

Audit, Finance and Governance Board

Report to the Board, 16th November 2021

Report from Teresa Chalmers, Chief Operating Officer

Paper B – Equality and Diversity Champion

1. Summary

1.1. As part of the Local Assurance Framework the LEP has appointed a board member, Catherine Bishop to the role of Equality and Diversity Champion to ensure E&D issues, in their widest sense are considered in any board or sub-board activity.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The AFG to approve the role descriptor and work with Catherine, the Chair and the LEP Exec Team on any appropriate issues as per the attached.

3. Report

3.1. The National Assurance Framework provides the necessary governance measures that LEPs and Local Authorities/MCAs need to adopt to ensure openness and transparency in public/private related delivery matters.

3.2. Part of this guidance is to appoint an Equality and Diversity Champion and a Small Business Champion which the HEY LEP has done so. In addition the LEP has appointed a Rural Champion and these two role descriptors will come to the AFG in a future meeting for discussion.

4. Financial and resource implications

4.1. As we await the outcome of the Levelling Up white paper and the future guidance on the Shared Prosperity Fund in terms of targeted demographic groups there is no current financial implication.

4.2. The annual review document will be produced in-house using the LEP publication template, so resource costs are considered to be minimum.