

Paper for: The LEP Board

Title: Board Committees

Date: 15 July 2020

Strategic Purpose: Delivery of Strategic Objectives, Governance

Resource Implications: None

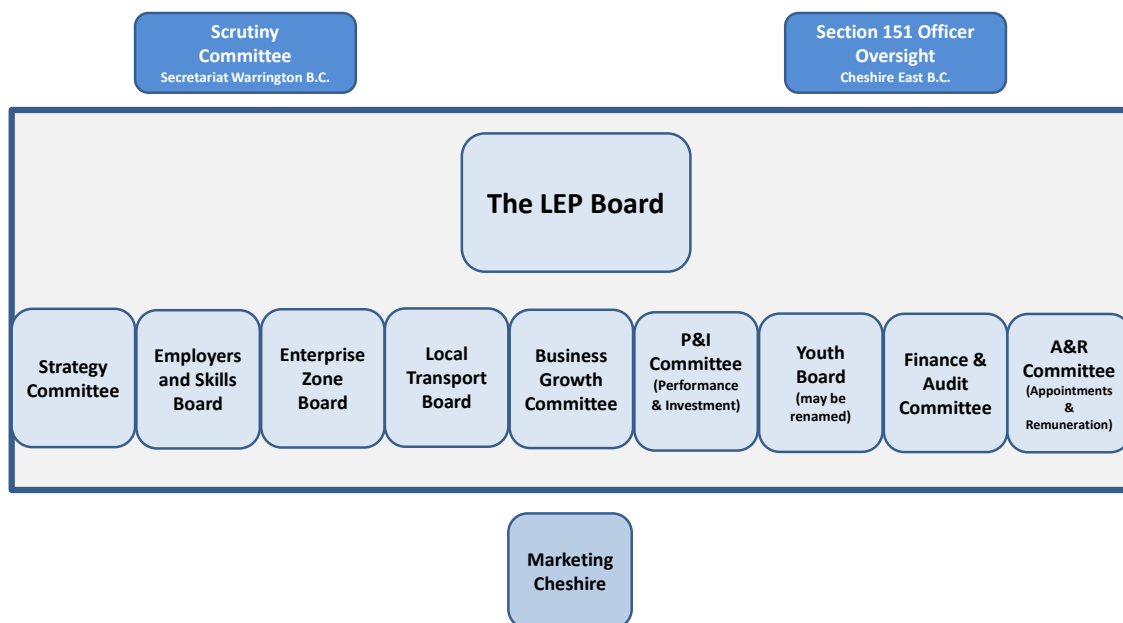
Board: For Decision

- The Board are asked to consider the proposed amendments to the committee structure.

1. Current Position

1.1. The LEP Board operates a range of sub-committees which permit deeper review of LEP activities and, in the case of some committees which have delegated authority, investment decisions to be made.

1.2. The diagram below summarises those committees:



1.3. In reviewing the structure of committees, the board should be aware that the National Local Growth Assurance Framework establishes that LEPs should have both a scrutiny committee and finance and audit committee, but can exercise discretion to determine how they are structured and operate with Local Authorities. In addition, a separate Appointments and Remuneration committee is an expected requirement to ensure transparency of setting pay and benefits levels.

1.4. The LEP has greater discretion as to which other committees are established which serve to provide open and transparent investment decision making and the necessary level of assurance to the board that good governance is being applied.

2. LEP Committees

2.1 An underpinning principle of the LEP “spending” Committees is that they have been aligned to specific purposes for which specified funding (budgets) have been allocated:

- Strategy - LGF, GPF, Energy Fund
- Employers and Skills - Skills Funding, SAP, DSP, Accelerate
- Enterprise Zone - Retained Business Rates
- Business Growth – Growth Hub, Inward Investment
- Transport Board – DfT retained schemes

2.2 P&I provides the “checks and balances”

2.3 The Youth Board has only recently been established and the member are considering the name.

3 Proposals

3.1 We seek to adopt a naming convention whereby sub-committees with delegated spending authority are consistently named as “Boards”, whereas sub-committees with a governance remit follow the well-known and understood convention of being named “Committees”.

3.2 “The Strategy Committee provides a forum at which deeper investigation can be performed into the development of local strategy and policy, using evidence and analysis to do so, and, once Board approval to strategy has been obtained, to evaluate how well investment proposals support the delivery of strategic objectives. Reflecting the strategy approval ultimately rests with board, we propose to rename the committee “Strategy Delivery Board”.

3.3 The EZ Committee remit covers development and investment ideas within the Cheshire Science Corridor, but also would assess innovative proposals for development beyond the currently defined EZ boundaries, e.g. in Crewe, arising from HS2. We propose this committee is renamed “Science and Innovation Corridor Board”.

3.4 The Local Transport Board has its origins in DfT / local government structures and is deeply embedded at a sub-regional level. However, if it was not already apparent, Covid-19 has demonstrated that joining places and connectivity operates on the twin axes of physical and digital assets. We propose to include Digital within the remit of the Local Transport Board, restyling it as the “Transport and Digital Connectivity Board”.

3.5 The closer working relationship between the LEP and Marketing Cheshire presents the opportunity to operate the Marketing Cheshire Board along similar principles as a sub-committee, with defined objectives funded from specific budgetary resources, some from e.g. subscription, DCMS and the LEP.

3.6 All other committees remain as they are.

4 Recommendation of the Financial Director

4.1 There are no anticipated cost implications associated with the committee structure. From a governance perspective we have to reflect the structure, membership and terms of reference in our Local governance documents.

Philip Cox

Chief Executive

July 2020