



Board Meeting

Date	17 February 2017
Report title	Trade Union Congress (TUC) Engagement with the Combined Authority
Cabinet Member Portfolio Lead	Councillor Bob Sleight – Chair of the WMCA
Accountable Chief Executive	Keith Ireland, Monitoring Officer to the Combined Authority Email keith.ireland@wolverhampton.gov.uk Tel 01902 55 4500
Accountable Employee	Keith Ireland, Monitoring Officer to the Combined Authority Email: keith.ireland@wolverhampton.gov.uk Tel: 01902 55 4500
Report to be/has been considered by	Requested by Metropolitan Leaders 16 December 2016

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Combined Authority Board is recommended to:

1. Approve that the Trade Union Congress (TUC) be co-opted (1 seat) onto the WMCA Board will effect from 1 March 2017 (first meeting 3 March 2017).
2. Agree in principle that the TUC have a seat on relevant working groups within the WMCA structure, subject to the approval of the WMCA Board on 7 April 2017.
3. Agree to add a new section to the Constitution of the WMCA regarding co-optees.
4. Agree that the Constitution changes will include the ability for the WMCA Board to both select co-optees and de-select co-optees by approval of the WMCA Board voting members.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Board approval for the Trade Union Congress to be co-opted onto the WMCA Board.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At their meeting on 16 December 2016, the Metropolitan Leaders of the WMCA asked the Monitoring Officer to the WMCA to re-visit the involvement of the TUC with the Combined Authority.

- 2.2 The approaches of current Combined Authorities with regards to Trade Unions, are highlighted in paragraph 3.0 below.

3.0 Current Combined Authority approaches

- 3.1 Trade Unions do not have membership status within the other Combined Authorities, though they are engaged in a variety of partnership arrangements.

3.1.1 Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Engagement with Trade Unions has been incorporated in Greater Manchester by TUC attendance at the Greater Manchester Strategic Workforce Board, whose overall role is to co-ordinate actions on workforce matters across GM Health and Social Care Partnership organisations. Greater Manchester has also established a 'Skills and Employment Partnership', providing strategic leadership and oversight, supporting the skills and employment landscape to contribute to the achievement of the Greater Manchester strategy. The GM 'Skills and Employment partnership' terms of reference are therefore detailed in appendix A below.

3.1.2 The North East Combined Authority

The North East Combined Authority established an 'Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board', on which the TUC are represented. The Board advises the NECA Leadership Board on economic strategy, project pipelines and funding, future priorities, and monitors and oversees collaborative initiatives to promote inward investment. The membership of this board is made up of one member from: each constituent and non-constituent member, the North East Chamber of Commerce, the Confederation of British Industry, the Federation of Small Business and the TUC. The terms of reference for this Board is detailed in appendix B below.

3.1.3 Other Combined Authorities

Based on discussions with the other Combined Authorities not mentioned above (including Liverpool City Region, Tees Valley, West Yorkshire and Sheffield), engagement with Trade Unions is very limited and there are no immediate plans to change this.

4.0 A co-opted TUC representative on the WMCA Board

- 4.1 Combined Authority meetings are held in public, therefore the option of attending Board meetings is available to the TUC as a member of the public. Similar to Council meetings, the public in attendance do not participate in Combined Authority Board meetings. In the

event of any private items, exempt from publication under the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), public attendees are asked to leave for those items.

- 4.2 However, in order for the TUC to engage at the WMCA Board, it is recommended that the Trade Union Congress (TUC) be co-opted (one seat) onto the WMCA Board with effect from 1 March 2017 (first meeting 3 March 2017).

5.0 Operation of a TUC co-optee on the WMCA Board

- 5.1 As a co-optee, the TUC may attend Board meetings and engage in discussions and contribute where appropriate at the discretion of the Chair, but cannot vote and are not required to pay a membership fee.
- 5.2 It is also recommended that the Board agree in principle that the TUC have a seat on relevant working groups within the WMCA structure, subject to the approval of the WMCA Board on 7 April 2017.
- 5.3 The Board is recommended to agree to add a new section to the Constitution of the WMCA regarding co-optees and agree that the Constitution changes will include the ability for the WMCA Board to both select co-optees and de-select co-optees, by approval of the WMCA Board voting members.
- 5.4 It is important to note that the governance structure of the West Midlands Combined Authority is as flexible as required to ensure that the work of the Combined Authority is being delivered effectively – therefore the above does not preclude amendment of governance arrangements in the future.

6.0 Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7.0 Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no Legal Implications flowing from the contents of this report.

