



Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited

Private and Confidential: NO

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Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited - Director Defined Term Limits

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Executive Summary

The National Local Growth Assurance Framework published by Government in January 2019 and active from April 2019 states that all Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) should have defined term limits for the Chair and Deputy Chair.

This report proposes to extend the defined term limits to other Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board Directors so to provide a consistent approach. Such an approach will enable the necessary turnover on the LEP board that is required to enable it to move towards greater equality around gender and diversity and ensure its ideas remains fresh and relevant.

Recommendation

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board is asked to approve the retirement of Board members as outlined in the main body of the report.

Background and Advice

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership has adopted within its Local Assurance Framework the national guidance that the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership shall serve a maximum defined term of three years with the option to extend for a further three years in exceptional circumstances.

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership is made up of a mixture of public and private sector directors and is private sector led. There are currently 5 directors specifically from local authorities with 14 (soon to be 15) directors from the private, voluntary and none Local Government public sector (such as Education sector).

Local Authority directors are from the three upper tier Lancashire authorities – Lancashire County Council, Blackpool Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council with the District Leaders Group having the power to appoint a maximum of two directors from their number of 12 district authorities.



It is important to recognise that a democratic selection process already exists for the 5 local authority director appointments made from council's in that they are subject to local elections with the electorate determining the respective administrations of the public sector authorities. Given this existing democratic process, it is not proposed to apply the three plus three term to the local authority directors, given this will be at odds with the electorate voting for whom they wish to represent them in local government.

It is proposed that for all other none democratically elected directors that the same defined term limit of three years with an optional extension of three years is applied to all private sector directors. In addition to which, and only in exceptional circumstances, this could be further extended.

Introducing defined terms of office for all none democratically elected directors, offers the opportunity for the Board to continue to make progress towards a Board that is reflective of the local business community (including geographies, gender and protected characteristics) with it noted in the local and national guidance that all Local Enterprise Partnerships must have at least one third of the Board must be women by 2020 and there should be equal representation by 2023.

At present, of the 19 total directors five are women so falls slightly short of the target that must be met by 2020 and is significantly short of the equal representation target by 2023. Such an approach would also enable the LEP to continually refresh its membership, ideas and approach. This approach would also allow the LEP to continually refresh the board to ensure it is reflective of new ideas and thinking.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
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