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

Date: 13 June 2018

Subject: **Appointment of panels and advisory group to the LEP
(Business Communications Group)**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To note the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's (the Combined Authority's) proposals to appoint panels at its annual meeting, to advise the Combined Authority and report to the LEP Board.
- 1.2 To ask the LEP Board to appoint the Business Communications Group as an advisory group of the LEP Board, and confirm its membership and chair, and updated governance arrangements.

2. Information

Advisory Panels

- 2.1 From September 2017, to promote integrated, clearer and transparent decision-making, LEP Panels previously appointed by the LEP became advisory committees of the Combined Authority, with the Business Investment Panel becoming a sub-committee of the West Yorkshire and York Investment Committee.
- 2.2 At its meeting in May 2018, the Combined Authority resolved in principle to appoint an Inclusive Growth Panel as an additional panel at the annual meeting of the Combined Authority on 28 June 2018, with a remit extending to advising on other aspects of public policy not covered by any other Combined Authority panel. Membership and terms of reference for this Panel are still to be finalised, and will be considered at the Combined Authority's annual meeting on 28 June 2018. A reference to securing inclusive growth will also be embedded into the terms of reference for every other relevant panel, as a "golden thread" across all panels.
- 2.3 The Combined Authority has also resolved in principle that advisory functions currently carried out by the Land and Assets Panel will be extended to reflect the ambition to secure a high quality spatial offer extending to sport and

culture, and address the spatial aspects of deprivation, with the Panel renamed Place Panel. The Place Panel's functions would include those functions which currently sit with the informally constituted Planning Portfolios Board, such as evidencing compliance with the statutory duty to co-operate in relation to planning of sustainable development.

- 2.4 Subject to resolution of the Combined Authority, the current voting membership of the Land and Assets Panel and the Planning Portfolios Board would be integrated for the Place Panel as follows:
- 3 Combined Authority members,
 - 2 private sector representatives,
 - 11 relevant portfolio holders (one from each of the Leeds City Region councils currently represented on the Planning Portfolios Board).
- 2.5 The two non-voting advisory representatives currently appointed to the Land and Assets Panel would continue to serve as non-voting representatives on the Place Panel.

Business Communications Group

- 2.6 Engagement with stakeholders and the wider public is a central part of the process to develop, monitor and implement the Strategic Economic Plan, the Growth Deal and all other aspects of the work of the LEP and the Combined Authority.
- 2.7 The LEP's Business Communications Group is made up of representatives from key business organisations in the City Region. The Group acts as an advisory group to the LEP Board; consulting with the Group on barriers to growth and ensuring businesses are at the heart of everything the LEP does. The Group also plays an active role in supporting business growth in the region by helping to coordinate effective communications between the LEP and the business community.

Membership

- 2.8 The Group brings together representative organisations and sector bodies in the region, collectively representing around 20,000 local companies. The current membership is set out in the attached **Appendix 1**.

Governance arrangements

- 2.9 Current governance documentation for the Group dating back to its inception, have been reviewed and updated and are attached as **Appendix 2** to this report.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Legal Implications

- 4.1 As an advisory group of the LEP Board, statutory requirements relating to access to information provisions do not apply to the Business Communications Group.

5. Staffing Implications

- 5.1 None.

6. External Consultees

- 6.1 None.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 That the LEP Board:

- i. Notes the Combined Authority's proposals to appoint the following panels (advisory committees) at its annual meeting, which will also advise the LEP:
 - Business Innovation and Growth Panel,
 - Employment and Skills Panel
 - Green Economy Panel
 - Inclusive Growth Panel
 - Place Panel.
- ii. Appoints the Business Communications Group as an advisory group of the LEP Board.
- iii. Confirms the membership of the Business Communications Group as set out in **Appendix 1** to this report.
- iv. Endorses updated governance arrangements for the Business Communications Group as set out in **Appendix 2** to this report.
- v. Appoints Joanna Robinson as Chair of the Business Communications Group.

8. Background Documents

- 8.1 None.

9. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Membership of the Business Communications Group
Appendix 2 - Governance arrangements for the Business Communications Group