8.0 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A – Greater Manchester ‘Skills and Employment partnership’ terms of reference
Appendix B – North East Combined Authority ‘Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board’ terms of reference

Appendix A

Greater Manchester 'Skills and Employment Partnership' Terms of Reference

GREATER MANCHESTER SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT PARTNERSHIP

1. MEMBERSHIP

- 1.1 The membership of the SEP is:
- The GM Portfolio Holder for Skills, Employment and Worklessness (Chair).
 - Four GM elected members, nominated annually by the GMCA
 - Two representatives from the GM Local Enterprise Partnership.
 - A representative from GM Chamber of Commerce, GM Learning Providers Network, Job Centre Plus, Trade Unions, Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations, Skills Funding Agency, GM Housing Providers, GM Universities, Local Authority Children's Services and GM Colleges.
- 1.2 The GM Portfolio Holder for Skills, Employment and Worklessness is the Chair of the SEP. A vice chair is also appointed by the group from within this membership.
- 1.3 Advice and support to the SEP is provided by the lead Chief Executive for Skills, Employment and Worklessness, as well as the Chief Executives of New Economy and the GM Growth Company.
- 1.4 Democratic support is provided through the GM Integrated Support Team.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The Greater Manchester Skills and Employment Partnership (SEP) will provide strategic leadership and oversight, support the skills and employment landscape to contribute to the achievement of the GM Strategy.
- 2.2 The Partnership through the signing of the GM devolution agreement in November 2014 will take on new responsibilities across the employment and skills landscape. A core objective of these reforms will be to deliver greater alignment between different elements of employment and skills provision.
- 2.3 The Partnership will focus on the contribution that skills and employment policy and delivery can and will make to competitiveness and the performance of the Greater Manchester economy. At its heart will sit an intelligence-driven approach to economic strategy designed to stimulate and maximise growth and to connect GM residents to the opportunities that growth provides.

- 2.4 The Partnership will evaluate performance against this strategy, providing real-time intelligence, insight and analysis that best enables a competitive provider market to meet the opportunities and needs of the GM economy. Experience suggests that the market functions well in many areas with employer demand being well met by providers. The Partnership will identify where demand is not being met and use analysis to predict future labour market needs, allowing providers to understand and address market demand (and market failure where it occurs).
- 2.5 The Partnership will support the efficient and effective working of a demand-led education, training and employment market across Greater Manchester. The Partnership will seek to ensure the best use of public funds that will be vital if we, as a city region, are to secure our shared ambitions for growth and prosperity as set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy.
- 2.6 The development of the Partnership recognises and responds to the continued development of GM responsibilities across the employment and skills landscape. The Partnership will provide specific oversight for the delivery of reforms contained in the GM devolution agreement.

3. ROLE

- 3.1 The Partnership will:
 - (i) Enable the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) to discharge its statutory duties. Under the Education Act 1996, this is stated as a duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training opportunities to meet the reasonable needs of all young people in the area. Young people are those who are over compulsory school age but under 19, or are aged 19 to 25 and subject to a learning difficulty assessment. The GMCA also has a duty to secure sufficient suitable education and training for young people subject to youth detention. The GMCA will ensure that provision is adequate.
 - (ii) Support the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (GM LEP) to deliver economic growth and prosperity recognising the key contribution made by a highly skilled workforce. Working closely with Colleges and Training providers, the SEP will ensure that investment in skills is effectively linked to the economic opportunities across Greater Manchester, supporting key employers and growth sectors (e.g. advanced engineering, digital/media, low carbon) as well as high employment, high churn but not necessarily high GVA growth sectors, thus ensuring better life chances for individuals. The SEP will bring providers and learners together to improve the functionality of the market and maximize the level and impact of public and private sector investment in skills.
 - (iii) Support the development of an integrated employment and skills framework across GM, which supports increasing numbers of out of work residents to address their barriers to employment through

integrated, appropriately sequenced and intensive packages of support. The Partnership will support the GMCA and partners to deliver a skills landscape that is able to respond to the needs of out of work residents, enabling them to develop the skills required by employers and supporting them to find sustainable employment.

