

**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 16 March 2023

**Subject:** **Governance and Appointment Arrangements**

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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 note a change in membership of the Combined Authority.
- 1.2 To appoint a member to the Governance and Audit Committee.
- 1.3 To note the resignation of the Chair of Corporate Scrutiny and consider a recommendation to appoint a replacement.
- 1.4 To consider a recommendation to appoint an additional non-voting advisory representative to the Employment and Skills Committee.
- 1.5 To consider a report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) in relation to the payment of remuneration to the LEP Chair.
- 1.6 To consider a recommendation that appointment of Exec Directors, the Chief Operating Officer and Directors is delegated to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor and following notification to Combined Authority members.

## 2. Information

### **Combined Authority - membership change**

2.1 The Combined Authority are asked to note a change in membership of one of the three political balance members on the Combined Authority. Leeds City Council provided notification on 10 February that they wished to replace Councillor Matthew Robinson with Councillor Sam Firth. In line with the requirements of the WYCA Order 2014, the appointment was agreed by all five West Yorkshire constituent councils and effective from 17 February.

2.2 **Governance and Audit Committee - change of Conservative representative**

As a consequence of the change reported in paragraph 2.1, the Conservative Group have proposed that Councillor Sam Firth also replace Councillor Matthew Robinson as the Conservative Group representative on the Governance and Audit Committee. The Combined Authority are asked to approve this appointment.

**Scrutiny Committee - chairing arrangements**

2.3 At its annual meeting on 23 June 2023, the Combined Authority appointed chairs to each of the three scrutiny committees (Corporate, Economy and Transport/Infrastructure).

2.4 Councillor Peter Harrand, Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, submitted his resignation as chair of the committee with effect from 25 January 2023. Councillor Harrand has expressed a willingness to remain an ordinary member of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for the remainder of the current municipal year.

2.5 It has been agreed by the West Yorkshire Conservative Group Leaders, that the current Deputy Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Geoff Winnard, should replace Councillor Harrand as Chair. The Combined Authority are now asked to consider the recommendation for appointment.

**Employment and Skills Committee - appointment of advisory representative**

2.6 The Combined Authority currently appoints several non-voting advisory representatives to its thematic decision-making committees to draw in areas of expertise and knowledge. The Interim LEP Chair, in consultation with the Chair and lead director for the Employment and Skills Committee, have considered the merits of inviting a Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) representative to join the Employment and Skills Committee.

2.7 Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) are funded by the Department for Education to provide an agreed set of actionable priorities that employers, providers, and stakeholders in a local area can get behind to drive change. LSIPs are led by employer representative organisations and in West Yorkshire this is Mid-Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce and West and North Yorkshire Chamber.

- 2.8 It is therefore recommended that the Combined Authority approve the appointment of a non-voting advisory representative of the LSIP to the Employment and Skills Committee in order to deliver a cohesive skills policy and support for people and employers.
- Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) Report - LEP Chair Remuneration**
- 2.9 The publication of the Levelling Up White Paper in February 2022 provided clarity that for LEPs within Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) areas, the LEPs would be integrated into the MCA. Further details were provided by government in March when the [Guidance to Integrate LEPs into Local Democratic Institutions](#) was received.
- 2.10 Following this, a LEP Integration Plan (IP) for West Yorkshire was submitted to government and confirmation was received on 17 January 2023 that the government had endorsed the IP.
- 2.11 At its meeting on 2 February 2023, the Combined Authority approved proposals to fully integrate the LEP into the Combined Authority including necessary governance changes. It was agreed that remuneration of the LEP Chair would be retained but that it should be assessed independently; consequently, the Head of Legal & Governance Services was given authorisation to convene an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to make recommendations to the Mayor and the Combined Authority as to the level of remuneration payable.
- 2.12 The IRP were commissioned to commence the review of the remuneration of the LEP Chair taking into consideration the changing role of the LEP in the context of the Combined Authority and LEPs revised governance model as an MCA, and in the context of the Integration Plan.
- 2.13 The IRP has now concluded its review and its report and recommendations are set out in full at **Appendix 1**. There is no statutory provision to consult an IRP on the issue of remuneration, although it has always been the practice of the Combined Authority to do so. The recommendations of the IRP are therefore intended to assist in determining an appropriate level of remuneration although there is no legal requirement to accept them.
- 2.14 The IRP recommendations set out in the Executive Summary at page 1 of the Report are that:
- The Chair of the LEP Board is remunerated £30,600 per year.
  - The Chair of the LEP Board continues to be able to claim expenses for carrying out approved duties in accordance with the Members' Allowances scheme for WYCA.
  - The IRP has the opportunity to review the recommended remuneration of the LEP Chair in two years' time when it will have the benefit of the experience of the newly defined role and knowledge of the future role of LEPs.

## **Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer and Director Appointments**

- 2.15 At its meeting on 8 December 2022 the Combined Authority resolved that progression to recruitment of all vacant Director posts in the structure be approved. Recruitment is now underway and it is anticipated that appointments may well be made before the next scheduled Combined Authority meeting in June 2023. The process involves the Mayor chairing the interview panel, with other Combined Authority members and elected members involved as appropriate. The appointment of Directors is a function reserved to the Combined Authority and therefore to enable the recruitment to proceed, authority is sought for the Chief Executive to make appointments to the roles of Exec Director, Chief Operating Officer and Director in consultation with the Mayor, with the LEP Chair as appropriate, and following notification to Combined Authority members.

### **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 There are no inclusive growth implications directly arising from this report.

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

- 5.1 There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.

### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The recommendations from the IRP will, if accepted, represent a decrease in current budgetary costs.

### **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 The WYCA Order 2014, requires that the appointment of the three members of the Combined Authority to reflect political balance be agreed by all five West Yorkshire constituent councils.
- 7.2 The Chair of an overview and scrutiny committee must, by law, either be an “independent person” or else an “appropriate person” who is a member of one of the Constituent Councils (that is, a person who is not a member of a registered political party of which the Mayor is a member). Where no appointment is made by the Combined Authority, a committee shall appoint its own Chair and/or Deputy Chair.
- 7.3 The Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017 requires that an Audit

committee should, so far as reasonably practicable, reflect the balance of political parties prevailing among members of the Constituent Councils.

## **8. Staffing Implications**

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

## **9. External Consultees**

9.1 The advice of an Independent Remuneration Panel has informed the proposals in this report in relation to the LEP Chair remuneration.

## **10. Recommendations**

10.1 That the Combined Authority note that, with effect from 17 February 2023, Councillor Sam Firth replaces Councillor Matthew Robinson as one of the three political balance members of the Combined Authority.

10.2 That the Combined Authority appoint Councillor Sam Firth to the Governance and Audit Committee as the Conservative Group replacement for Councillor Matthew Robinson.

10.3 That the Combined Authority note the resignation of Councillor Peter Harrand as Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and appoint Councillor Geoff Winnard as his replacement.

10.4 That the Combined Authority appoint a representative of the Local Skills Improvement Plans (LSIPs) as a non-voting advisory representative to the Employment and Skills Committee.

10.5 That the Combined Authority considers the report and recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel at **Appendix 1** and determines the level of remuneration which is expected to be paid to the LEP Chair from the start of the new municipal year.

10.6 That the Combined Authority authorises the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor, the LEP Chair as appropriate and following notification to Combined Authority members, to make future appointments to the roles of Exec Director, Chief Operating Officer and Director following the outcome of the respective recruitment processes.

## **11. Background Documents**

None.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Independent Remuneration Panel report