

## Mayoral Combined Authority Board

16 January 2023

### LEP Chair Report

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

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#### **Director Approving Submission of the Report:**

Martin Swales, Chief Executive

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#### **Executive Summary**

This report asks Board to approve with immediate effect the recommendation to appoint Richard Stubbs as Local Enterprise Partnership Chair, during the period of the Government and MCA-led reviews.

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

The Local Enterprise Partnership is a private-sector business expert board which helps to shape and inform policy decisions within the MCA to aid in achieving economic priorities and lead economic growth within South Yorkshire.

The established MCA governance model includes strong representation from the private sector, to ensure the voice of business is represented in policy and decisions relating to all of the priority areas of the Strategic Economic Plan.

## **Recommendations**

That the Board:

1. Agree the appointment of Richard Stubbs as Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership.
2. Thanks Lucy Nickson, for her dedication and hard work since joining the LEP and for her service as LEP Chair over the past year.

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Since January 2022, Lucy Nickson has been the Interim Chair of the LEP. Lucy has notified the LEP and MCA of her intention to stand down as Chair. There is therefore a requirement that we appoint a Chair to lead the work of the LEP.
- 1.2 As part of the Government's March 2021 Budget, they announced a review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) in England. The Government committed to consult and work in collaboration with LEPs and local businesses on the evolution of LEPs. The details of this were discussed at the MCA meeting in June.
- 1.3 Government have indicated they have confidence in the way that the private and public sectors work together in South Yorkshire, and they expect this principle to be continued in any new arrangements. The Government expect that future arrangements must embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into local democratic institutions. The Board must have a meaningful role in decision making and should be consulted on all relevant economic decisions.

### **2. Key Issues**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Board agreed to an MCA Review led by the Chief Executive which is currently ongoing. Board will also be aware that this review may impact future MCA governance arrangements including the LEP. The LEP will be fully involved in this process.
- 2.2 Richard Stubbs is a current serving member of the LEP with a full understanding of its responsibilities and functions, and thus is able to "provide strategic leadership on business growth for the region" as specified in the LEP Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference from the Government allow for this appointment to be made using an exemption to bypass the usual appointment panel process during the review period.

### **3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 3.1 **Option 1**  
The Board agrees to the appointment of Richard Stubbs as Chair of the LEP.
- 3.2 **Option 2**  
The Board could decide to not agree to the appointment of Richard Stubbs as Chair of the LEP.
- 3.3 **Recommended Option**  
Option 1

#### **4. Consultation on Proposal**

4.1 Informal engagement with the existing LEP members, including MCA members, has taken place and those members have indicated their support for this arrangement.

#### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 This change in Chair will take place with immediate effect.

#### **6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**

6.1 The role of LEP Chair is non-remunerated.

#### **7. Legal Implications and Advice**

7.1 N/A

#### **8. Human Resources Implications and Advice**

8.1 N/A

#### **9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**

9.1 N/A

#### **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 N/A