respond by the end of September.
- 2.7 As advised at the June Annual meeting, it was intended that the LEP Constitution, Procedure Rules and wider governance arrangements be retained in their current form until such time as the Integration Plan is approved and implemented and revised governance arrangements are adopted.
- 2.8 The Board was also advised that as per the Integration Plan, the LEP Board should become an MCA business advisory board and the new Chair will be a Mayoral appointment.
- 2.9 It had been hoped that the proposed timeline and recruitment procedure for the new Chair could have been shared with the Board at this meeting. However, as we still await the approval of Government on our Integration Plan it would seem prudent to redesign the process in the light of their response. What is clear however, is that the current governance arrangements in place for the LEP Board, and in particular the Recruitment and Appointment Procedure will not readily apply to the changing context and therefore there will need to some revisions to the processes and wider governance documents to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- 2.10 To enable the recruitment process to continue without undue delay, the Board is asked to delegate authority to the LEP Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, to make such revisions to the governance arrangements as appropriate, which may include for example the LEP Constitution, Procedure Rules, the Recruitment and Appointment Procedure for Private Sector Representatives (which includes the Chair), in order to facilitate the timely movement to an advisory board and the recruitment of a new LEP Chair and Board Members.
- 2.11 The Board was advised at the June meeting that remuneration in relation to the role of LEP Chair would be retained and would be assessed independently prior to recruitment commencing. As this process will take place in parallel with the governance arrangements as set out in para 2.10 the Board is asked to approve that this be carried out by the LEP Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor between meetings.

- 2.12 It is anticipated that the recruitment process for the new Chair and LEP Board Members may commence prior to the next LEP Board meeting in December and an update report will be presented to the Board.

Diversity Champion

- 2.13 In accordance with the best practice set out in the Leeds City Region Assurance Framework, the LEP Procedure Rules require the LEP Board to appoint a member to act as the LEP's **Diversity Champion**, to encourage diversity and ensure that the LEP is acting in line with its diversity statement. As the Board was unable to nominate an existing private sector Board Members to this role at its June meeting, it was agreed that the Interim Chair would appoint to this role and advise the Board at its next meeting.
- 2.14 The Interim Chair therefore sought a private sector representative from the CA Committees for this role, with the intention that this individual would become a co-opted Member of the Board and would serve a term of office in line with the Interim Chair. Arrangements would then be reviewed once the new LEP Chair is appointed.
- 2.15 A number of Expressions of Interest have been received but the process had not concluded at the time of publication of this agenda. The Interim Chair intends to propose the appointment verbally at the meeting for the Board's approval. The LEP Diversity Champion will then join the Board as a co-opted Member.

3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 3.1 LEP Board members and other private sector representatives also sit on the Climate, Energy and Environment Committee.

4. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 4.1 All members of the LEP Board, including co-optee Members, will be expected to promote the cause of inclusive growth.

5. Equality and Diversity Implications

- 5.1 Work to implement this recruitment process will be 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 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implication arising directly from this report.

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 note an update in relation to the process to recruitment a new private sector LEP Chair and Board Members

10.2 approve the proposal in relation to the revising of governance arrangements between meetings

10.3 approve the proposal in relation to the remuneration review of the new Chair between meetings.

10.2 approve the appointment of a LEP Diversity Champion (to be advised at the meeting) as a co-opted Member of the Board for the term of office of the Interim Chair.

11. Background Documents

11.1 None.

12. Appendices

12.1 None