

# GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership

Board Paper – 20 September 2022

1. **Agenda Item 6**

2. **What is this item for:**

- 1) To formally notify the board of changes to Local Authority membership
- 2) To propose the re-selection of 1 private sector board member
- 3) To approve the co-option of one VCS board member
- 4) Inform board members of the progress on appointing a higher education representative
- 5) Request support from board members in recruitment of an Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing board member

3. **Background:**

The membership of the GFirst LEP board is as set out below. All LEP Board members are also directors of GFirst LEP CiC Ltd.

The membership of the board is as follows

- A. 1 x Chair (private sector)
- B. 1 x Leader of Gloucestershire County Council
- C. 1 x District Leader representing Gloucestershire's six District Councils
- D. 1 Appointee from Higher Education
- E. 1 Appointee from Further Education
- F. 1 Appointee from the Voluntary & Community Sector
- G. 8 Private sector representatives

**3.1 Changes in Local Authority Membership**

As the board may be aware, Doina Cornell stepped down from the board in July 2022 after stepping down as leader of Stroud District Council. District authorities have approved the appointment of Richard Cook, Leader of Gloucester City Council as their representative and the appointment of Rowena Hay, Leader of Cheltenham Borough Council as observer to the board.

**To note:** There is no time restriction on the term of office for local authority members

**For Information:** This item is to formally note this change in membership.

**3.2 Re-selection of Private sector board members**

The initial three year term of office for one private sector board member will end on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022: Emma Hanby. The board are asked to approve the re-selection of Emma for a second term of office. The second term for Emma will end on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025.

**Decision:** Board members are asked to approve the re-selection of Emma Hanby.

### **3.3 Co-option of one additional VCS board member**

Within the assurance framework for GFirst LEP there is the opportunity to co-opt for up to 12 months individuals that can offer specific knowledge, skills or experience to assist the board. Gloucestershire Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance (GVCSA) is the only independent organisation in the county representing all of the VCS. The importance of the levelling up agenda clarifies the role of the VCS in supporting and driving economic growth. In this light, the Chair would like to broaden the VCS presence on the board of the LEP and co-opt Matt Lennard, Chief Executive of GVCSA for a period of twelve months.

**Decision:** Board members are asked to approve the co-opting of Matt Lennard to the board.

### **3.4 Appointment of Higher Education board member**

The resignation of Russell Marchant has resulted in a gap in appointment of a HE representative to the board. The Chair and Chief Executive have had contact with the three HE institutions in the county (University of Gloucestershire, Hartpury University, Royal Agricultural University) to provide a nomination for a replacement. As yet, no nomination has been put forward and the Chief Executive will continue to work with the three institutions to secure a nomination.

**For information:** Board members are asked to note this item

### **3.5 Appointment of replacement private sector board member**

The departure of Neill Ricketts following completion of his third term of office has created a gap in direct knowledge of the advanced engineering and manufacturing sector. A recruitment process, in line with normal processes and the assurance framework, has begun. Board members are asked to promote the opportunity to contacts within the AEM sector – and particularly to those groups who are currently under-represented on the board.

**For action:** Board members are asked to promote the opportunity to appropriate contacts.

#### **4. Risks / Issues:**

The need to ensure that transparency and openness are recognised as important principles within the LEP.

#### **5. Recommendations:**

The board are asked to:

1. Note the changes to local authority membership
2. Approve the re-selection of Emma Hanby
3. Approve the co-opting of Matt Lennard
4. Note the need to appoint a higher education representative
5. Promote the private sector board role to those in the AEM sector

#### **6. Further information:**

Further information is available from David Owen ([david.owen@gfirstlep.com](mailto:david.owen@gfirstlep.com))