



Annex C: Governance Assurance Statement

The LEP Chair and Chief Executive should here provide a brief formal assurance statement on the status of governance and transparency. This should include any overview and scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. This should be sent to the Assurance Team via localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk, copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead, by **20 January 2021**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **24 February 2021** and confirmation sent to the email address above.

(max 500 words)

The LEP continues to lead by example with strong governance measures in place. It benefits from integrated accountability and decision-making arrangements with the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, its accountable body; the LEP meets as a LEP Board with bespoke governance documentation, and the Combined Authority appoints the LEP's advisory panels which are chaired by LEP Board members (including voting private sector representatives). Officers serve both the LEP and the Combined Authority.

The advantages of this structure include:

- "joined-up" decision-making, facilitating a clear, shared strategic direction
- effective use of private sector representation to reflect the business voice and influencing strategy and delivery across broader agendas
- a joint Assurance Framework
- consistent and close engagement with the LEP by the S73 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

The Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Governance and Audit Committee have an active, informed and independent role in relation to holding the LEP to account.

Engagement with external stakeholders is central to LEP activity and reflected in its structure:

- the LEP's Business Communications Group (made up of representatives from key business organisations) advises the LEP on barriers to growth and ensuring that businesses are at the heart of everything the LEP does.
- LEP advisory panels members include representatives from the third sector and other public sector organisations, as well as private sector and local authority representatives.



We remain committed to remaining the most transparent LEP in the country - the LEP meets or exceeds all transparency requirements, including:

- dedicated LEP governance and transparency pages
- LEP Board and LEP advisory panel meetings are open to the public
- reports and minutes are published (subject to defined exceptions)
- the LEP's annual meeting is actively promoted to the public and this year an agenda item enabled public questions to be put to the LEP Board both in advance and at the meeting, despite the pandemic
- a summary of remuneration and expenses paid to LEP Board members is published.

The LEP has maintained its commitment to transparency, in the face of the challenges posed by the pandemic, by moving swiftly to remote meetings, which are open to the public. (See further S73 Officer statement).

The LEP continues to actively promote the highest standards of conduct embedding the Nolan principles, in its adoption and implementation of relevant governance documentation, and training provision.

The LEP is committed to achieving diversity and equality of opportunity, and good progress this year was reported to the LEP Board in September 2020. See further Annex A.

A corporate performance report is submitted to each meeting of the LEP Board, providing information on budgets, performance management, risk, audit, scrutiny and any other significant matters that emerge, in line with commitments in the Assurance Framework.

The LEP has successfully maintained its high standards of governance and transparency while embedding the changes required further to the LEP Review, and robustly addressed the challenges posed by the pandemic. We are confident that our arrangements as the Combined Authority moves towards becoming a mayoral combined authority will continue to be fully compliant.

Signed:

Name: Roger Marsh OBE

Position: Chair

Date: 20 January 2021



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Signed:

Name: Ben Still

Position: Chief Exec

Date: 20 January 2021