

Cheshire+ Warrington Joint Committee

26th July 2024

Cheshire and Warrington Business Advisory Board

Report of: Peter Skates, Acting Executive Director - Place, Cheshire East Council, Gemma Davies, Director Economy and Housing, Cheshire West and Chester Council and Steve Park, Director of Growth, Warrington Borough Council

Report Reference: CWJC/01/24-25

Significant/Key Decision?	Yes/No	Definition (to be deleted once completed)
Cheshire West and Chester	No	Constitution Page 115.
Warrington	No	Constitution page 41
Cheshire East	No	Constitution Page 78

Purpose of Report

- 1 This report seeks Joint Committee approval for the appointment of 10 of the proposed 15 to 20 members of the Joint Committee's Business Advisory Board.

Executive Summary

- 2 This report seeks Joint Committee approval for the appointment of 10 of the proposed 15 to 20 members of the Joint Committee's Business Advisory Board. The proposed appointments comprise the five members proposed by the sub-region's business representative organisations (BROs), four members

transferring across from the LEP Board, and the Chair of Marketing Cheshire. A further ten members are being sought via an open competition.

Background

- 3 At its meeting on 8 April, the Joint Committee agreed the terms of reference of C&W's Business Advisory Board (BAB) (attached at annex B). The purpose of the board is to provide a strong, independent business voice to help the Joint Committee deliver its vision of making C&W the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing part of the country.
- 4 The terms of reference specified a 15-20 member BAB comprising: members of whom:
 - A Chair, recruited via an open competition;
 - Four members transferring from the former LEP Board to serve one year terms to provide continuity;
 - Up to five members nominated by the sub-region's business representative organisations;
 - The Chair of Marketing Cheshire;
 - Nine further members recruited via an open competition.
- 5 Role descriptions for the Chair and Members of the BAB are attached at Annex C and D respectively were agreed with the Chair of the Joint Committee.
- 6 This paper seeks the Joint Committee's approval to appoint the Chair of Marketing Cheshire to the BAB along with the four nominations from the former LEP Board and the five nominations made by the business representative organisations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Committee is recommended to:

1. Confirm the appointment of the BAB members listed at Annex A.

Consultation and Engagement

Former LEP Members

- 7 Everyone who was a member of the LEP Board during 2024 was sent a copy of the role description and invited to express an interest in applying for one of the four seats reserved for this group. As the purpose of inviting former members of the LEP onto the Board is to provide a measure of experience and continuity

whilst the BAB finds its feet, these members will be appointed for a one-year term.

- 8 Only four people expressed an interest in transferring from the LEP Board onto the BAB and it is therefore proposed that they are all appointed. Their names are listed in annex A

Business Representative Organisations

- 9 The Cheshire Business Group (CBG) was invited to nominate the five representatives of the Business Representative Organisations. CBG is the umbrella body for all of the BROs in the sub-region and brings together the Federation of Small Businesses, the CBI, the sub-region's five Chambers of Commerce, the Institute of Directors, and a variety of other BROs including the Chester Business Club, several of the Business Improvement Districts and the Chemicals Industry Association.
- 10 CBG were asked to ensure their nominations offered a fully representative cross section of the business community in C&W. Their nominations are also listed in annex A. [will add a bit more about CBG's process once it is agreed].

Open Competition

- 11 The remaining ten places, including the Chair, are being recruited via an open competition being run by Sherrington Associates (a recruitment consultancy based in Chester). It is being widely advertised and will conclude with interview panels in which members of the Joint Committee and senior LA colleagues will be involved. Nominations from that process will be submitted for approval to the Joint Committee meeting in September.

Other Options Considered

- 12 The process agreed by the Joint Committee has been followed to generate the nominations to the BAB and no other options were therefore considered.

Option	Impact	Risk
Do nothing	No members would be appointed to the BAB	Failure to appoint a BAB would breach the requirement placed on sub-regions by the Government.

Implications and Comments

Monitoring Officer/Legal

- 13 The Business Advisory Board is an informal body and not a formal sub-committee of the Joint Committee or of the constituent councils. Its creation was approved by the shareholder Council's in February 2024 and its terms of reference to be agreed by the Joint Committee.

Section 151 Officer/Finance

- 14 There are no financial implications arising from the proposed nominations.
Support for the BAB will be provided from within existing ECW resources.

Policy

- 15 Appointment of members to the BAB will ensure there is a business voice supporting sub-regional priorities.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- 16 Once both the “ex-officio” and open competition parts of the BAB appointment process have been concluded, the objective is to have a Board that is fully representative in all respects of the business community in C&W.

Human Resources

- 17 There are no implications. With the exception of the Chair members of the BAB will receive no remuneration.

Risk Management

- 18 There are no implications.

Communities

- 19 There are no implications. Representatives from businesses will be included on the BAB.

Public Health and All Together Better

- 20 There are no implications.

Climate Change

- 21 There are no implications.

Access to Information	
Contact Officer:	Paul Chapman, ECW Paul.chapman@cheshireandwarrington.com
Appendices:	Appendix A – List of Proposed Appointments to the BAB Appendix B – Terms of Reference of the BAB Appendix C – Role Description for the Chair of the BAB Appendix D – Role Description for Members of the BAB

Background Papers:	
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