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

**Date:** 13 June 2023

**Subject:** **LEP Evolution**

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

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

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## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1. To note the **local authority representatives** and substitutes in **Appendix 1** appointed to the LEP Board.
- 1.2. To receive the recommendations in **Appendix 1** in relation to private sector membership of the LEP Board.
- 1.3. To note the update on the **recruitment process for private sector LEP Board members** and to delegate authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to make appointments as appropriate on behalf of the Board and to update the Board accordingly. A recruitment panel will be convened with public and private sector representation.
- 1.4. To note the update on the vacancies for the **LEP Chair** and **LEP Deputy Chair** and note the process in place for recruitment of a Mayoral business advisor and Chair of the LEP Board.
- 1.5. To confirm the member of the LEP Board to represent and engage with the SME business community and Chair the Business Communications Group in the role of **SME Champion**.
- 1.6. To confirm a **LEP Diversity Champion**.
- 1.7. To confirm the member of the LEP Board who will act as **Trade & Investment Champion**.
- 1.8. To confirm a **co-optee** member and a named substitute co-optee member to the LEP Board to represent the Business Representatives Group.
- 1.9. To confirm two **co-optee** members terms of appointment be extended for a further year.
- 1.10. To consider and provide feedback on the future Board arrangements.

## 2. Information

### Background

- 2.1 In West Yorkshire, the integration of the LEP fully into the Mayoral Combined Authority is now complete.
- 2.2 However, at the Spring Budget in March 2023, the Government announced that Local Enterprise Partnerships would no longer be supported from 2024, and that the role they have previously played would be brought into Mayoral Combined Authorities.
- 2.3 As previously reported and discussed, the model of partnership between the public and private sector that we have in our region is held up at a national level as good practice.
- 2.4 It is therefore vital that this model of deep partnership continues, albeit in an evolved form. The private sector will remain represented within the Mayoral Combined Authority and its committees and will continue to be a fundamental partner in decision-making and delivery. A verbal update on further details of this process will be provided at the meeting, but our commitment to keeping a strong partnership with the private sector will remain through the evolution of this model.
- 2.5 Future intentions for the Board were set out in an open letter at **Appendix 2** from the Mayor, LEP Chair and Chief Executive dated 4 April 2023 with commitment to continue the private and public sector partnership as set out in the letter.
- 2.6 To that end, the role of the Chair of the LEP will evolve to be the key business advisor to the Mayor and Combined Authority. Recruitment for this position will begin in the week beginning 5<sup>th</sup> June, and we have engaged senior recruitment specialists Gatenby Sanderson to support this work.

### Local authority representatives

- 2.7 Whilst the work to recruit a new chair is ongoing, there are a series of issues to address through the rest of this paper.
- 2.8 Article 10 of the Combined Authority Constitution provides for the West Yorkshire Mayor ex-officio to be a local authority representative on the LEP Board and for the Mayor's substitute to be ex-officio the Deputy Mayor.
- 2.9 The Article also provides for the following local authorities to appoint a **local authority representative** and **substitute** to the LEP Board:
  - City of **Bradford** Metropolitan District Council
  - Borough Council of **Calderdale**
  - **Kirklees** Metropolitan Council
  - **Leeds** City Council
  - Council of the City of **Wakefield**

- 2.10 Attached as **Appendix 1** to this report is a schedule of the local authority representatives and substitutes appointed to the LEP Board.

#### Private Sector representatives

- 2.11 **Appendix 1** to this report also sets out a schedule of the private sector representatives currently serving on the LEP Board, and their terms of office. Article 10 of the Combined Authority Constitution does not provide for substitutes for private sector representatives.
- 2.12 The term of office for three of the private sector representatives has reached the end of the first term of three years. It is proposed that a further three-year term is agreed for these members as set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.13 The Board is currently carrying a number of private sector vacancies. It was previously agreed that recruitment to LEP Board vacancies would not be undertaken until the governance changes stated within the LEP Integration Plan are in place. These were approved at the March meetings of both the LEP Board and the Combined Authority. As part of the governance changes, the Private Sector Recruitment Process has also been updated in line with the LEP Integration Plan and was approved at these meetings also.
- 2.14 These approvals then allowed for the recruitment of Board members to commence as soon as possible. As at the 8 March Board meeting the Board had five private sector member vacancies, however since that time both Amir Hussain and Mark Roberts have confirmed their intentions to step down from the Board. Therefore there is the requirement to fill the seven vacancies with individuals who would ideally, but not exclusively, come from the voluntary and community, fintech, healthtech, engineering and clean growth/environmental technologies sectors in order for the Board to reflect the diverse communities, businesses and geography of West Yorkshire.
- 2.15 The opportunity was promoted via an online recruitment pack and shared across numerous digital channels including social media, LinkedIn, via Board Members, the Business Communications Group, Local Authority Chief Executives and other networks throughout April and May 2023. The advertisement included positive images of people of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic heritage and women, with a view to attracting a more diverse range of candidates, including young people.
- 2.16 Shortlisting of candidates to fill these vacancies has now taken place, and interview dates for the new LEP Board members are being arranged. A recruitment panel will be convened with public and private sector representation. Given the recruitment is taking place between the cycle of the formal LEP Board meetings, the Board is asked to delegate authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to make appointments as appropriate on behalf of the Board and to update the Board accordingly.

