



F&G Board – Chairs Report – Meeting Thursday 7th March 2019 - DRAFT

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.

With the lack of attendance from the public sector the Chair noted that the meeting would not be quorate. All decisions would be reported at the next Board for their approval.

The Chair advised the meeting on the new appointments to the CWLEP Board which will bring the total number of directors to twenty in line with the requirements of the NAF and further noted that we are still falling short of our equality and diversity targets appointments. There followed a discussion on the current Board make up and the meeting was advised on the next steps in this regard. The aim being to focus the attention on the Public sector appointees on their responsibility with regard to the requirement for equality and diversity of representation.

The LAF has been updated and detailed changes were noted and have been agreed by the F&G Board. Any associated changes to the website would also need to be made.

The key points of the revised LAF to increase transparency and visibility were made known as: -

- 1) There is a commitment to publish meeting papers and agendas for 'All' Group Companies – NA requested that the format should follow the current Board set up.
- 2) There was no detailed reference to the F&G Board – This is now included with detail around the expected responsibilities,
- 3) There were no published terms of reference for CWLEP Board on the website. These were agreed and asked to be added to the website.
- 4) SME Champions to be visibly named on the website.

It was also noted there were other minor changes and an update to the Open call process had been included giving more transparency. Further note was made around the make-up of the sub-boards and their responsibility to ensure they also follow the CWLEP diversity and equality requirements. All changes would need to be agreed by the Board.

Detailed Terms of Reference for the main Board were reviewed and agreed. These would now go to the main Board for approval.

A discussion of the current funding apportionment across the CWLEP and the proportion of projects within each region was held. The board noted that this piece of work was both informative and very interesting. It's analysis of the geographical impact of funding was revealing. The Chair noted that the review had shown the LEPs governance on selection of projects to be very fair.



The F&G Board were updated on the current position regarding the LEP Review implementation plan and the challenges faced in order to make best use of the allocated budget in the timescale allowed. Plans were in hand to recruit a Business admin apprentice and a Delivery Plan coordinator.

The F&G Board were advised that the Midland Engine have sent a request for payment of the last two years fees despite not ever having sent an invoice for either period. On investigation it had been noted that both BCLEP and GBSLEP were in the same position.

All 3 LEPs have gone back to ME and questioned why this request is so late and what has ME actually done for the money. No payments have been agreed at this point.

It was noted that CWLEP have sponsored the Apprentice of the Year Award for a further year as part of our brief to support and encourage local talent within the region.

N Abell
Chair.