**Agenda Item 6.2**

**Evolution of LEP Executive Board**

**SSLEP Executive Board is asked to consider, comment and vote on the following option:**

To agree the recommendations with a view to new board and terms of reference in place in Spring 2023.

Report Author: A Devaney Interim CEO SSELP

9th December 2022

1. **Background** 
   1. The Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SSLEP) was formed in 2011, with a remit to bring together local public sector authorities, businesses, and other bodies to work together to drive economic growth and prosperity within the region.
   2. In line with the transition of the LEP the Executive Board has agreed to evolve into an agile and representative business focussed board.
   3. There are currently 15 Members of the LEP board with an agreement reached that this number should be closer to 10
   4. National Governance requires 66% of the LEP board to be private sector as well as a 50/50 gender balance. The LEP are currently not meeting these targets and has agreed with BEIS that this will be reviewed and actioned through the transition process
2. **Proposal**

2.1 A smaller more agile board be formed. This will offer incisive advice and influence to central and local government, Be an independent, strong business voice through convening a representative and comprehensive **network of networks,** Understand central and local government objectives and provide **evidence and strategic advice** at a regional, national and international level, Focus on **Grand Challenges and impact.**

2.2 The Board will continue to be chaired by a private sector representative, as per Government requirement. As current Chair is within term limit can continue in role.

2.3 The Leaders of Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Stafford County Council and a further Local Authority Leader representing the Districts will continue their Membership

2.4 Remaining Members will be drawn from private sector, chosen to ensure Board as a whole is properly representative, diverse and inclusive of population and business geography

2.5 Business representatives should include both large and small employers, FE & HE representation and third/voluntary sector

2.5 Existing members must express an interest to remain on board taking into consideration the revised remit. Depending on the outcome of this it is possible some members will be asked to step down in order to adhere to the National Assurance Framework

2.6 LEP will review terms and of members to ensure adherence to framework

2.7 In order to meet National Assurance Framework 66% of board must be private sector, therefore the board must be at least 10 members and ideally 11 to avoid a deadlock

2.8 Board to agree by correspondence in January new board roles and recruitment process for new members to ensure board is compliant and effective

2.9 Revised Terms of Reference will be drafted with a view to being approved in January 23

**Recommendation**

In order for the LEP to be as effective as possible as a Business Partnership and to be a key voice for and on behalf of the Stoke and Staffordshire Business Community it is essential the Executive Board reflects that.

It is therefore recommended that the board accepts the above proposals with the intention that existing board members who are continuing are confirmed in January with a recruitment process backed by detailed terms of reference and board roles can commence at the earliest opportunity in 2023.

These documents will be drafted by the LEP and partners through the existing Transition infrastructure to be approved by correspondence in January.