#### LEP Chair and Deputy Chair

2.17 Article 10 of the Combined Authority Constitution provides for the Mayor to appoint:

- a private sector representative as Chair of the LEP, and
- a private sector representative as a Deputy Chair of the LEP.

2.18 The LEP Board at its meeting on 31 March 2022 considered a report on 'LEP Next Steps', following which further activity has been undertaken. The focus of the next steps is the recruitment process leading to the appointment of a new Chair. Adverts for this role will go live on June 5<sup>th</sup> with a deadline of the 30<sup>th</sup> June, with the expectation that the new postholder will be in role by the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July.

#### Appointment of Deputy Chair

2.19 With Mark Roberts standing down there is now a vacancy for a private sector Deputy Chair. In accordance with Article 10 of the Combined Authority Constitution the Mayor will make an appointment following the appointment of the Chair.

#### SME LEP Board member

2.20 In accordance with the Assurance Framework requirement, the LEP needs to appoint a member of the LEP Board to represent and engage with the SME business community and act as **Chair of the Business Communications Group** and the **SME Champion**. A verbal update will be provided for the Board on this matter at the meeting.

#### Diversity Champion

2.21 In accordance with the best practice set out in the Assurance Framework the LEP Board is required to appoint a private sector Board member to act as the **LEP Diversity Champion**. A verbal update will be provided for the Board on this matter at the meeting.

#### Trade & Investment Champion

2.22 The Board also approved at the 8 March 2023 meeting to appoint a **Trade & Investment Champion** from its private sector members. Once appointed the new LEP Chair will make this appointment in consultation with the Mayor.

#### Co-optee Members on the LEP Board

#### Business Representatives Group

2.23 The LEP Board has previously appointed co-optee members to the Board from business representative organisations to support the LEP's and Combined Authority's agenda and core priorities and in recognition of the key role that they play in supporting business growth in the region. Article 10 of The Combined

Authority Constitution provides that the term of office for each co-optee will be one year, subject to any exceptional circumstances. It is proposed that Board members approve the proposal for a nominated business representative organisation and named member to fulfil this role from June 2023 namely **Barney Mynott** of the **Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)**.

- 2.24 It is also proposed that **Martin Hathaway** of the **Mid Yorkshire Chamber** be the named substitute for Barney Mynott in order to ensure business representation at each meeting of the LEP Board.

#### Other co-optee Members

- 2.25 The Board currently has two further co-optee Members. **Asma Iqbal**, holds the role of LEP Diversity Champion and **Nicky Chance-Thompson** who is also Deputy Chair of the Culture, Heritage & Sport Committee. The term of these co-optee Member appointments expire in June and therefore the Board's approval is sought for these to be extended for a **further year**.

#### Future Board Arrangements

- 2.26 It is recognised that given the evolution of the LEP into the Combined Authority, there needs to be a level of flexibility as to the forums in which LEP members come together to help shape that new model and therefore it may be appropriate to hold fewer formal meetings and more informal ones. The views of the Board are sought on the format and frequency of meetings going forward during 2023/24.

### **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. All members of the LEP Board will be expected to promote the cause of inclusive growth.

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

- 5.1. The role of Diversity Champion is key to ensuring that the LEP acts in line with the Combined Authority's diversity statement.

### **6. Financial Implications**

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

### **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1. All proposed appointments in this report are in accordance with the Combined Authority Constitution and relevant Government requirements and best practice relating to LEP Board membership.

## 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

That the LEP Board:

- 10.1. Notes the local authority representatives and substitutes appointed to the LEP Board set out in **Appendix 1** of this report.
- 10.2 Confirms the current private sector representatives on the LEP Board as set out in **Appendix 1** of this report and agrees to extend the terms of office for Prof. Shirley Congdon, Kamran Rashid and Kully Thiarai, each for a further three-year term to 28 February 2026.
- 10.3 Notes that recruitment for new private sector LEP Board members is underway and delegates authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive to make appointments as appropriate on behalf of the Board and to update the Board accordingly.
- 10.4 Notes the update on the vacancies for the **LEP Chair** and **LEP Deputy Chair**.
- 10.5 Confirms the member of the LEP Board to represent and engage with the SME business community and Chair the Business Communications Group in the role of **SME Champion**.
- 10.6 Confirms a **LEP Diversity Champion**.
- 10.7 Notes the recommendation in relation to the member of the LEP Board who will act as **Trade & Investment Champion**.
- 10.8 Appoints **Barney Mynott** of the **Federation of Small Businesses** (FSB) as a **co-optee** member to the LEP Board to represent the Business Representatives Group and **Martin Hathaway** of the **Mid Yorkshire Chamber** as the named substitute for Barney Mynott for a one year period.
- 10.9 Approves the extension of the terms of appointment of **co-optee** members Asma Iqbal and Nicky Chance-Thompson by a further year.
- 10.10 Provides feedback on the format and frequency of meetings during 2023/24.

## 11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

**Appendix 1:** Local Authority representatives and substitutes appointed to the LEP Board and Private Sector LEP Board members

**Appendix 2:** Open letter from the Mayor, LEP Chair and Ben Still on the future of LEPs