

Governance Assurance Statement 2020/21

This Governance Assurance Statement is a brief formal statement by the LEP Chair and Chief Executive on the status of governance and transparency.

The LEP upholds the highest levels of governance and transparency. A robust and compliant Assurance Framework is in place, decisions are evidence based and sign off processes are transparent. All decisions are published and promoted in accordance with national guidance.

We are active in our collaboration and engagement with external stakeholders and the LEP is well embedded in a host of partnership structures across the region, and has also taken the lead in convening new partnerships and building new relationships to help steer the region through the economic challenges faced as a result of Covid-19. The LEP has also given significant focus during the year to the region's innovation and productivity agenda and has been central to leading projects of regional significance and scale that align to the new Strategic Economic Plan.

The Assurance Panel, which reviews all business cases for funding is chaired by a private sector member and a review and re-refresh of the Thematic Boards during the year has continued to strengthen our decision-making processes. The LEP Chair also attends the MCA and is proactive in discussions related to business investment.

Following an open and transparent recruitment process, the private sector membership of the board has been strengthened during the year, not only in terms of gender balance, but by sector, bringing expertise to the board in areas aligned to the strategic ambitions of the LEP and ensuring all decisions reflect the business voice of the region.

A thorough induction and mentoring programme is in place for all new members which ensures awareness of governance arrangements and of the requirement to adhere to the Nolan Principles.

The LEP is held to account through both the Audit and Standards Committee - with a focus on governance and assurance, on risk management arrangements and on financial and non-financial performance – and through the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, who have the authority to review and scrutinise any decision made, or action taken by the LEP. Both are statutory committees of the MCA, comprise elected members from Local Authorities in the LEP area, and are webcast. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee have given particular focus this year to the development of the Economic Recovery Plan/Renewal Action Plan.

Signed: James Muir

Signed: Dave Smith

Position: LEP Chair

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 23rd February 2021

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