- 3.2 The Partnership will achieve its ambition by working with providers in understanding and responding to present and future growth, employment and skill needs. The SEP will work in partnership with providers rather than through a commissioner /provider divide.
- 3.3 While the needs assessment, informed by an intelligence-based economic strategy, will be led by the Partnership, it is for providers – based on demand from learners and employers - to determine how these needs should be met. It will also provide opportunities for new ways of working in responding to known needs e.g. increase in specialization leading greater efficiency and quality of delivery.
- 3.4 Providers will be supported to participate more effectively in the Partnership. In turn, providers are increasingly looking to networks and federations to enable them to work more effectively together, including in support of the Partnership.
- 3.5 The responsibilities, priorities and ways of working set out in this paper is based on the belief that this is the best way of enabling Greater Manchester to fulfil its economic potential. It will enable businesses and learners to maximize their own individual contribution to growth, prosperity and well-being.
- 3.6 While the Partnership will produce an agreed needs assessment it is for individual Colleges and Training Providers to determine their own plans and delivery based on demand intelligence.
- 3.7 The Partnership will not be a centralist mechanism exercising control over providers. It will be a focus for ensuring that the functioning of key Greater Manchester labour markets is taken into account by providers. This will offer a key offering a spatial focus to a national model of delivery, reflecting Government's desire to see spatial frameworks developed that support growth.

4. ACCOUNTABILITIES

- 4.1 The Partnership will have clear accountabilities primarily to the GMCA and GM LEP, building on the existing arrangements. Some changes in remit and membership will need to be made recognising the broader agenda and the need to invite partners to provide nominations:
 - (i) The SEP will have an Executive Board, Chaired by a member of the GMCA, reporting to the Combined Authority and GM LEP Board and to the Greater Manchester Colleges and Training Providers recognising the contribution of each of these as providing leadership, funding and budgets which will be influenced by its work.

- (ii) Executive membership. The Executive Board will be appointed subject to discussion with all parties. It will be chaired by a CA representative and will have representation from health, housing, Education Funding Agency, Job Centre Plus & Skills Funding Agency along with representation from New Economy, the GM Public Service Reform Team, and the AGMA lead Chief Executive. It will be for the Partnership to decide on further representation from other partners as required.
- (iii) A performance impact panel, to be chaired by a member, will lead scrutiny of the implementation of reforms.
- (iv) Working groups to be determined and agreed by the Board as required.

Appendix B – North East Combined Authority ‘Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board’ Terms of Reference

Part 3.5 Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board

Membership*:	7 (one Member from each of the Constituent Authorities)
Quorum:	5 (not including the co-opted or LEP members)
Also:	1 non-voting member from the LEP

[*a Trade Union Congress representative was agreed to be added to the membership at the NECA Board on 17 November 2015]

Any non-voting co-opted members approved by the Leadership Board representing key sectors in the region including the North East Chamber of Commerce and the CBI and the FSB.

The aim of the Economic Development and Regeneration Advisory Board (EDRAB) is to support the Leadership Board in the development of the Economic Development and Regeneration Theme by:

- Making recommendations to the Leadership Board based on insight and intelligence that is not otherwise available to Board so that the decisions taken reflect the needs and ambitions of the key stakeholders in the region.
- Providing strategic advice and intelligence relating to key drivers of growth and barriers to investment and growth and other issues relevant to NECA’s aim to pursue sustainable economic growth in the region.
- Advising and supporting the NECA in the development of the Economic Development and Regeneration strategic priorities and implementation plans.
- Supporting the Economic Development and Regeneration Thematic Lead in the delivery of the Economic Development and Regeneration Implementation Plan.

The Leadership Board shall seek the advice and recommendations of the EDRAB on such economic development and regeneration matters as the Leadership Board considers appropriate, which shall include (but are not limited to):

1. The development of a Regional Investment Plan that will support economic growth and build on the opportunities presented by the region’s growth assets.
2. The implementation of activity that is consistent with the strategic intent outlined in the Strategic Economic Plan and associated Economic Development and Regeneration Implementation Plan.
3. Recommendations on the allocation of resources and approval of funding proposals and the prioritisation of planned regional investment in infrastructure and assets.
4. Monitoring and overseeing collaborative initiatives to promote inward investment.
5. Commissioning provision that is consistent with the agreed objectives.

6. Ensuring that measures associated with the delivery of the Economic Development and Regeneration work programme are linked effectively with other related service areas.
7. Advising and approving evaluation measures for the Economic Development and Regeneration related activities.
8. Monitoring performance of the delivery of the Economic Development and Regeneration work programme.
9. Considering Economic Development and Regeneration related matters specifically referred to the Advisory Board by the Leadership Board.
10. Informing the evolution of Economic Development and Regeneration related activities, taking account of government policy, global trends and capability and capacity in the region.
11. Establishing and engaging in working groups formed to progress specific priorities with the Economic Development and Regeneration work programme.
12. Approve an Annual Report summarising the work of the Board over the previous year for submission to Annual Meeting of the Leadership Board.

Information:

1. The Advisory Board will be chaired by the Economic Development and Regeneration Thematic Lead.
2. One substitute member is permitted for each Constituent Authority.