

GBSLEP Supervisory Board Scrutiny Paper

Background

The Proposal for a Joint Scrutiny Committee was agreed by GBSLEP Leaders on 13th June 2013 and by the LEP Board on 26th June 2013. This paper sets out a draft proposal for this Committee for discussion.

Implementation

The agreed action will need to be implemented through Cabinet and Full Council of each Council. Functions will need to be delegated to the GBSLEP Joint Scrutiny Committee to be effective.

1. Governance

The Joint Scrutiny Committee will act as a Joint Committee under ss 101, 102 Local Government Act 1972 and s 21 Local Government Act 2000.

1.2 Access to Meetings

Normal rules apply as to public access i.e. as a Joint Committee the public has access except for exempt business.

1.3 Approvals Process

Cabinet and in some cases Full Council authority at each constituent authority will be required to authorise and delegate functions to the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

1.4 Host Authority

- 1.4.1 The Joint Scrutiny Committee will be hosted under local government arrangements by (Council*) and the Chief Executive of (Council) shall be Secretary to the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

** Given that Birmingham CC is hosting the Supervisory Board, Chief Executives have suggested that another authority should host the Joint Scrutiny Committee. Solihull MBC is exploring this option.*

- 1.4.2 (Council) Standing Orders will apply to the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

- 1.4.3 The Host Authority will also provide s151 and Monitoring Officer roles to the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

2. Objects of Joint Scrutiny Committee

- 2.1 To review or scrutinise decisions made, or other action taken, in connection with the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Supervisory Board which are as follows:

- To provide effective decision making and clear political accountability for management of the Single Local Growth Fund and other significant funding streams that cover the full GBS LEP geography as agreed with the LEP Board;
 - To empower the GBSLEP Board;
 - To oversee and review the activities of the GBSLEP Board;
 - To co-ordinate and liaise with GBS Local Transport Board; and
 - To consider any further measures necessary to strengthen the GBSLEP Board.
- 2.2 To make reports or recommendations to the Supervisory Board with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the Supervisory Board

[Please note the above objectives are statutorily defined]

3. Membership

3.1 24 Members in total comprising (based on population):-

- 8 from Birmingham City Council
- 4 from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
- 1 each from the 7 Shire Districts in the GBSLEP area
- 3 additional members to be chosen by the South Staffordshire Shire Districts in the GBSLEP area
- 2 additional members to be chosen by the North Worcestershire Shire Districts in the GBSLEP area

[The objective is to achieve political balance for the committee. As such:

- *Birmingham and Solihull's members should be chosen in proportion to the make-up of their councils;*
- *the first member from each of the seven shire districts should be from the ruling party of that particular council;*
- *the three additional members from the South Staffs Districts should be chosen collectively by the four councils to represent the political proportionality of the districts as a whole;*
- *likewise the same approach should be taken for the two additional North Worcs members].*

3.2 There is an ability to co-opt members on to the Joint Scrutiny Committee.

4. Voting

- 4.1 1 member 1 vote for local authority members
- 4.2 No ability to vote for private sector members
- 4.3 Conflicts of Interest will be dealt with in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct of the Host authority

5 Quorum

11 members present (4 from Birmingham City Council, 2 from Solihull MBC, 3 from South Staffordshire Districts and 2 from North Worcestershire Districts).

6 Meetings

6.1 The Chair of the Meeting will be []. Terms of Reference and Standing Orders will provide for an appropriate substitute in the event of unavailability.

6.2 Meetings to take place when there is a possible call-in*.

**Leaders wanted to have a 'light-touch Scrutiny arrangement. The other options for meetings would be a) to meet X monthly independent of GBSLEP or b) to meet on the same day and immediately following the Supervisory Board meeting.*

6.3 Members of the Committee will be invited to the LEP's Annual General Meeting.