

## Audit, Standards and Risk Committee

Wednesday, 13 December 2023

### Governance Update

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Is the paper exempt from the press and public? No

Reason why exempt: Not applicable

Purpose of this report: Discussion

Is this a Key Decision? No

Has it been included on the Forward Plan of Key Decisions? No

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#### Executive Summary

This report updates on the implementation of the new MCA Governance model.

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

The new MCA Governance model will enhance openness and transparency, bring a new Mayor's Economic Advisory Council and a new Business Advisory Board to strengthen business engagement, and ultimately deliver better outcomes for the businesses, people and places of South Yorkshire.

#### Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee note and discuss the progress made in implementing the new MCA Governance model.

#### 1. Background

1.1 Following a review of governance arrangements, at the MCA Board on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 it was agreed to implement a new governance model which consists of:

- A 'Cabinet' style Leadership model, with the South Yorkshire Mayor and Local Authority Leaders taking portfolio responsibilities.
- A Business Advisory Board (BAB) and a Mayor's Economic Advisory Council (MEAC). The former will help maintain meaningful engagement with the private sector with a strong local, independent and diverse business voice. The latter will ensure proven economic growth expertise can be accessed to advise, challenge, and champion South Yorkshire nationally and globally.
- Existing statutory Audit, Standards and Risk Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

This model removed the four existing Thematic Boards and each of these has held its final meeting. The remaining actions have been subsumed into the MCA Board.

This model also removed the LEP Board, taking into account government policy to transfer the functions from Local Enterprise Partnerships to MCAs, including withdrawing funding support for LEPs. On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the final South Yorkshire LEP Board meeting took place.

1.2 The formal Governance of the MCA now consists of the following meetings:-

1. MCA Board- bi-monthly.
2. Business Advisory Board – bi-monthly.
3. Mayor's Economic Advisory Council – tri-annually.
4. Overview and Scrutiny Committee – quarterly.
5. Audit and Scrutiny Committee – quarterly.

The Internal Audit plan for 23/24 includes an audit of the governance changes. This review will assess whether the changes have been effectively implemented and embedded and whether these are delivering the required outcomes. The audit will also consider the views and opinions of members on impact of the changes and to seek to identify further refinement. The fieldwork for this audit will commence at the end of January 2024.

1.3 Work to implement the new model has been ongoing and is detailed below.

## **2. Key Issues**

### **2.1 Cabinet style Leadership Model**

From the September MCA Board, a new meeting cycle has been instituted, to enable the MCA Board to meet every 2 months and the Mayor and Leaders to also meet at least every 2 months to discuss policy and strategic planning matters.

Portfolio Holders and designated officer supporting arrangements have also been confirmed as below:

<b>Portfolios</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Chief Executive</b>	<b>MCA Director</b>
<b>Economic Growth</b>	Mayor Coppard	Martin Swales	Tom Bousfield
<b>Education, Training and Skills</b>	Sir Steve Houghton	Kate Josephs	Tom Bousfield
<b>Travel and Transport</b>	Mayor Coppard	Martin Swales	Pat Beijer / Jenny Holmes
<b>Net Zero and Environment</b>	Mayor Coppard	Damian Allen	Clare Monaghan
<b>Infrastructure and Housing</b>	Mayor Jones	Sharon Kemp	Gareth Sutton
<b>Creative, Culture and Digital</b>	Cllr Hunt	Sarah Norman	Jenny Holmes
<b>Policy, Engagement and Impact</b>	Cllr Read	Martin Swales	Clare Monaghan
<b>Health Inequalities</b>	Mayor Coppard	Martin Swales	Steven Pleasant (Adviser)

Regular engagement and communication arrangements have been put in place with all Portfolio Holders to support them to lead their portfolio area effectively.

#### Business Advisory Board

An open and transparent recruitment process was undertaken over the summer to appoint members of the Business Advisory Board. Over 35 applications were submitted from high calibre individuals to be part of the Board.

Through the appointment process, the MCA has endeavoured to ensure that the new Board reflects the communities across South Yorkshire, including a commitment to achieve a gender balance. Diversity on the Boards in relation to business sectors, geography, demographics, and ethnicity has been prioritised to ensure the business voice is representative of interests throughout South Yorkshire.

The final composition of the Board is:

- Co-chair: Louisa Harrison-Walker representing the three South Yorkshire Chambers (Barnsley & Rotherham, Doncaster, and Sheffield)
- Co-chair: Tariq Shah OBE, Director, Vigo Group
- Rachel Abbott representing the Cutlers, South Yorkshire International Trade Forum, Manufacturers Forum and Made In Sheffield
- Dawn Huntrod representing MakeUK

- Paula Gouldthorpe representing the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)
- Angela Foulkes representing the South Yorkshire Skills Advisory Board (SYSAB)
- Liz Blackshaw representing the Northern Trade Union Congress
- Beckie Hart representing the Confederation of British Industry (CBI)
- Sherry Kothari, Chief Executive, Plasma 4
- Roz Davies, Chief Executive, Green Estate
- David Cross, Chief Executive and Architect, Sky-House
- Richard Gould, Sales Director, Metlase
- Ken Perritt FCILT, Senior Director, GXO Logistics

The first meeting of the Business Advisory Board took place on November 21<sup>st</sup> 2023. This was publicly announced via press release.

#### Mayor's Economic Advisory Council

The formal announcement of members of the Mayor's Economic Advisory Council has yet to take place. Once all members are recruited, an appropriate date for a launch event will be identified for the Council early in the New Year. We will ensure that further detail on the membership of the Council is shared with the Committee when confirmed.

## **4. Consultation on Proposal**

- 4.1 The proposals have previously been considered at the MCA Board, Audit, Standards and Risk Committee and Overview and Scrutiny Committee. They are a direct result of the MCA Review which incorporated a programme of engagement and consultation with elected members, MPs, the LEP, key stakeholders, partners, business leaders, business membership organisations and MCA staff.

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

- 5.1 Not applicable

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

- 6.1 Not applicable

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

- 7.1 Not applicable

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

- 8.1 None

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

- 9.1 None

**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 None

**List of Appendices Included:**

None

**Background Papers**