

COMBINED AUTHORITY MEETING

2 OCTOBER 2024

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – BUSINESS BOARD, AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE
AND OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Report of the Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To provide an update on the outcome of recruitment to the Combined Authority's Business Board, including its Membership, and the appointment of Chair.
- 1.2 To seek approval to increase the private sector representation of the Business Board to no more than 15.
- 1.3 To seek approval of a change in membership to Overview and Scrutiny to give effect to nominations provided by City of York Council's Liberal Democrat Group.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Combined Authority note the status of the recruitment to the Business Board and the appointment of Business Board Chair.
- 2.2 That the Combined Authority approve an increase in private sector representation on the Business Board to no more than 15.
- 2.3 That the Combined Authority approve the appointments to Committees set out at 5.2 in this report.
- 2.4 To note the election of Councillor Richard Foster as Chair and Councillor Lindsay Burr as Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 The English Devolution Accountability Framework (2023) requires that all institutions with devolved powers should embed a strong, independent, and diverse local business voice into their decision-making processes.
- 3.2 Any newly integrated business voice function should play an active role in partnerships such as Town Deal Boards, where those partnerships currently have Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) participation at the request of local partners.

3.3 It goes on to say that Business Board members must be appointed through an open process and that process should ensure appointees are politically independent and able to provide a constructive check and challenge on local decision-making using their private sector perspective.

4.0 Business Board Recruitment

4.1 An open recruitment exercise begun on 11 July 2024 and applications closed on 10 August. The campaign was supported by North Yorkshire Council's Resourcing Solutions Team and widely promoted through the Combined Authority's and partners' communications channels to reach a broad and diverse audience.

4.2 A report was considered by the Combined Authority at its last meeting (Minute CA24-44 refers) agreeing an updated terms of reference and a change of name from Business Committee to Business Board.

4.3 From the 117 applications received, 29 were shortlisted for interview. An extensive interview process subsequently took place throughout the three week period commencing 2 September, involving Mayor Skaith, Council Leaders and the Chief Executive.

4.4 At the time of publication, the Mayor and Chief Executive are still providing feedback to successful and unsuccessful candidates so it has not been possible to include a membership list with this report – this will be published to follow and circulated prior to the meeting.

4.5 The Combined Authority's Constitution currently allows for 10 private sector Business Board members and its Assurance Framework provides for a 2:1 ratio of private sector and public sector members. The Combined Authority is asked to increase the private sector membership to "no more than 15". This will require an amendment to the Constitution and Assurance Framework - this will be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee's Constitution Working Group for consideration.

5.0 Audit and Governance and Overview and Scrutiny Committees

5.1 At its meeting on 28 June 2024 the Combined Authority appointed to its Overview and Scrutiny and Audit and Governance Committees. Two places remained vacant following the meeting – a City of York Council Liberal Democrat seat on Audit and Governance Committee, and a City of York Council Liberal Democrat seat on Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5.2 On 15 July 2024, the Combined Authority received notification from the City of York Council Liberal Democrat Group that its nominations for the above committees were as follows:

Audit & Governance Committee

1. Councillor Andrew Hollyer

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

1. Councillor Andrew Waller
2. Councillor Tony Fisher
3. Councillor Emilie Knight

5.3 Councillor Hollyer and Councillor Fisher have filled vacant seats on the respective committees but Councillor Emilie Knight will replace Councillor Edward Pearson on Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5.4 There have been no circumstances to trigger a review of the Combined Authority's political proportionality since the meeting on 28 June and so the Combined Authority is asked to give affect to these nominations onto the above Committees.

5.5 At its meeting on 17 September 2024, the Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee elected Councillor Richard Foster as Chair and Councillor Lindsay Burr as Vice Chair for the remainder of the 2024-25 municipal year. As per the Combined Authority's Constitution, Councillor Foster will receive a standing invitation to attend meetings of the Combined Authority.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

7.0 Legal Implications

7.1 The York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority Order 2023 and the sets out membership arrangements for the Combined Authority, as set out above.

8.0 Equalities Implications

8.1 There are no equality or diversity implications directly arising from this report.

9.0 Environmental Implications

9.1 There are no environmental implications directly arising from this report.

10.0 Combined Authority Areas Impacted (Council Areas/Wards/Divisions)

10.1 York and North Yorkshire.

11.0 Recommendations

11.1 That the Combined Authority note the status of the recruitment to the Business Board and the appointment of Business Board Chair.

11.2 To seek approval to increase the private sector representation of the Business Board to no more than 15.

- 11.3 That the Combined Authority approve the appointment of Councillor Emilie Knight (Liberal Democrat) in place of Councillor Edward Pearson (Liberal Democrat) on Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 11.4 To note the election of Councillor Richard Foster as Chair and Councillor Lindsay Burr as Vice Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

12.0 Reasons For Recommendations

- 12.1 To give effect to the Combined Authority’s duty to appoint places according to political group nominations and to provide transparency and accountability to the recruitment and election of key roles on its Committees.
- 12.2 To observe the statutory duties set out in the Combined Authorities (Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees) Order 2017.

13.0 Contact Details

For further information please contact the authors of this Report.

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Background papers

- English Devolution Accountability Framework (2023) - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-accountability-framework/english-devolution-accountability-framework>
- [The Combined Authorities \(Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Access to Information and Audit Committees\) Order 2017](#)

Appendices

- Appendix A – Membership of Business Board (*to follow*)