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##### Cheshire & Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership

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| **Title: Local Assurance Framework** | **Agenda item:** |
| **Prepared by: Rachel Brosnahan** | **Date of Report: 20th March 2019** |

1. **Executive Summary**

An updated National Assurance Framework (NAF) has been published by MHCLG. There is a requirement to update the LEP’s Local Assurance Framework (LAF) to ensure that any new guidance issued in the National Assurance Framework is now covered.

The updated NAF addresses the recommendations i in the Non-Executive Director review into Local Enterprise Partnership Governance and Transparency (2017) and the National review into LEPs “Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships”. It is divided into three parts. Part A relates to Mayoral Combined Authorities only, Part b refers to all LEPs and Part C provides detail on providing VFM based on HMT Green Book Guidance.

The revised Local Assurance Framework will need reviewing and signing off by the board no later than the 31st March 2019.

Following this there will be an audit of the updated Framework and it will need to be agreed by the S151 officer in order for the LGF and BEIS revenue payments to be made at the end of April.

A summary of the changes are listed below.

1. **Summary of changes**

The LEP’s Local assurance framework was last updated in November 18 to include the updated procurement policy and had a more comprehensive update in January 18 to take account of the Mary Ney report and recommendations and best practice guidance from LEPs.

There are a number of changes in the National Local Growth Assurance Framework which are expected to be reflected in the LEPs LAF. None of these are considered to be onerous as the LEP was already in a strong position in terms of governance.

The main changes are:

* Inclusion of text around succession planning of new chair and requirement to have a nominated deputy chair;
* Updated memberships of the board and all the sub-committees and requirement for the board to be two-thirds private sector members;
* Updated Board TORS to say decision can be made by exception outside of board meetings by correspondence
* Added text around compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation;
* Confirmation that the LEP will confirm with government branding guidelines;
* Added text about process for clawback of non-compliant funding
* Added details about CIPFA and the Cities and Local Growth Unit five principles which they expect the section 151 officer role for LEPs to meet when instilling good and proportionate
  1. Outstanding and to be completed

The following are the outstanding actions which need to be completed to finish the update:

* Include a Communications strategy or equivalent
* Update the membership of the new Boards such as the Business Growth Board.

1. **Recommendation**

To approve the updated Local Assurance Framework.

**Appendices**

Updated Local Assurance framework (updated sections highlighted in yellow)