

Mayoral Combined Authority Board

25 July 2022

LEP Review

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
<i>Reason why exempt:</i>	Not applicable
Purpose of this report:	Governance
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Yes

Director Approving Submission of the Report:
Martin Swales, Executive Director

Report Author(s):
Andrew Gates
Andrew.Gates@southyorkshire-CA.gov.uk

Executive Summary

This report sets out the proposed approach the MCA will take in the submission of an LEP / MCA Integration Plan as well as noting the intention to strengthen the way the MCA works with the private sector.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

The private sector has an important role to play in advocating and providing thought leadership, contributing to policy and project design and providing private sector insight over public sector decision making in relation to growing the economy. By strengthening these relationships, we will be better placed to deliver the ambitions in the Strategic Economic Plan.

Recommendations

That Board:

- Note the intention to submit a completed LEP Integration Plan to the Government in line with early deadline of 29 July.

- Approve the three key themes of our Integration Plan as identified in section 2.
- Approve a recommendation that the final template submission is delegated to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Statutory Officers and the Mayor, noting to circulate the completed template to Leaders for comment prior to submission.

1. Background

- 1.1 At its 6 June meeting the MCA Board approved a series of recommendations that would enable the MCA to submit an Integration Plan to 'fold' the LEP into the MCA governance arrangements.
- 1.2 The Government have indicated that the model already in place in South Yorkshire of MCA / LEP governance integration through the structure of MCA Thematic Boards is an effective way of engaging the private sector voice in MCA decision making.
- 1.3 The focus of the Government's approach is principally for areas where the LEP and Combined Authority are not fully integrated; as a result a considerable focus of the Integration Plan bears little relevance to the MCA in South Yorkshire.
- 1.4 However, despite the strengths of our model from a governance perspective the Mayor has set a clear mandate for establishing an improved way of working with the private sector and business community. This is an important mandate and the Mayor, the LEP Chair and the current private sector members of the LEP Board are actively working on the design of that different way of working.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The Integration Plan will need to establish a position on a number of key points. It is proposed that the plan reflects:
 - The importance of the MCA being appropriately supported by a Private Sector Board that works with the public sector in articulating South Yorkshire's economic priorities and sectoral strengths and that continue to use their convening power to bring together business, education, and other local economic stakeholders.
 - That thematic boards with private sector engagement woven into the MCA decision making processes remain an effective route for securing collective public and private sector thinking.
 - The submission of an Integration Plan to meet the Government's requirement does not limit the scope of the changes the Mayor and the MCA may choose to adopt in the future.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

- 3.1 Submit an Integration Plan (template provided at Appendix A) in line with the key points set out in section 2 of this report and that the final submission of the Plan be delegated to the Head of Paid Service on the 29th July.

4. Consultation on Proposal

- 4.1 The Mayor, LEP Chair and the private sector board members of the LEP have been engaged on the process of shaping a future more effective model of business and private sector engagement beyond the formal governance structures embedded through the work of the thematic boards.

The LEP Board also formally considered the process at its 12th May meeting.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The submission of an Integration Plan, template received 7th July 2022, is expected to be completed by the 29th July date.

Implementation of the decision will be led by the Head of Paid Service and the Statutory Officers.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

- 6.1 The guidance has made a number of stipulations regarding the submission and making future funds contingent on compliance.

Requirement of an open process to recruit independent members is a pre-requisite for the release of further core or transitional funding. This is in line with current arrangements and a process is already in place to comply with this.

The functions and roles agreed and contained within the Integration Plan will form the basis of the core funding grant offer. This will be part of the submission and is in line with an annual submission currently made for Core Grant.

Performance against these functions will inform future core funding decisions. We already report against an Annual Performance Requirement for strategy, governance and delivery and have reporting mechanisms in place.

7. Legal Implications and Advice

- 7.1 Following the development and approval of the plan there will be a requirement for some changes to Board Terms of Reference and / or the Constitution. This will be considered as part of the developing work plan.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

- 8.1 None – the Executive is an integrated team, employed by the MCA and supporting the work of the Mayor, MCA and LEP. There are therefore no TUPE implications as there are in other places.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

- 9.1 Gender and diversity will continue to play a part in the recruitment of the private sector to ensure a representative board is in place. Business representatives must continue to be recruited through an open and transparent process.

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

- 10.1 N/A

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

11.1 N/A

12 Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

12.1 The guidance does not stipulate the requirement to retain the LEP brand for the Business Board. Any change in the role or composition of the LEP will need to be communicated through a communications and marketing campaign so that partners, stakeholders, businesses and the general public are aware of the changes.

List of Appendices Included

A Final LEP Integration Template