



## **Governance and Transparency**

**LEP Board Meeting 17 September 2020**

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## **1. Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1 This report acts as a covering paper to present two important items that require LEP Board approval and an action that allows us to comply with Government requirements on good governance.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 It is recommended that LEP Board Members;
- a. Approve the revised National Local Growth Assurance Framework noting that it is subject to LCR CA approval and also by Government.
  - b. Approve the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task Force and the Action Plan and noting that it is subject to endorsement by the LCR CA.
  - c. Complete and submit their Register of Interest declaration Form.

## **3. National Local Growth Assurance Framework (NLGAF)**

- 3.1 LEP Board Members will recall that in March 2019, a new Assurance Framework was produced and after approval by the LEP and LCR CA was submitted to Government.
- 3.2 This was a requirement following the Government's Ministerial Review of LEPs and built on previous reviews and guidance. Further, where Combined Authorities and Mayoral Combined Authorities existed in LEP areas a joint assurance framework could be adopted.
- 3.3 The new framework, called The National Local Growth Assurance Framework replaced the previous Local Assurance Framework and accommodated the recently emerging relationships between LEPs and Combined and Mayoral Combined Authorities.
- 3.4 The current framework, dated April 2019, is published on both the LEP and CA websites but this must be reviewed annually. A review of the framework has been undertaken and it has been re-drafted, as attached, both to make it more contemporaneous capturing changes in policy or procedure and also to make it more user-friendly.
- 3.5 As a joint framework it needs both the approval of the LEP Board and the LCR CA and finally Government through the Compliance Team. In anticipation of approval by both the LEP Board and LCR CA the attached draft has been submitted to the Compliance Team and feedback is awaited. This may require amendments and, if so, further approval will be sought.
- 3.6 Until final approval is granted the framework cannot be adopted and will not be published by the LEP.

## **4. Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task Force – LEP Review**

- 4.1 LEP Board Members will recall that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the LCR CA formed a task group to undertake a review of the LEP.
- 4.2 It was reported at the time that it had been found to be a beneficial experience for all parties involved and the final report and associated action plan are now presented to the LEP Board for its approval. The Action Plan has been revised from the initial draft which was produced prior to the Covid 19 pandemic to reflect revised timescales for the actions proposed. This revised version is attached to this report.

4.3 Once approved it will then be presented to the next available meeting of the LCR Combined Authority for endorsement (currently on the agenda for 25 September). Following this, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be informed of the outcome and the action plan will be shared with them. Periodically, during the municipal year, an update on the progress of the implementation of the recommendations will be made and it is suggested this take place at the Committee meeting on 10 March.

4.4 The only outstanding piece of work is a review and endorsement by the LEP Board of the timeline for the actions in the light of the ongoing pandemic.

## **5. Register of Interests**

5.1 At each meeting we ask LEP Board Members to declare any conflicts of interest arising through the agenda or subsequent discussions. We also remind Members of the need to regularly update their Register of Interest declaration whenever there are changes.

5.2 We also undertake requests for review and re-submission at least annually and we are now requesting that this be done alongside the review of the NLGAF and the Mid-Year Review.

5.3 A Register of Interest declaration and guidance notes were circulated separately to the Board pack and their completion and submission is requested. These should be submitted even where there are no changes but with the current date of completion to evidence they are re-submitted. Members should raise any queries with the LEP Executive.

## **6. Next steps**

6.1 It is not intended to spend time during the meeting discussing either of these items and so if there are questions or clarifications on them please raise these with the LEP Executive in the first instance but in good time to allow their resolution ahead of the meeting at which we hope to approve them.

Attachments:

3 a. – National Local Growth Assurance Framework (Final Draft)

3 b.i. – Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Task Group Report on LEP Review

3 b ii. - Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Task Group Report on LEP Review – Action Plan