



BUSINESS BOARD	AGENDA ITEM NO: 3.6
23 MARCH 2020	PUBLIC REPORT

BUSINESS BOARD GOVERNANCE REVIEW

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To outline the findings of the Business Board Governance Review and invite the Business Board to adopt the recommendations arising from the Governance Review.

<u>DECISION REQUIRED</u>	
Lead Member:	Austen Adams, Chair of the Business Board
Lead Officer:	Rochelle White, Deputy Monitoring Officer
Forward Plan Ref: -	Key Decision: No
<p>The Business Board is invited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) Note and approve the preliminary recommendations and next steps outlined in the Appendix.(b) Recommend to the Combined Authority approval of the preliminary recommendations and next steps outlined in the Appendix.(c) Recommend that the Combined Authority delegate authority to Monitoring Officer to amend the Assurance Framework and Constitution to reflect the recommendations outlined in the Appendix.	

2.0 BACKGROUND & OVERVIEW

- 2.1 The Business Board operates to Governance arrangements set out in the Constitution of the Combined Authority and the Assurance Framework. As the Business Board has been operational since November 2018, the decision was taken to undertake a Governance Review.

- 2.2 A specification for the Governance Review was devised, which focused on the 4 key areas:
- Board Oversight & Assurance
 - Board Membership
 - Board Performance
 - Effective Decision Making
- 2.3 An induction session for existing and new Business Board Members took place in January 2020. As part of that session, Board Members provided feedback on the key areas detailed in 2.2 above. That feedback focused on suggestions for improved governance arrangements.
- 2.4 Composite findings of the Governance Review including feedback from Business Board members assisted in devising preliminary recommendations for improved governance arrangements. The Governance Review findings and can be found at the appendix.

3.0 PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Preliminary recommendations and next steps proposed are outlined in appendix. Adopting these recommendations will build on the current strengths of the Business Board, allowing greater flexibility. Public confidence is strengthened through transparency and visibility. Good governance represents the balance between private sector leadership and public sector accountability.
- 3.2. It is proposed that the preliminary recommendations as drafted, be approved by the Business Board. If approved, those recommendations will be recommended to the Combined Authority for adopting and for the necessary amendments to be made to the Combined Authority's Constitution and Assurance Framework.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The National Assurance Framework sets out the Governance requirements that LEP's must adopt. That guidance has been considered as part of this Governance Review.

6.0 APPENDICES

- 6.1 **Appendix** – Governance Review