

Mayoral Combined Authority Board

14 November 2022

Amendment to Constitution

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

Director Approving Submission of the Report:
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Executive Summary

Proposed change to the quoracy requirements for Thematic Boards to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the MCA's decision-making process.

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

The change will ensure that meetings of the Thematic Boards remain quorate and that the decision-making processes of the MCA remain both efficient and effective.

Recommendations

That the MCA Board approve the proposal to change the quoracy requirements of the Thematic Boards by reducing the quoracy requirement from 5 Members (6 in the case of Transport and the Environment Board (TEB) to 4 Members (5 in the case of TEB) and relaxing the strict requirement for a private sector Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Member to be present.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

Local Enterprise Partnership Chair

1. Background

- 1.1 Thematic Boards play a pivotal role in the governance of the MCA by harnessing the views and experience of elected members, the private sector, officers and topic experts in the decision-making process. Since Thematic Boards were set up the terms of reference of the Boards require at least five (six for TEB) Members to be present for the meeting to be quorate. Between October 2021 and October 2022 33% of the meetings have been inquorate.
- 1.2 It is recognised that Thematic Board Members have many calls on their time within their own authority or business, meaning that on occasion they may not have the capacity to attend due to their need to balance these competing demands. The analysis of meeting attendance over the last 12 months shows that the proposals in this report to reduce the number of Members required for a meeting to be quorate by one and to remove the strict requirement for one Local Enterprise Partnership Member to be present will significantly improve the quoracy issue.
- 1.3 The Constitution formally allocates membership of the Boards to two LEP representatives. There is no proposal to change this model.

2. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

2.1 Option 1

Change the quoracy requirements of the Thematic Boards by reducing the quoracy requirement from 5 Members (6 in the case of Transport and the Environment Board (TEB)) to 4 Members (5 in the case of TEB) and remove the strict requirement for a LEP Member to be present.

2.2 Option 1 Risks and Mitigations

This is not a proposal to remove LEP Membership and efforts will be made to work with Thematic Board Members to facilitate attendance.

2.3 Option 2

No change.

2.4 Option 2 Risks and Mitigations

Risk that meetings are not quorate and decisions are postponed/not considered at the Thematic Board before progressing to the MCA Board, reducing the quality of debate on any issue and impeding the decision making process.

2.5 Recommended Option

Option 1

3. Consultation on Proposal

- 3.1 The Mayor, Constituent Authority Leaders and LEP Board Chair have been consulted.

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 4.1 The decision would be effective immediately.

5. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this decision

6. Legal Implications and Advice

6.1 Article 14 of the Authority's constitution require MCA Board approval to proposed amendments.

7. Human Resources Implications and Advice

7.1 None

8. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

8.1 None

9. Climate Change Implications and Advice

9.1 None

10. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

10.1 None

11. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

11.1 The changes will be communicated internally

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers

None