



## 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](mailto:localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk), copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead, by **14 January 2022**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2022** 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 continues to benefit 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 nominates LEP Board and private sector members to each of the Combined Authority's decision-making committees with a LEP Board member Deputy Chair (with the exception of the Transport Committee) who has a role in feeding back to the LEP Board. 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 the business voice in 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 Committees 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.
- The Chief Executive of the West and North Yorkshire Chamber is a co-opted member of the Board in the role of business representative.



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 embedding social inclusion and narrowing inequality are key to the new committees with relevant indicators to be monitored to ensure progress. 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 during the pandemic, deepening its integration with the Combined Authority following it becoming a mayoral combined authority with the Mayor becoming a member of the LEP Board and nominated LEP Board members becoming voting members and Deputy Chairs of the new Combined Authority decision making committees.

Signed:

Name: Sir Roger Marsh OBE DL

Position: Chair

Date: 14 January 2022

Signed:

Name: Ben Still

Position: Chief Exec

Date: 14 January 2022