



**MEETING OF LIVERPOOL CITY REGION  
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP  
BOARD**

**AGENDA**

**DATE:** Thursday, 30th March, 2023

**TIME:** 8.30 am to 10.00am

**VENUE:** Zoom

# LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

## AGENDA

### **1 WELCOME AND DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (V) 5 MINUTES**

### **2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING (P) 10 MINUTES**

Mark Basnett will reference matters arising from the minutes.

(Pages 1 - 4)

### **3 LIVERPOOL CITY REGION BUSINESS SUPPORT REVIEW (PR\*) 20 MINUTES**

SQW will present their summary review of business support in the City Region and their recommendations for strengthening this going forward commissioned by the Combined Authority.

Board Members will be invited to share their views on the report and provide input on the recommendations.

### **4 LEP INTEGRATION WITH THE COMBINED AUTHORITY (PR\*) (P) 45 MINUTES**

Colleagues from the Combined Authority will present the developed proposals for integration of the LEP Business Voice function into the Combined Authority to inform policy and operational priorities for the City Region further to the last Board and consultation with Sector Board Chairs and other key stakeholders.

Mark Basnett will present a brief paper setting out the process and next steps for integration for consideration by the Board including the extension of the LEP Chair term for a further 6 months to oversee this process on behalf of the Board.

Board Members will be invited consider the proposals presented and endorse the recommendations in the paper.

(Pages 5 - 8)

### **5 CHAIRS COMMENTS (V) 10 MINUTES**

LEP Chair Asif Hamid MBE to offer final comments on the role of the LEP Board and its Members and propose a formal vote of thanks to all those present and past Board Members for their invaluable contribution to the City Region.

**6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Key – (V) – Discussion/verbal update no paper

(Pr) – Presentation

(P) – Paper

\*Note: Presentation for Items 3 and 4 will be circulated ahead of the meeting

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## **LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP**

At a meeting of the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership held remotely on Friday, 24th February, 2023 the following Members were

### **PRESENT:**

Asif Hamid MBE, Chairperson  
Paul Corcoran  
Rachael Patterson  
Mayor Joanne Anderson  
Professor Tim Jones  
Elaine Bowker  
Angela White OBE  
Tom O'Brien  
Steve Stuart  
John McDonald  
Faye Dyer

### **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dave Anderson, Interim Assistant Director – Investment, LCRCA  
Mick Allen – BEIS  
Mark Basnett, Managing Director, LCR LEP  
Dr Aileen Jones, Executive Director Investment and Delivery, LCRCA  
Shelley Lockett, Growth Platform  
Louise Outram, Interim Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer  
Simon Reid, Growth Platform  
Lisa Smith – Liverpool City Council

### **APOLOGIES**

Ben Osu  
Melinda Acutt  
Dr Jonathan Hague  
Mark Whitworth  
Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram  
Councillor Janette Williamson

### **522 WELCOME AND DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **523 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the Board meeting held on the 17 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

### **524 ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND REGISTER OF INTERESTS**

Mark Basnett, Managing Director – LCR LEP, advised the Board that the LCR LEP had undergone its Annual Performance review with Government. As a consequence of the LCR LEP going through the integration process into the LCR Combined Authority the annual performance review had been 'light touch'. However, in keeping with previous years, the LCR LEP had met all the criteria set as part of the review

process. It was reported that the review had identified some residual underspend with the 'Getting Building Fund', however this was an issue for the LCR Combined Authority to address.

Board Members were also reminded that as part of the Annual Performance Review they were required to complete a Register of Interest Form, which would be circulated shortly.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

## **525 LEP & GROWTH COMPANY INTEGRATION WITH THE COMBINED AUTHORITY**

Asif Hamid MBE advised the Board, that given the importance of this item, the Chairs of each of the Sector Boards had been invited to attend and participation in the discussion.

Aileen Jones, Executive Director Investment and Delivery and Dave Anderson, Interim Assistant Director – Investment, provided a presentation to the Board which summarised the progress of the integration of the LCR LEP into the LCR Combined Authority.

