

## **STRATEGIC BOARD MEMBERSHIP – CONFIGURATION AND PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT UPDATE 23 AUGUST 2017 - FOLLOWING IMPLEMENTATION BOARD FEEDBACK**

### **Purpose**

1. To provide the Implementation Board with an update of the Scottish Government's intentions regarding establishing the Strategic Board.

### **Background**

2. At the Implementation Board (IB) on 31 July, there was discussion around the process for appointments of members to the Strategic Board (SB). It was proposed that work should be convened to consider the appropriate size and configuration of SB membership. Members confirmed that they would like an opportunity to comment on our approach to this and to the process for subsequent appointments.
3. SG produced a document on 07 August for members to comment upon. This covered size, configuration and process, and comments were taken through inter-sessional correspondence with a deadline of 14 August, to allow progress before the 30 August IB meeting. Feedback received has informed this updated paper, the principles of which have been agreed with Ministers. It will ultimately remain for Ministers, working with the Chair of the Strategic Board, to determine the composition and membership of the Strategic Board.
4. The Chair of the Strategic Board will be announced within a few days.

### **Feedback from Implementation Board Members**

5. Feedback from IB Members can be summarised as follows:
  - Considerable support for ensuring adequate business representation, but also a recognition that the numbers need to be kept down.
  - The Chair should have a role in appointing board members.
  - A need for a Deputy Chair to be appointed (primarily for the Chair to decide).
  - The agencies should not influence Board membership.
  - The lack of a public appointment process has led to suggestions that initial appointments should be temporary with a commitment to review after one year and to undertake a formal process for future appointments.
  - Replacement of Members could be staggered to ensure continuity.
  - Unclear how the process will make sure the people with the right skills are identified.
  - Issue of potentially privileging a particular group of education supplier's interests through the choice of either a HE or FE representative.
  - Consideration should be given to remuneration only being available to business and third sector Members.
  - There is a need to specify terms of office: length of term, remuneration and expectations for time commitment.

### **Amended Process for Appointment to Board Membership following Feedback**

6. The Strategic Board is being set up administratively to provide the high-level governance for enhancing economic performance across the enterprise and skills system. It will not be a public body in itself, and

consequently Ministers will directly appoint members at this stage rather than use a formal public appointments process.

7. Taking the feedback received into consideration, the following process for deciding SB membership is now proposed:
  - IB provide opinions on the composition of skills and experience required within the SB, via intercessional correspondence, within 7 working days of receiving this paper, i.e. by Monday 04 September.
  - SG will develop a list of potential candidates taking IB feedback into account.
  - Chair consulted and has the opportunity to influence a shortlist and the selection of a Deputy Chair.
  - Ministers to make final decisions and announce membership around mid-September.

### **Revised Configuration of the Board**

8. The IB have discussed membership consisting of core agency chairs, business interests and cross-sectorial representatives. Members felt it was important to ensure a broad mix of organisations and to include the third sector. Ministers have also been clear that they want an appropriate “civic mix”.
9. Following feedback received from IB, and subject to the views of the Chair, a membership with size of approximately 16 could be envisaged, as follows :
  - Business (5)
  - 2 representatives from FE/HE/Skills
  - Third sector/Social enterprise
  - Local authority representative
  - Trades Union representative
  - Chairs of each of the 4 core agencies, plus another agency
  - Head of the South of Scotland interim body
10. This would ensure a majority of non-agency members over agency members, and a majority of non-public sector members over public sector members, whilst keeping the overall numbers down insofar as possible.

### **Terms and Remuneration**

11. In relation to remuneration for Board members, business and third sector Members will be offered an opportunity to request payment for their involvement, and will be able to claim expenses incurred, in line with the [Pay Policy for Senior Appointments Daily Fee Framework](#).
12. It is proposed that Members’ time commitment should be limited to a maximum of 2 days per month. A rate of £250 per day for those members who request remuneration has been agreed, with a cap of 24 days, or £6,000 per annum.

### **Implementation Board Action**

**The IB is asked to provide feedback via inter-sessional correspondence on the composition of skills and experience required within the SB by Monday 04 September.**