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

**Date:** 1 December 2022

**Subject:** **Governance Arrangements**

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**Led by:** Mark Roberts, Interim Chair

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

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## 1. Purpose of this report

### 1.1 To ask the LEP Board to:

- Make a recommendation to the Combined Authority for the role of Deputy Chair of the Culture, Heritage & Sport Committee following the standing down of the current Deputy Chair.
- Appoint a co-optee to the Board if required.

## 2. Information

[Appointment of Culture, Heritage & Sport Committee private sector Deputy Chair](#)

[Background](#)

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 The Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Integration Plan was submitted to Government on 27 July 2022, however we still await Government approval of this.
- 2.3 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. This includes the recruitment of private sector Members to the LEP Board and Combined Authority Committees.

- 2.4 Helen Featherstone has advised that she will be moving to a new role with a public sector organisation in mid January 2023 and therefore stepping down as a private sector Member from both the LEP Board and Culture, Sport and Heritage Committee with effect from 1 December 2022.
- 2.5 As well as this resulting in a further private sector vacancy on the LEP Board, Helen's departure will also leave the Deputy Chair role on the Culture, Heritage & Sport Committee vacant which is held by a private sector Member.
- 2.6 The existing LEP governance arrangements follow that the Deputy Chairs of the Committees are nominated from the existing private sector membership of the LEP Board. LEP governance arrangements also allow the LEP Board to appoint up to 5 co-opted (non-voting) Members, of which the Board currently has two, namely, the LEP Diversity Champion and the Business Representative Organisations Member. However as we await the outcome from Government on our LEP Integration Plan our private sector Member numbers on the LEP Board are depleted and it may therefore be the case that we are unable to nominate a Deputy Chair to the Culture, Heritage & Sport Committee from these Members.
- 2.7 Therefore the Chair along with the Mayor, as Chair of the Culture, Heritage & Sport Committee, have broadened the search to include private sector members from the Culture, Heritage & Sport Committees for this role, with the intention that should an appointment be proposed, this individual would also become a co-opted Member of the Board, serving a term of office until Summer 2023 when LEP governance arrangements become clearer.
- 2.8 A number of Expressions of Interest for this role were received but the process of discussions between candidates and an Appointments Panel had not concluded at the time of publication of this agenda. Therefore the Chair intends to propose the appointment verbally at the meeting for the Board's approval. In addition the Chair will seek approval of a recommendation to the Combined Authority to appoint the successful candidate to the role of Deputy Chair of the Culture, Heritage & Sport Committee.

### **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 All work to implement a private sector 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 makes a recommendation to the Combined Authority for the role of Deputy Chair of the Culture, Heritage & Sport Committee following the standing down of the current Deputy Chair (details to be verbally provided by the Chair at the meeting given the timing of publication of the agenda)
- 10.2 appoints a co-optee Member to the LEP Board if required, (details to be verbally provided by the Chair at the meeting given the timing of publication of the agenda)

## **11. Background Documents**

- 11.1 None.

## **12. Appendices**

- 12.1 None