The presentation set out the following:

- Summarised the context for integration, which had been a requirement of Government for all LEPs in Combined Authority (CA) areas to be integrated into those CAs.
- The LCR Combined Authority had undertaken to complete the integration by the end of June 2023.
- It was recognised that the LCR LEP Board structure had represented LEP best practice and had played a major role in the City Region.
- Integration provided an opportunity to tie in the 'business voice' more effectively into the work and priorities of the CA.
- Proposed changes to Sector Boards could transition over the next few months.
- The integration of the LEP and any future proposed changes to the Growth Platform had to be considered against a backdrop of a significantly constrained funding environment.
- Recognised the importance of the board structure and the need to integrate the business voice;
- Explained the proposed structure, which was:
  - Prioritisation of LCR Growth clusters into the following Cluster Boards-
    - Health and Life Sciences
    - Advanced Manufacturing
    - Digital and Creative
    - Use existing CA Innovation and Social Economy Boards;
  - Creation of a Professional and Business Services Advisory Board;
  - Future Visitor Economy Board would be informed by the work on Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) bid.
- Explained how the Boards could establish Task and Finish Groups, looking at areas such as Skills, Net zero, Trade and investment, Digitalisation, Equalities, diversity and inclusion.
- Outlined the opportunities to align the work of the Boards more closely with the work of the CA.
- Set out the next steps for the engagement on the proposed model.

Board Members considered the presentation and provided the following feedback:

- Imperative to continue to have a clear, independent business voice involved in the decision-making process. Particularly when the City Region's business economy required support to attract investment and scale-up existing businesses, it was important that the business community were listened to and able to shape the support. Furthermore, clarity was sought on how the Sector Boards had been engaged in this process, noting that the Board Members gave their time to participate in the Sector Boards.
- The Board was advised that the proposals presented today, have been developed in conjunction with the Growth Platform and were presented today for discussion.
- A Board Member welcomed the proposed Clusters Boards and sought clarity on how the proposals would result in growth across sectors such as life sciences. The inclusion of social economy was also welcomed.
- It was noted that the integration between the LCR CA and LEP provided an opportunity to enhance the partnership and ensure that the business voice was used to provide opinion in the CA's decision-making processes. It was also suggested that the Chair of the Business and Enterprise Board should provide updates to the LCR CA, possible with an annual statement which summarised how the region's business sector was performing.
- The Board was advised that they would have a further opportunity to comment on the proposals at the next Board meeting on 30 March 2023. The importance of retaining a genuine, independent business voice was also recognised.
- It would be preferable to have an opportunity to reflect on the proposals and provide further feedback. Furthermore, it was suggested that the existing Boards should be engaged in the design for the new proposals.
- The proposals had the potential to be powerful and drive a growing economy and welcomed the inclusion of skills as part of a Boards focus.
- Concern was experienced regarding the uncertainty surrounding the Board make-up for the Visitor Economy sector and the importance of having a successful bid to become a Local Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) was stressed.
- Social Value was intrinsic and should be the golden thread which runs through all of the Cluster Boards, rather than being one distinct Board.
- The integration provided an opportunity to be clear on the role of the LCR CA and the LEP, as there was still uncertainty about the roles and purpose of both organisations.
- Discussions on age diversity and the inclusion of the next generations voice within the proposed structures would be welcome.
- The proposed structure should be articulating the benefits of what they are seeking to achieve.

- Stressed the importance of retaining the authentic and independent business voice within the new proposals. It was also suggested that common themes should cut across all Cluster Boards, rather than being the domain of one.
- It was highlighted that within the proposed structure there was no reference to the maritime sector.
- Concern was expressed regarding the lack of engagement with Sector Boards in the development of the structure proposals and had not made approaches to understand the priorities of the Sector Boards or that some, such as the Professional and Business Services Board underpinned the majority of business activity across the City Region.
- It was recognised that improvements were required across the City Region in terms of business growth, which was why the voice of business was critical.
- Tribute was paid to the dedication and commitment of Board Members.
- It was noted that the Built Environment did not feature within the proposed structure.
- In response to the comments raised, it was stressed that this was the first part in the engagement process, and further engagement with Sector Boards would be undertaken. Furthermore, it was imperative that the integration with the LCR CA and structure proposals better integrated the business voice into the LCR CA.
- The proposed structures should facilitate the opportunity for Cluster Boards to work collectively and move away from some of the silo Board working which was currently taking place.

The Chair, Asif Hamid MBE, thanked Board Members for their valuable and honest contributions from across the sectors.

RESOLVED – That:

- (i) The presentation and comments raised be noted;
- (ii) Engagement sessions with each Sector Board be undertaken to inform the structure proposals.

