

Date: 31st January

Subject: Recruitment of the Chair of the GM Local Enterprise Partnership Board

Report of: Cllr Richard Leese, Deputy Mayor and Portfolio Lead for Economy

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report sets out the results of the recent recruitment campaign for a new Chair of GM Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) with a proposal from the LEP Board that Mo Isap and Lou Cordwell be appointed as Co-Chairs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The GMCA is requested to:

- i. Consider the report and any provide feedback.
- ii. Approve the appointment of Mo Isap and Lou Cordwell be appointed as Co-Chairs of the GM LEP Board.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

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Risk Management – N/A

Legal Considerations – N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue – N/A

Financial Consequences – Capital – N/A

TRACKING/PROCESS		
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution		No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN		
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?		No
GM Transport Cttee	Overview & Scrutiny Committee	
N/A		

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The GM LEP sits at the heart of Greater Manchester's governance arrangements, offering private sector insight, guidance and challenge to the development of GM's strategic agenda in partnership with the GMCA.
- 1.2 The role of LEP Chair is crucial to the success of this approach by providing leadership and strategic direction to the Board and harnessing the knowledge, insight and experience of LEP members in delivering GM's ambitions.
- 1.3 The current Chair was appointed in 2011 with the LEP Board approving his continuation in this role as part of the regular Board membership reviews with the last such review having taken place in Spring 2019.
- 1.4 However, the Chair's term of office comes to an end at the end of the 2019/20 requiring a new Chair to be appointed by March 2020. This report sets out the results of the recruitment campaign to find a new chair and the recommendation from the LEP Board on the final appointment.

2. CHAIR RECRUITMENT

- 2.1 In line with national guidance set out in the 2018 LEP Review, and advice received from Government officials, an open recruitment was launched in September 2019 in line with the approach taken previously when recruiting new private sector LEP members.
- 3.1 Recruitment was open to new candidates along with existing Board members and included adverts in the local and national press outlining the Chair role and person specification (this is attached at Appendix A).
- 3.2 The recruitment campaign was highlighted on both the GMCA and LEP websites along with publication on www.nonexecutivedirectors.com (a leading site for non-executive and trustee roles with over 35,000 registered members bringing global reach across all sectors and industries).
- 3.3 Similarly, the campaign sought to boost the number of eligible women applying through advertising through a dedicated women directors' network (www.womendirectors.com).
- 3.4 Following the initial sift of candidate and matching against the agreed criteria, two candidates were identified to go through to the final Interview Panel – Lou Cordwell and Mo Isap. The Panel's role is to recommend a Chair be appointed to the LEP prior to confirmation by the GMCA.

- 3.5 The Panel consisted Sir Richard Leese as Deputy Mayor for Business and the Economy along with Amanda Halford representing the LEP Board and Clive Memmott of the GM Chamber of Commerce for the wider GM business community
- 3.6 Following a successful interview, and given that both candidates are existing LEP Board members, the Panel is proposing to retain their combined knowledge, insight and experience by appointing them as Co-Chairs of the LEP Board.
- 3.7 Working together, the prospective Co-Chairs are committed to taking on this challenge and making a real difference to the region alongside LEP Board members and the wider business community.
- 3.8 By reflecting Greater Manchester's commitment to inclusive growth, the LEP can ensure the private sector can play its part in driving growth and ensuring all our residents can enjoy the benefits of that growth.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Recommendations are set out at the front of this report.

Appendix A
Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership
Specification for Chair

Role:

- to provide leadership and strategic direction to the LEP and to build the LEP Board, harnessing the skills, expertise and experience of LEP members
- to chair LEP meetings
- to ensure that LEP activities support and add value to the city region's strategic economic priorities and that these reflect the current and future needs of the GM economy
- to attend all LEP meetings, LEP related events and other events as appropriate
- to act as the LEP's spokesperson in its dealings with the media
- to negotiate with and influence senior local and national political and business figures
- to ensure that the LEP complies with the Nolan Principles of standards in public life

Person Specification

- have a strong commitment to, and understanding of, the city region and in particular the drivers of and challenges faced by the Greater Manchester economy
- have substantial business skills and experience gained at a senior level and be a credible individual with the stature to lead and influence
- have substantial experience of chairing groups or boards of senior executives, of providing leadership and of inspiring and motivating colleagues and stakeholders
- be independently minded – providing detachment and clarity in the development of strategy and the identification of opportunities
- have the ability to set strategic direction and to quickly understand and analyse and distil complex issues into coherent and practical actions
- have strong interpersonal and communication skills, be articulate and passionate, have an ability to influence and network, to deal with media attention and to represent the LEP and its actions
- have experience of providing leadership in a partnership environment and have a strong commitment to collaborative and partnership working, including with the public sector
- have a genuine interest and understanding of the challenges facing the business community
- have a total commitment to equality of opportunity and diversity, including an understanding of the barriers and challenges faced by economically or socially excluded groups

