

Local Enterprise Partnership

13 January 2022

Governance Arrangements on Membership

Is the paper exempt from the press and public? No

Purpose of this report: Governance

Funding Stream: Not applicable

Is this a Key Decision? No

Has it been included on the Forward Plan? No

Director Approving Submission of the Report:
Dave Smith, Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service

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Executive Summary:

This report provides an update on LEP Board governance, membership and some amendments to roles following recent changes to Private Sector Board membership

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

The MCA governance model includes strong representation from the private sector in both the positioning of the LEP and the Thematic Board arrangements. This ensures the private sector voice is represented in policy and decisions relating to all of the priority areas of the economic plan.

Recommendations:

That the LEP Board Members approve the changes to representation outlined in this report.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel
None

1. Background

- 1.1 Government, in its review of LEP Boards, set out clear guidance for how such Boards operate and are constructed; including the requirement for a Chair and Vice Chair to be appointed from the private sector.
- 1.2 In addition to this national guidance, the MCA Board at its September 2020 meeting, approved an approach to governance which introduced and implemented portfolio lead arrangements. These arrangements involved MCA members and LEP Private Sector leading the four priority portfolio's areas and Co-Chairing the associated Thematic Board.
- 1.3 Following the resignation of the Chair and Vice Chair this report sets out a number of confirmed and proposed changes to governance:
 - Confirming the Chairing arrangements for the LEP Board, as approved by the Mayor and verbally reported to the last Board
 - Seeking approval to appoint a new Vice Chair
 - Seeking approval to appoint a new portfolio lead for Education, Skills and Employment

2. Key Issues

2.1 LEP Chair

Following confirmation that the LEP Chair would not be seeking a second term of office, the Mayor has appointed Lucy Nickson as Interim Chair of the LEP. This appointment runs from 1st January 2022.

Given the election of a new Mayor in May 2022, the appointment process for a substantive LEP Chair will commence after a new Mayor has taken up office.

2.2 LEP Vice Chair

Following the appointment of Lucy Nickson as Interim Chair and the resignation of Nigel Brewster, the proposal is that Neil McDonald be appointed as LEP Board Vice-Chair.

Neil McDonald currently is Co-Chair of the Business Recovery and Growth Board and is the private sector lead on the Assurance Panel. These roles will be reviewed upon taking up the role of Vice Chair.

2.3 Education, Skills and Employment Thematic Board

The proposal is that Dan Fell, is appointed as the LEP Private Sector Co-Chair for the Thematic Board.

2.4 Other Membership Changes

Members are asked to note the resignation with immediate effect of Karen Beardsley, due to work commitments taking her overseas for an extended period. A recommendation of a second Private Sector Member for the Transport and Environment Board will be agreed by the Chair and reported to a future Board.

3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

3.1 Option 1

Progress immediately to a formal appointment process – this option has been discounted as the LEP Chair and Vice Chair are Mayoral appointments and in view of the Mayoral election and certainty of a new Mayor taking up office, the substantive campaign has been deferred so as to engage the new Mayor.

3.2 Recommended Option

The recommended option is set out in section 2, to progress the interim appointments of the Chair and Vice Chair and to appoint a new Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio lead.

4. Consultation on Proposal

4.1 Discussion on the Vice Chair appointment have taken place with the Interim LEP Chair and the Mayor

4.2 Discussions on the Portfolio lead appointment have taken place with the Interim LEP Chair and the MCA lead, Cllr Sir Steve Houghton.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision:

5.1 From this meeting, subject to agreement

6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

6.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report, LEP Membership is an unremunerated appointment.

7. Legal Implications and Advice

7.1 The appointments will ensure compliance with both national guidance and MCA governance requirements.

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

8.1 None

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

9.1 The LEP Board is subject to national requirements regarding its gender balance on the Board. These appointments do not adversely affect the SY LEP gender balance and the Board is still compliant with requirements.

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

10.1 None

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

11.1 None

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice.

12.1 Following approval of the appointments, the website will be updated to reflect the agreed portfolio's and positions. Further communication and press releases remain to be considered and agreed.

List of Appendices Included

None

Background Papers:

Strengthening Governance in Local Enterprise Partnerships (2018)