

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. In particular, you should focus on any issues raised in Annex A. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website following conclusion of the Annual Conversation process (in April 2018). You should cover any Overview and Scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. **(max 500 words)**

We are confident and clear that we have strong transparency and governance arrangements in place and that both the executive and board are strong advocates of this.

All our Board meetings have been open to the public with papers published one week in advance for some time. Papers for each Board meeting include minutes of all the LEP's sub-committees, but the Board has nevertheless agreed that from 1st January 2018 all sub-committee meetings will be public meetings with supporting papers published in advance. The Board's appointment processes also closely follow Nolan principles. Board members are appointed through an open and competitive process and are limited to serving two three year terms. Board members who wish to serve for longer have to re-apply through the open competition and, if successful, can only serve one further three year term.

Further to this the LEP has also recently established an external Overview and Scrutiny committee. The committee's processes will be modelled on parliament's Public Accounts Committee. It will therefore be supported externally and encouraged to look at all aspects of the LEP's work in order to identify where improvements can be made. Again the LEP board are fully supportive of the this.

This function will be in addition to the audit function provided by our accountable body and further ensure our governance arrangements are robust and sound.

We are also in the process of overhauling our website to ensure all finance information and spend information is easily accessible and how these decisions were made.

With £50m of LGF now invested we are looking forward to seeing the regeneration impacts start to be realised and are confident of delivery of the remaining LGF programme to time and budget.

Chair & Chief Executive Sign-off:

Signed: 

Name: CHRISTINE GASKELL

Position: CHAIR CWLEP

19/12/17

Signed: 

Name: PHILIP COX

Position: CWLEP CEO

19/12/17.