

**GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership**

Board Paper – 17th April 2018

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| **Agenda Item**  | Board Membership Changes |
| **Paper Author & contact details** | David Owen, david.owen@gfirstlep.com |
| **Supporting Papers** | None |
| **Confidentiality** | Confidential |
| **Purpose**  | To discuss possible changes and additions to the LEP board |
| **Summary**  | The membership of the GFirst LEP board was established with formation of the LEP in 2011 and further adjusted in 2014. All LEP Board members are also directors of GFirst LEP CiC Ltd.The current membership of the board is as follows:1. 1 x Chair (private sector)
2. 1 x Leader of Gloucestershire County Council
3. 1 x District Leader representing Gloucestershire’s six District Councils
4. 1 Appointee from Higher Education
5. 1 Appointee from Further Education
6. 1 Appointee from the Voluntary & Community Sector
7. 6 Private sector representatives

In addition, one further District Council leader is a non-voting observer to the board.**District Representation**From April 1st 2018 local match funding of £250,000 moves from direct contribution from Gloucestershire County Council to contribution from the business rates pool that all seven local authorities contribute to.In light of this, representations have been made to appoint one further District Leader to the board of the LEP in place of the District Leader observer position.**Board Balance**In order to maintain the current balance of private to non-private sector membership on the board, should the board agree to add a further District Leader they would also need to add a further private sector member. In addition, this would require appropriate changes to the memorandum of understanding and articles of association of GFirst LEP CiC.**Higher Education Representation**With the resignation of the Vice Chancellor of the University of Gloucestershire from the board in March 2018 there is a vacancy on the board for a representative from Higher Education. Current guidelines for this post identify the University of Gloucestershire and Royal Agricultural University as the two constituents entitled to nominate to this role. **Private Sector Representation**The resignation of Roman Cooper with effect of April 17th 2018 means that there is currently one space for a further private sector representative.There is also the need to replace Roman and appoint one private sector board member as ‘Small Business Champion’ for the LEP. |
| **Implications, impacts or risks** | The need to ensure that transparency and openness are recognised as important principles within the LEP. |
| **Decision required** | Decide whether to increase the board by one District Council Leader and one private sector representative |
| **Recommendations** | 1. Agree whether to increase board membership with one additional District Leader and one additional private sector board member.
2. If appropriate, instruct the Chief Executive to make the relevant changes to the GFirst LEP CiC memorandum of understanding and articles of association.
3. Instruct the Chief Executive to begin the recruitment process, following the previously agreed procedure, for private sector board members.
4. Canvas existing board members to ascertain interest in becoming Small Business Champion or appoint new board member explicitly for the role.
5. Instruct the Chief Executive to seek nominations from the Higher Education constituents entitled to nominate to this role.
6. If agreed, instruct the Chief Executive to seek nominations and agreement for a further District Council Leader to join the board.
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For further information on any points raised in this Board paper, please contact David Owen: david.owen@gfirstlep.com