

20th May 2019

LEP Vice Chair Position

Purpose of Report

This report is seeking to provide a rationale for the appointment of a second LEP Vice Chair.

Thematic Priority

Cross cutting Governance

Freedom of Information and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

The paper will be available under the SCR Publication Scheme

Recommendations

That the Board consider progress to appointing a second Vice Chair.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The LEP Review has a mandatory requirement for all LEPs to have a Chair and Vice Chair and to appoint to these roles through an open process. The SCR process to appoint the Chair, Vice Chair and LEP Board Members is documented in the Terms of Reference for the LEP Board which is ratified annually.
- 1.2 In response to the requirements of the new governance arrangements and the LEP work programme for 2019/20 and beyond, the LEP Chair has considered the distinct and required roles of the Chair and Vice Chair and LEP Board Members. The request, outlined in the proposal below, is for a second Vice Chair role to be created to enable management of the increasing priorities of the LEP.

2. Proposal and justification

- 2.1 The LEP high level strategic and operational priorities and work programme for the coming three years are outlined in Sections 2.2-2.4 below.

2.2 2019-2020

Strategic developments

- Revised Strategic Economic Plan, produced and adopted by the LEP Board
- Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) co-produced with government and adopted by the LEP Board and Mayoral Combined Authority
- Northern Powerhouse 11 (NP11 LEPs) programme developed, agreed and negotiated with MHCLG
- Revised comprehensive stakeholder engagement programme, particularly focusing on negotiations with government, private sector strategic investors etc
- Revised comprehensive business engagement programme

Operational Programme

- Continued delivery of the LGF and other Growth Deal programmes
- Delivery of the LEP Review including negotiations re a compliant geography
- LEP Review compliance work
- LEP/MCA governance Boards

2.3 2020-2021

Strategic developments

- Negotiations with government for SCR Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) settlement
- Northern Powerhouse 11 (NP11 LEPs) programme delivery phase
- Stakeholder engagement programme implementation
- Business engagement programme implementation

Operational Programme

- Continued delivery of the LGF and other Growth Deal programmes, including evaluation of schemes
- LEP Review compliance work
- LEP/MCA governance Boards
- LEP Board member recruitment

2.4 2021-2022

Strategic developments

- Commencement of SCR SPF strategic programme
- Stakeholder engagement programme implementation
- Business engagement programme implementation

Operational Programme

- LGF programme closure
- LEP Review compliance work
- LEP/MCA governance Boards

2.5 In considering this programme, the proposal is that the **LEP Chair** will prioritise

- leading the development of a refreshed strategic economic plan,
- leading the development of a local industrial strategy in partnership with Government,
- making the economic case for investment in the City Region
- building relationships and engaging with business in the city region
- supporting the LEP Board to effectively implement the new public-private collaborative decision-making arrangements

2.6 The **Vice-Chair** will prioritise

- Overseeing the performance of the LEP and leading the relationship with Government on LEP performance
- Leading on the LEP's compliance with good governance standards, the LEP Review, accountability and transparency standards
- Overseeing delivery of the LGF programme and working with LEP Board members in ensuring effective financial management of the programme

2.7 Set against the priorities outlined in sections 2.2-2.4, the proposal is made for a **second Vice Chair** to support the Chair in the areas of:

- stakeholder engagement and management of the agreed programme
- local business engagement and management of the agreed programme

2.8 If agreed the appointment to the position of the second Vice Chair would be in accordance with the LEP Board Terms of Reference and the Equality and Diversity policy.

3. **Consideration of alternative approaches**

3.1 Continue with the current arrangement of a Chair and a single Vice Chair. This is compliant in accordance with the LEP Review. The risk of this approach is the time required to lead the strategic priorities given the volume and significance of the upcoming work programme and given the voluntary nature of the LEP Board private sector leadership and membership.

3.2 Distribute additional roles and responsibilities to LEP Board Members. This has been considered but in response to the revised governance where LEP Board Members will be taking on responsibility on delegated decision-making Boards, capacity to take on additional leadership responsibilities are felt to be minimal.

4. **Implications**

4.1 **Financial**

There are no direct costs associated with this proposal, but there are indirect officer costs associated with LEP Board recruitment. Should the agreement be given to this proposal the recruitment pack is in place and the process can be internally managed.

4.2 **Legal**

If the recommendation to appoint a second Vice Chair is agreed there will be a requirement to amend the LEP Terms of Reference.

4.3 **Risk Management**

The proposal to recruit a second Vice Chair is made as a response to the strategic risk management action plans of the MCA/LEP. Clarifying the leadership remit of the LEP Chair and Vice-Chair and the appointment of the second Vice Chair seek to strengthen current controls in the risk areas of:

- Programme and portfolio management
- Reputation management
- Decision-making and transparency
- Compliance
- Organisational performance and viability
- Strategy-led prioritisation

As the LEP seeks to implement revised governance arrangements, refresh and develop the SEP / LIS, increase and improve its engagement programme and negotiate for additional resource this offers an additional 'control' to potential risks.

4.4 **Equality, Diversity and Social Inclusion**

The LEP Board approved policy recognises that in order to achieve its vision, bringing benefits to all City Region communities, it is essential that the Board represents the diverse population of the region, and embraces the benefits this will bring in improving creativity, productivity and innovation.

The appointment of a second Vice Chair, in light of the scale of the LEP work provides the opportunity for further diversity to the Board. If approved the recruitment for the second Vice Chair will be particularly promoted to women and others with protected characteristics.

5. Communications

- 5.1 If approved, a communications plan for the recruitment and selection of a second Vice Chair will be developed. As a minimum this will include the publication of the role and remit via the local website and social media, the government appointment channels and via partner agencies.

6. Appendices/Annexes

- 6.1 None

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Background papers used in the preparation of this report are available for inspection at: 11 Broad Street West, Sheffield S1 2BQ

Other sources and references:

- SCR LEP equality and diversity policy
- SCR LEP Terms of Reference