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Chairperson of the Board

(The meeting closed at 11.07 am)





## LEP Board Meeting

30<sup>th</sup> March 2023

## LEP/MCA Integration Transition Plan & Next Steps

Author:

Mark Basnett  
Managing Director  
Liverpool City Region LEP

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the Report is to set out the planned process for the integration of the business voice into the Combined Authority alongside a proposal to extend the tenure of the current LEP Chair, Asif Hamid MBE, for up to 6 months, to formally represent the LEP Board and oversee the establishment of a new Business and Enterprise Board and the consequent dissolution of the LEP Board.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 Board Members are asked to consider the proposal below and approve a short extension the term of the Chair, Asif Hamid MBE, for a period of up to 6 months to oversee the smooth transition of the LEP Board and Sector Boards into the new Boards structure embedded within the Combined Authority and with that, the dissolution of the LEP Board.

## **3. Proposal, Process and Timescale**

- 3.1 The LEP is in the process of integration into the Combined Authority with the establishment of a new Business and Enterprise Board to represent the business voice of the City Region, embedded within the Combined Authority, planned for summer 2023, at which point the LEP Board will be dissolved.
- 3.2 Combined Authority officers will present draft proposals for the new Business and Enterprise Board, and underpinning sub Board structure, which have been developed in consultation with LEP Board Members and Sector Board Chairs, at the LEP Board Meeting on 30th March 2023.
- 3.3 Further to any final amendments these proposals will then be formally presented for approval by the Combined Authority at its meeting on 28th April 2023. Shortly after this meeting, once the Business and Enterprise Board has been constituted, which is currently planned for July 2023, the LEP Board will be formally dissolved.
- 3.4 Until such time as the new Board is constituted, it is suggested that the LEP Chair is authorised by the Board to act on its behalf to oversee the process of dissolution of the LEP Board and engage with the Combined Authority in relation to the formation of the new Board.
- 3.5 The current LEP Chair, Asif Hamid MBE, has, as of 31 March 2023, served the maximum of 2 x 3 year terms as Chair with the full support of the LEP Board.
- 3.6 Within the Assurance Framework under which the LCR LEP and CA operate there is a provision to request to the UK Government an extension to this maximum term in exceptional circumstances and it cites the impact of the LEP Review as such a circumstance, provided this is supported by the LEP Board.
- 3.7 Rather than appoint a new Chair for the short period between 1 April and the dissolution of the Board, it is proposed that the LEP Board agree to recommend the extension of the Chair's role for a maximum of 6 months to oversee the transition and act on the LEP Board's behalf, alongside continuing to discharge the normal responsibilities of the LEP Chair in accordance with its Constitution until such time as the LEP Board may be dissolved.
- 3.8 Subject to approval by the LEP Board a formal request will then be submitted to Government to endorse the extension. On the anticipated endorsement of this proposal, the LEP Chair will work with CA and Growth Platform staff, and Sector Board Chairs, to ensure the smooth transition of business voice role to a new Board and sub-Board structure that continues to provide the authentic and independent insight of the City Region's business community to

inform and drive the sustainable and inclusive economic growth of the City Region over the coming years.

#### **4. LEP Board Dissolution and Recognition**

- 4.1 Subject to the approval of the LEP Board, and also subject to the proposals for the new Business and Enterprise Board being approved by the Combined Authority at its 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023 meeting, the LEP Board Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2023 will be the final meeting of the Liverpool City Region LEP.
- 4.2 Throughout its 11 years of operation, the LEP Board has been considered to provide exemplary governance for the City Region on behalf of the business community by Government and is recognised by them to be a model of best practice.
- 4.3 It has been steered by many exceptional business, institutional and political leaders during this period, all providing freely of their time and expertise for the benefit of the City Region without remuneration. This leadership has provided an excellent platform for the City Region to build the next generation of business representation and insight which will take form through the new Business and Enterprise Board and attendant sub-Board structure.
- 4.4 As such, the Dissolution of the LEP Board, will mark the successful transition to a new Board embedded at the heart of the City Region's economic engine to inform and drive its further successful growth
- 4.5 All current and past LEP Board Members are thanked for their inspiring and generous contribution to the City Region through their participation on the LEP Board.

#### **5. Next Steps**

- 5.1 The LCR Combined Authority will formally consider the proposals for integration and formation of a new Business and Enterprise Board at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023.
- 5.2 Subject to its approval, the new Board will be formed in the following weeks and the LEP Board formally dissolved.
- 5.3 More formal recognition of the LEP contribution to the City Region will be made at a suitable time over the coming months once the new Business and Enterprise Board has been established

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