



F&G Board – Chairs Report – Meeting 23rd January 2020

In line with the National Assurance Framework the CWLEP Finance and Governance Board directly supports the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership main board in the governance and decision-making processes, to determine accountability, show clarity by ensuring transparency in its actions and deliver value for money.

The Chair advised the meeting with the upcoming change to the board that a strategy had been put in place to maintain a total board of 20 and also achieve an improved equality balance. This will be in place by 31st March 2020. In addition, it was noted that following an ITT process a Recruitment Consultancy had been selected to help appoint a new Chair.

The Chair confirmed that in readiness for the LEP Annual Performance Review, the Governments view was that we now meet the private to public sector board ratio of 65% to 35%. The Chair also advised that the main issue would be around our equality position, which was being addressed, and the independence of the secretariat. The LEP CEO would be staying on in an independent capacity.

An independent report from Carney Green had been completed and had concluded that the main operation focus of CWLEP was that of 'independent advice'.

An additional policy statement on behalf of CWLEP with regard to its position on 'Modern Slavery' had been completed and was agreed by the F&G Board. This will be added to the CWLEP website.

The F&G Board reviewed all group companies Management Accounts up to and including November 2019. The details of which were found to be in line with expectations.

The Board were advised that Business Festival had made a loss overall although the quality of the events had been regarded as very successful.

It was noted that there was a potential lack of communication around the Duplex Funding Project which required some focus to re-align.

An update was given on the latest Joint Committee engagement and an outline view on the current level of involvement there was around spatial planning. It was noted by the meeting that planners currently disregarded the areas spatial plans and CWLEP needed to find the best way to raise the issue.

N Abell
Chair.