

Report to the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Supervisory Board

6th October 2016

Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP Chair

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. For the Supervisory Board to consider who should take on the role of Chair of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP), following the decision of the previous Chair, Andy Street, to step down.

2. Recommendations

That Members are asked to:

- 2.1. Record their thanks to Andy Street for his significant personal contribution to the development and delivery of the GBSLEP's agenda whilst Chair;
- 2.2. Appoint Steve Hollis as Chair of the GBSLEP until the LEP's Annual General Meeting in June 2017.

3. Background

- 3.1. On 9th September, Andy Street announced that he had applied to be the Conservative candidate for the West Midlands Mayoral election. As a result, he stepped down from his role as Chair of GBSLEP, a position that he had held since May 2011, with immediate effect.
- 3.2. As chair, Andy has overseen the development of the GBSLEP from a body that had no powers or funding and limited influence, to one that has an ambitious Strategy for Growth which it is making strong progress in delivering, has negotiated a £379m Growth Deal with Government and has the confidence of the Ministers, the business community and the public sector. His personal drive, passion for the area and vast business experience has helped the LEP achieve these outcomes.
- 3.3. Over the past five years there has been a transformational change in the local economy. Greater Birmingham is now a leading area in relation to private sector job creation, start-ups, foreign direct investment and exports. The GBSLEP with Andy as chair, and the collaboration between the public and private sectors which it has promoted, has helped to support this renaissance.
- 3.4. Whilst there have been many positive developments, there are still some significant challenges to overcome, such as those related to employment and skills, and also many opportunities to be maximised, such as HS2. These are all encapsulated in the refreshed Strategic Economic Plan. Given this, it is critical that the momentum that the LEP has helped to create is maintained and there is consistency in leadership and approach.
- 3.5. Following a discussion at the LEP Board, it is therefore proposed that Steve Hollis, who has been Deputy Chair of the GBSLEP since May 2011, is asked to become Chair. It is proposed that this arrangement is in place at least until the LEP's Annual General Meeting in June 2017. This will give sufficient time for the LEP to consider what qualities, skills and experiences it requires in a future chair and to undertake a full recruitment process.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. There may be costs associated with undertaking recruitment exercise to appoint a Chair. The LEP will be advised of the options when further consideration has been given to the process, and it will be asked to take a decision on them at this stage.
- 4.2. The role of Chair itself is not remunerated although expenses can be paid if required.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1. The Articles of Association for GBSLEP require that there is an appointed Chair. The position does therefore need to be filled on a permanent basis.

6. Consultation

- 6.1. The GBSLEP Board considered this proposal at its meeting on 23 September and agreed that Steve Hollis should be appointed as Chair until at the least the Annual General Meeting in June 2017.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1. This report asks the Supervisory Board to formally recognise the significant contribution that Andy Street has made to growing the Greater Birmingham and Solihull local economy as Chair of GBSLEP and seeks approval to appoint his successor, Steve Hollis, pending a full recruitment process.

Prepared by: Katie Trout
 Director, GBSLEP
 0121 303 9867 / Katie.trout@birmingham.gov.uk

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