

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

CABINET – 11 DECEMBER 2014

REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES – MARCHES LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: LAW, DEMOCRACY & PEOPLE SERVICES

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – COUNCILLOR KULDIP SAHOTA

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To determine the Council's Elected Member representation on the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership and associated bodies.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Council Leader be confirmed as the Council's representative on the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership Board;
- 2.2 That the Council Leader be appointed as the Council's representative on the Marches Joint Executive Committee, and that the Leader be delegated to appoint a Deputy who can represent the Council in his absence.
- 2.3 That the Cabinet Member: Finance & Enterprise be appointed as the Council's representative on the Marches European Structural & Investment Funds Committee for a three year period with delegated authority to make decisions as appropriate on behalf of the Council within the context of EU/national regulation of ESIF Committees.

3.0 INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is the business-led public/private partnership tasked with regenerating the economic vitality of the Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin region. The Government is channelling major infrastructure and skills funding from the Single Local Growth Fund through the LEP – as detailed in previous reports to Cabinet.
- 3.2 The Marches LEP is overseen by a Board consisting of the Leaders of the three local authorities of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford Wrekin as well as the chairmen of the three Area Business Boards. Also on the board is a Skills Champion and co-opted Business Champions. It is proposed to formally

confirm The Leader as the Council's representative on the Marches LEP Board.

- 3.3 In July 2014, Cabinet approved the establishment of a Marches LEP Joint Committee, consisting of a Cabinet Member from each of the three local authorities and the Chair of the LEP Board (non-voting), and the delegation of decision making powers to the Councillor representatives appointed to it. The Joint Committee will take decisions regarding strategic economic policy for the LEP area, and the use of public funding to support those priorities. This will ensure that there remains democratic accountability around decision making regarding the use of public funds. It is proposed to formally appoint the Leader as the Council's representative on the Joint Committee, and to delegate to the Leader the authority to appoint a nominated Deputy.
- 3.4 European Structural and Investment Funding (ESIF) is also being allocated on the basis of the LEP geography. The Marches LEP has a provisional allocation of £98m for the period 2014-20. In line with EU Commission regulation, Government has determined that each LEP area should establish a local committee structure that will be central to the local decision making process for distribution of the funds. This committee will play a vital role in ensuring that project and programme bids that are submitted for funding meet the objectives of the Marches LEP Investment Strategy and contribute to local growth. While the Marches LEP will be a stakeholder on the Committee, the Committee will not be part of the LEP Structure, but report to the national Growth Programme Board. In accordance with EU regulation, the Marches ESIF Committee will consist of stakeholders from various sectors. Each of the three local authorities in the Marches LEP area is entitled to appoint one representative to the Committee, who will represent the interests of the Local Authority and work collectively with the committee members to identify ways to most effectively deliver the Marches programme within the context of EU/national regulation. The appointments will be for a three year period. In view of the resource based nature of this Committee, it is proposed that the Cabinet Member: Finance and Enterprise be appointed as the Council's representative on the ESIF Committee, subject to ratification by the selection body for this process.

4.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

AREA

COMMENTS

Equality & Diversity	Not applicable
Environmental Impact	Not applicable
Legal Implications	see above
Opportunities & Risks	Not applicable
Financial Implications	Not applicable
Links with Corporate Priorities	Not applicable
Ward Implications	Not applicable

5.0 PREVIOUS MINUTES

CB-24 Marches Local Enterprise Partnership Update – Cabinet 24 July 2014.

6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Marches Area European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) Committee Member Application Pack

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