



Report title: Business Board Lead Member Role

To: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: 22 February 2021

Public report: Yes

Lead Member: Austen Adams, Chair of the Business Board

From: Rochelle Tapping
Deputy Monitoring Officer

Key decision: No

Recommendations: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- a) Invite the Business Board to agree a Lead Member from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to shadow the Business Board as part of the Scrutiny arrangements for the Business Board; subject to the agreement of the Combined Authority Board.
- b) Invite the Business Board to agree the role description for the Lead Member shadowing the Business Board, subject to the agreement of the Combined Authority
- c) Propose Cllr Murphy for the role as Lead Member for the Business Board

1. Purpose

- 1.1. At its meeting on 23rd November 2020 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee met with Austen Adams, the Chair of the Business Board and discussed how the committee would like the appointment of a Lead Member to shadow the Business Board.
- 1.2 A role description has been created for members to review and agree recommending to the Business Board for agreement and subsequently approved by the CA Board.

2. Background

2.1 In August 2020 the Committee agreed that given the importance of the Business Board in relation to the Covid-19 recovery as well as the local economy in general and the dispersal of funds, a Lead Member should be appointed to shadow the Business Board.

2.2 To enable the Lead Member to effectively carry out their role, a clear appreciation of the role requirements is needed. The Lead Member role description sets out such requirements including the purpose, criteria and description of the role and provides a clear set of responsibilities that act as a guide which will enable the Lead Member to effectively conduct their role. The role description is at Appendix 1.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 None

4. Legal Implications

4.1 The National Assurance Framework sets out that:

152. LEPs should agree with their Accountable Body the appropriate scrutiny arrangements to ensure that decisions have the necessary independent and external scrutiny in place.

153. In addition to any agreed internal scrutiny arrangements within the LEP, the LEP should participate in relevant Local Authority scrutiny arrangements to guarantee the effective and appropriate democratic scrutiny of their investment decisions.

4.2 The current scrutiny arrangements are set out in the Local Assurance Framework. The proposed scrutiny arrangements, with a lead member shadowing the Business Board, would need to be agreed by the Combined Authority as the accountable Body for the Business Board. Once agreed, those revised arrangements would need to be reflected in the Local Assurance Framework.

5. Other Significant Implications

5.1 None.

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix 1 – Lead Member for Business Board Role Description

7. Background Papers

7.1 [O&S Minutes – 22nd June 2020](#)

7.2 [O&S Minutes – 29th July 2020](#)

7.3 [O&S Minutes – 23rd November 2020](#)