



Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited

Private and Confidential: NO

Date: Monday, 30 September 2019

Governance - Joint Scrutiny Committee

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Executive Summary

This report is regarding the requirement for all Lancashire Enterprise Partnerships to have in place Joint Scrutiny arrangements in accordance to the new Government guidance.

Recommendation

The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board is asked to approve:

- (i) The principle that the LEP's existing Performance Committee be abolished and that it be replaced with a Joint Scrutiny Committee;
- (ii) That the Chief Executive and Chair be authorised to negotiate and agree the structure of the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Committee with Lancashire Leaders Group; and
- (iii) Upon agreement of the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Committee by the Chair and Chief Executive, that the LEP Board's approval be sought to the detailed arrangements prior to implementation (including any consequential changes that are required to the LEP's Local Assurance Framework).

Background and Advice

As part of the Government White Paper on 'Strengthening LEPs' and its new National Local Growth Assurance Framework, local authorities were asked to consider the effectiveness of their scrutiny arrangements for holding all LEPs in the UK to account and for overseeing their performance. A new requirement was established for all LEP areas to have a joint committee of Local Authorities to execute the function.



Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Review

As part of the consequent Review of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, it was the advice of the Local Cities and Growth Unit at BEIS that arrangements in Lancashire are already compliant with Government expectations. However, it was felt by Lancashire County Council that existing arrangements could beneficially be expanded in the interests of establishing a more dedicated, collaborative and inclusive set of arrangements.

Development and membership of a new dedicated Scrutiny Committee

Consequently it has previously been agreed, as part of the LEP Review, that a new dedicated Scrutiny Committee could improve both the collaboration and involvement of local authorities in supporting the work of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership, as well as overseeing its performance and holding it to account.

The Lancashire Leaders Group met in September 2019 when this issue was considered. It was resolved at that meeting that all fifteen local authorities will be offered a seat on this committee and that each authority will be asked to submit a representative.

The terms of reference of this proposed committee have not yet been set by Lancashire Leaders or agreed by the LEP, but the following matters were raised and discussed as possible work programme items in the Lancashire Leaders September meeting:

1. Bi-annual meetings of the Committee;
2. The power to insist on attendance;
3. Webcast debates;
4. Minimum of two deep dives per annum.
5. Publication of findings.
6. Calls for evidence.

Views of the Interim Chief Executive

The Interim Chief Executive is very supportive of appropriate scrutiny arrangements.

The Interim Chief Executive is mindful of the existing arrangements for Lancashire LEP's governance and accountability which currently include the following:

- (a) the LEP must comply with the requirements of BEIS, including the Annual Performance Review, the Mid Year Review, periodic "Deep Dives" and bi-weekly update conversations with BEIS officials in relation to compliance with BEIS requirements, activity and performance;
- (b) as part of the LEP Review, all the local authorities who will be represented on the Scrutiny Committee as developed by Lancashire Leaders will already have have representatives as members of the LEP who in turn will (once the LEP



Articles are amended) have the right to appoint nominated directors to the LEP Board and so influence all decisions made by the LEP; and

- (c) the LEP currently has an existing Performance Committee which was set up to provide scrutiny of LEP performance.

The Interim Chief Executive is keen to ensure that the detailed arrangements for LEP scrutiny do not duplicate existing arrangements and they are reflective of the size and scale of the LEP. Therefore his view is that:

- (a) the abolition of the LEP Performance Committee is required to avoid duplication of activity upon establishment of the Scrutiny Committee; and
- (b) the LEP through its Chief Executive and Chair should make the case with Lancashire Leaders to ensure that the detailed proposals submitted for the Scrutiny Committee do not inappropriately duplicate the LEP's existing burdens relating to paperwork or activity as part of its reporting and accounting to BEIS and its local authority members.

List of Background Papers

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