



Agenda Item No: 3.5

Business Board Nomination to the Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly

To: Business Board

Meeting Date: 19th July 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Chair of the Business Board, Austen Adams

From: Director of Business & Skills, John T Hill

Key decision: No

Recommendations: The Business Board is recommended to:

- a) Nominate Claire Ruskin (Executive Director, Cambridge Network Ltd) to represent the Business Board on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly;
- b) Consider whether the other two current representatives, Christopher Walkinshaw (Marshalls of Cambridge) and Heather Richards (Verint), should continue to sit on the Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly; and
- c) Subject to the outcome of recommendation (b) above, agree for interested members to put themselves forward as Business Board representative nominees to the Greater Cambridge Partnership Joint Assembly, and for officers to oversee the process of confirming appointments.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to seek Business Board agreement to nominate Claire Ruskin as Business Board representative to the Joint Assembly of the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP).
- 1.2 The Business Board is also being asked to consider the option to put forward two members of the Business Board as new nominations alongside Claire Ruskin on the GCP Joint Assembly. The current holders of those seats are Christopher Walkinshaw and Heather Richards (see 7.1 background paper). If no Business Board members are seeking to occupy these posts, then no change is required.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Business Board on 19th October 2020 members considered a report on nominations to the GCP Executive Board (see 7.2 background paper). It was agreed to:
 - (a) Nominate the Chair of the Business Board to be a non-voting co-opted member of the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board
 - (b) Note that the Chair of the Business Board will be co-opting Dr Andy Williams of AstraZeneca as a non-voting member of the Business Board
 - (c) Propose to the Greater Cambridge Partnership that it invite Dr Andy Williams to join the Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board as a second non-voting member from the Business Board.
- 2.2 The GCP Executive Board considered the recommendations at its meeting on 12th December 2020 (see 7.3 background paper) and resolved to:
 - (a) Ask the Business Board to reconsider this matter and make a nomination that is consistent with the GCP Executive Board's Standing Orders and Terms of Reference (as summarised in paragraph 4.4);
 - (b) Confirm, subject to the above, to consider whether to use the discretion available to the Chairperson and voting members of the Executive Board to allow both the Business Board nominee and the substitute member to attend the GCP Executive Board meetings, should the case be made to do so.
- 2.3 On 10th June 2021, the Business Board Chair wrote to the GCP Chief Executive to confirm that at its meeting on 19th May 2021 the Business Board approved his nomination as its representative on the GCP Executive Board (see 7.4 background paper). Dr Andy Williams, who has been co-opted onto the Business Board, has been nominated as a substitute member.
- 2.4 At its meeting on 1st July 2021, the GCP Executive Board (see 7.5 background paper) resolved to approve the following recommendations:
 - (a) Confirm the appointment of Austin Adams as the Business Board representative on the GCP Executive Board

(b) Confirm the appointment of Dr Andy Williams as the Business Board substitute representative on the GCP Executive Board

(c) Confirm that it supports the use of the discretion available to the Chairperson and voting members to allow both the Business Board representative and substitute member to attend future GCP Executive Board meetings

(d) Request the Business Board to consider the appointment of Claire Ruskin to fill the vacancy on the Joint Assembly following the appointment of Dr Andy Williams as a substitute member of the Executive Board.

2.5 In follow up, the Business Board is now being asked to consider recommendation 2.4 (d) above, and for Claire Ruskin to represent the business community on the GCP Joint Assembly. The nomination is made in accordance with the terms of Reference for the GCP Executive Board and Joint Assembly, and the appointment is supported by the Chair of the Business Board and the GCP CEO, Rachel Stopard.

2.6 The GCP Terms of Reference and Standing Order of the Joint Assembly (see Appendix 1) stipulate that:

“The Joint Assembly will have a membership of 15, with each council being entitled to appoint three members and the Business Board and the University of Cambridge both being entitled to nominate three co-opted members”.

And that:

“Members nominated by the Business Board become co-opted members of the Joint Assembly on endorsement by the GCP Executive Board”.

This essentially means that the Business Board can nominate anyone for the business representative roles on the GCP Executive Board and Joint Assembly.

2.7 All nominations for the posts are subject to GCP Executive Board approval.

2.8 At its meeting on 8 February 2018, the GCP Executive Board agreed to endorse the appointment of the Executive Director of Cambridge Network (Claire Ruskin) as the representative of the business community on the GCP Executive Board. This followed an agreement between the Chief Executive of the Combined Authority and the Chief Executive of the Greater Cambridge Partnership that Claire Ruskin, who was previously the LEP’s representative on the Greater Cambridge Partnership’s Joint Assembly, should cover the interim period while the former LEP was reconstituted. When the LEP was reconstituted as the Combined Authority’s Business Board, the representative from the former LEP continued on the Executive Board, although she was not a member of the Business Board.

2.9 As a final note, at the GCP Executive Board meeting on 1st July 2021, Claire Ruskin pointed out that there were three incorrect statements in the Business Board minutes of its meeting on 19th October 2020 and asked the Business Board to clarify these matters. The correct position is that Claire has not been a member of the Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP before it became the Business Board, that Claire had not recently resigned as the CEO of Cambridge Network, and that Claire was not stepping down from her role on the GCP Executive Board.

Significant Implications

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no financial implications.

4. Legal Implications

4.1 In accordance with the GCP Terms of Reference for the Joint Assembly and the Standing Order, the Business Board is able to nominate up to three elected members.

5. Other Significant Implications

5.1 None.

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 – GCP Joint Assembly Terms of Reference & Standing Orders

7. Background Papers

7.1 Member Biographies – [Christopher Walkinshaw](#) and [Heather Richards](#)

7.2 [Business Board - GCP nomination report \(19th October 2020\)](#)

7.3 [GCP Executive Board - Business Board nomination report \(12th December 2020 – Agenda Item 4\)](#)

7.4 [Business Board – GCP nomination report \(19th May 2021\)](#)

7.5 [GCP Executive Board – Business Board nomination report \(1st July 2021 – Agenda Item 6\)](#)