

Report to: West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Date: 27 July 2023

Subject: **Governance 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 provide the Combined Authority with an update on the process to seek new private sector members for the LEP Board.

2. Information

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 These approvals then allowed for the recruitment of private sector Board members to commence as soon as possible. At the June LEP Board meeting the Board had several private sector member vacancies and a recruitment campaign has taken place in the hope to fill these 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, including that of young people.

- 2.3 In recognition of the fact that recruitment would be undertaken in-between the cycle of LEP Board meetings, the LEP Board delegated authority to the Mayor and the Chief Executive to make appointments as appropriate to the LEP Board and to update the Board accordingly.
- 2.4 The closing date for those wishing to be considered was 15 May and meetings with an Appointments Panel were convened on 18 and 19 July. These comprised the Mayor, an existing Private Sector representative, namely the LEP Diversity Champion and a local authority representative, namely the Chair of the Business, Economy and Innovation Committee and supported by the Chief Executive.
- 2.5 In total 33 applications were received of which 20 female (61%), 13 male (39%) and 16 BAME (48%). Of these, 10 candidates met with the Appointments Panel of which 3 male (30%), 7 female (70%) and 4 BAME (40%).
- 2.6 As the meetings of this Appointments Panel took place after the publication of the agenda for this meeting, the outcome of that recruitment exercise is not known at the time of publication of this Agenda, and this will be reported to the Combined Authority as part of the presentation of this item.

Nominations to Combined Authority committees

- 2.7 At present there are a number of vacancies on several of the Combined Authority's Committees, including Deputy Chair vacancies which are currently nominated from the existing private sector membership of the LEP Board. Following the appointment of new LEP Board members, it is anticipated that proposals will be brought forward to the Combined Authority at its meeting on 7 September to make appropriate appointments to its committees.

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 ambition is for the LEP Board to reflect the diverse communities, business and geography of West Yorkshire. The diversity of the applicants is set out in paragraph 2.5.

6. Financial Implications

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

7. Legal Implications

7.1 None as a consequence of this report.

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

10.1 That the Combined Authority notes the update provided at the meeting on the process to seek new private sector members for the LEP Board.

11. Background Documents

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

12. Appendices

None