

Urgent Decision Taken on Behalf of Cabinet

Report to the Leader of the County Council

Report submitted by: Director of Corporate Services

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Lancashire Enterprise Partnership - Appointment of Blackpool Council as a Company Member

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report requests approval, in accordance with the Articles of Association for the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited, to accept Blackpool Council as a Member of the company with immediate effect.

Reason for Urgency

This decision is urgent and cannot await the next meeting of Cabinet on 11th April 2019. The reason for this is that Government request that all Local Enterprise Partnerships demonstrate a commitment to ensure there are owned by more than one organisation by the 1st April 2019, demonstrating an increased level of independence. This decision is therefore being taken on behalf of Cabinet by the Leader of the Council in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order C28(1).

Recommendation

The Leader of the County Council is asked to approve that Blackpool Council be admitted as a Member of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited and authorise the Director of Corporate Services to sign all necessary legal documentation to appoint Blackpool Council as a Member of the company.

This decision should be implemented immediately for the purposes of Standing Order C29 as any delay could adversely affect the execution of the County Council's responsibilities. The reason for this is to ensure this membership change is enacted by 1st April 2019 in accordance with Government's request.

Background and Advice

Government have introduced new guidance for Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) entitled the "[National Local Growth Growth Assurance Framework](#)" which becomes effective on 1st April 2019.

One of the key actions required that relates to the introduction of the new Assurance Framework is for the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited to change its ownership model and expand the number of organisations that are permitted as Members.

This approach has been endorsed by both Government and the LEP Board itself at its meeting held on 19th March 2019.

As a result invitations have been sent to various Local Authorities inviting them to become members of the company and in doing so agree to accept being bound by the company's Articles of Association.

Blackpool Council have agreed to become a Member of the company and be bound by the company Articles of Association. Their application to become a Member is attached at Appendix 'A'.

In order to admit them as a member, the existing member, Lancashire County Council, must, in accordance with the Articles of Association, approve accepting Blackpool Council as a member of the company and the relevant form to do this is attached at Appendix 'B'. The Leader of the County Council is asked to authorise the Director of Corporate Services to sign this form, and any other legal documentation required, to admit Blackpool Council as a member of the company.

Consultations

The LEP Board

The Chief Executive, Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer from the Accountable Body, Lancashire County Council.

Blackpool Council

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The risk of not following the recommendation is that the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership will continue to have one member which would not be in accordance with the recommendation of Government.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A