

## **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 Blackburn with Darwen Borough 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 Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council as Members of the company.

#### **Reason for Urgency**

This decision is urgent and cannot await the next meeting of Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020. The reason for this is that to ensure Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council are appointed as a Company Member within the timescales required in Company Law regarding acceptance of membership changes. This decision is therefore being taken on behalf of Cabinet by the Leader of the Council in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order C16(1).

#### **Recommendation**

The Leader of the County Council is asked to approve that Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council be admitted as Members of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and authorise the Director of Corporate Services to sign all necessary legal documentation to appoint them as Members 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 as soon as practicable in accordance with Government's request.

## **Background and Advice**

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

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

This approach was endorsed by both Government and the LEP Board itself at previous LEP Board meetings and a LEP Working Group meeting involving all parties.

As a result invitations were 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 agreed to become a member of the company and be bound by the company Articles of Association with Lancashire County Council formally accepting them as a member of the company on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 thus ensuring that the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership complied with the new guidance effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

An invitation to become members has also been extended to Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council in order for all three upper tier authorities that cover the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership area, to become members of the company.

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council have completed their application to become members of the company, their application is attached at Appendix 'A'.

In order to admit the Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council as members, the existing members, Lancashire County Council and Blackpool Council, must, in accordance with the Articles of Association, approve accepting the Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council as new members of the company and the relevant form to do this is attached at Appendix 'B'. Cabinet is asked to authorise the Director of Corporate Services to sign this form, and any other legal documentation required, to admit the two Chamber of Commerce organisations as members of the company.

Similarly, Blackpool Council are also considering a report to approve accepting the Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council through their decision making process.

## **Consultations**

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

Blackpool Council

Blackburn with Darwen Borough 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 two Local Authority members which whilst that does comply with new Government guidelines would mean that one of the upper tier authorities in the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership area is not a member of the company.

**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

N/A