

**Report to:** West Yorkshire Combined Authority

**Date:** 16 April 2020

**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 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:	N/A

## 1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To advise Members of the arrangements and proposals for decision making during the current pandemic.
- 1.2 To appoint private sector representatives to the Combined Authority advisory committees (panels).
- 1.3 To appoint a substitute LEP Member to the Combined Authority.

## 2. Information

### Decision making

- 2.1 On 4 April 2020 the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 came into force. These Regulations make provision to enable local authorities (including Combined Authorities) to hold meetings remotely including by (but not limited to) telephone conferencing, video conferencing, live webcast, and live interactive streaming. The Regulations further modify existing legislative provisions to remove the requirement for local authorities to hold annual meetings, and to

enable requirements for public and press access to local authority meetings and associated documents to be complied with through remote means and website access. The Regulations are time limited and apply in relation only to meetings taking place before 7 May 2021. At the time of agenda dispatch, the Head of Legal and Governance Services proposed to make amendments to Combined Authority governance documents to reflect these legislative changes, under her authority under the Officer Delegation Scheme. The amended documents will be circulated before this meeting as a late Appendix 1 to this report.

- 2.2 The current meeting schedule for the Authority and its committees and sub-committees together with the proposed calendar of meetings for the next municipal year is now being reviewed in the light of the Regulations, taking into account the need to balance resource implications consequential upon the pandemic and required to ensure essential business continues whilst upholding democratic principles and protecting the health and safety of members, officers and the public in line with official public health guidance.

#### Advisory panels

- 2.3 In order to comply with the requirements of the *National Assurance Framework* and *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships*, a recruitment exercise has been carried out to seek new private sector LEP Board members. Following on from that an exercise has been conducted to appoint new private sector representatives to the Combined Authority advisory panels and Appointment Panels have taken place throughout February and March.
- 2.4 Proposed private sector representative appointments to the advisory panels, further to nominations made by the LEP Board at their meeting on 1 April, is set out in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.5 In addition, a number of panel members' terms of office are coming to an end imminently, and it is proposed that their terms are extended as a reflection of the valuable contribution they make to the work of the advisory panels and the LEP as a whole. These are also detailed within **Appendix 2**.
- 2.6 The Combined Authority is however asked to note that appointments longer than the next municipal year may need to be subject to a caveat relating to any potential changes to governance arrangements further to the West Yorkshire devolution deal.
- 2.7 It is proposed that public sector membership of Panels remains unchanged, reflecting all ten former Leeds City Region authorities (Barnsley, Bradford, Calderdale, Craven, Harrogate, Kirklees, Leeds, North Yorkshire, Selby, Wakefield), where those authorities wish to remain involved and there is continuing mutual strategic benefit.

### Other Combined Authority Committees

- 2.8 The LEP Board has two non-voting members on the Combined Authority's Transport Committee. These non-voting members remain unchanged since 1 July 2019 and are Mark Roberts and Simon Pringle. Likewise, the LEP Chair is a member of the West Yorkshire & York Investment Committee.

### Getting MCA Ready

- 2.9 The Government announced a "minded-to" devolution deal with West Yorkshire authorities on 11 March 2020. This will lead to changes in the decision-making structures and procedures of the Combined Authority and the LEP. Further advice will be provided to the Combined Authority about what this might mean for the advisory panels in due course.

### Membership

- 2.10 The LEP Member is a member of the Combined Authority, nominated by the LEP and appointed by the Combined Authority. The Combined Authority must also appoint a substitute LEP Member to act in the absence of the LEP Member. At their meeting on 25 February 2020, the LEP Board appointed Mark Roberts as Private Sector Deputy Chair with effect from 31 March 2020, and nominated him to the Combined Authority, as the substitute LEP Member.

## **3. Clean Growth Implications**

- 3.1 None

## **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 None

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1 None.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1 As set out in this report.

## **7. Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

## **8. External Consultees**

- 8.1 No external consultations have been undertaken.

## **9. Recommendations**

- 9.1 That the Combined Authority resolves:-

9.1.1 To note the arrangements and proposals for decision making during the current pandemic, including the governance documents amended by the Head of Legal and Governance Services to implement new regulations allowing virtual meetings (**Appendix 1** to this report – to follow).

9.1.2 To approve:

- the recommendations in relation to private sector representatives of the advisory panels as at **Appendix 2**
- Mark Roberts, LEP Board Deputy Chair, as substitute LEP Member to act in the absence of the LEP Member.

## **10. Background Documents**

10.1 None.

## **11. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – revised governance documents: to follow

Appendix 2 – Private Sector representatives on advisory panels