

## Officer Non Key Executive Decision

<b>Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):</b>	Neil Jack, Chief Executive
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):</b>	Councillor Ivan Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Partnerships and Performance
<b>Report Author (Officer name and title):</b>	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
<b>Implementation Date of Decision:</b>	21 June 2021

### APPROVAL OF NEW DIRECTOR AND CHAIR OF LANCASHIRE ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider as a 'member' of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership the appointment of a Director and Chairman of that body.

#### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To agree, in accordance with the recommendation of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board that Debbie Francis be appointed as Director and Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited.

#### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The appointment of Debbie Francis is the recommendation of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Recruitment Committee. The candidate is an experienced senior executive and non-executive director and meets all the requirements for the role.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

#### 3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

To not approve the appointment of the proposed Chair and Director to the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership.

To consider an alternative appointment.

Neither of these options would be in line with the recommendation of the Recruitment Committee.

**4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

- “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”
- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

**5.0 Background Information**

5.1 The Council is a member of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership and has been so since March 2019. The other members of the Partnership are Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Council. The role of a member is similar to that of a shareholder in that the appointment of directors requires their approval.

5.2 The previous Chair Steve Fogg had stood down in February 2021 and David Taylor had taken up the role of interim Chair whilst a recruitment process was undertaken.

5.3 The Lancashire Enterprise Partnership therefore undertook a full and extensive recruitment process for a new director and chair. The Recruitment Committee met the short-list of 4 final candidates for interview, those candidates having already been assessed by a recruitment consultant, met with a stakeholder panel and held an informal chat with the interim Chair and the Chief Executive Officer, all of which referenced in the final candidate pack.

5.4 Following this interview process the Recruitment Committee recommended that Debbie Francis be appointed Director and Chair of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Ltd.

5.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**5.6 List of Appendices:**

None.

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 None.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 The recruitment process was undertaken in accordance with all equality provisions.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 Feedback from the Recruitment Committee

**13.0 Decision of Chief Officer**

13.1 To agree, in accordance with the recommendation of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board that Debbie Francis be appointed as Director and Chairman of the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Limited.

**14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer**

14.1 The appointment of Debbie Francis is the recommendation of Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's Recruitment Committee. The candidate is an experienced senior executive and non-executive director and meets all the requirements for the role.