



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@levellingup.gov.uk, copying the BEIS Area Lead, by **19 January 2023**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2022** with confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)**

Composition of the LEP Board allows for twenty members and there are currently eleven of which, three are public sector and six are female. It also allows for up to 5 co-opted members of which there are currently 2. The Board composition has remained static through 2022/3 with the exception of resignation of University of Liverpool VC due to retirement on 31 December 2022 and replacement of the Race Equality Chair. We have not refreshed core membership during the year to date as we awaited feedback from Government to the LEP Transition proposal submitted in July which was received in late 2022.

The three public sector members are ex-officio positions being the LCR Metro Mayor and two MCA portfolio holders. All local authority leaders are invited to attend as observers. The LEP Chair is a non-voting member of the MCA (the LEP Vice Chair is alternate) and is Chair of the MCA Business and Innovation Portfolio.

Work continued throughout 2022 to improve diversity when opportunities arose in our Sector sub Boards and through co-opted Main Board Members. The new Chair of Race Equality Working Group (Ben Osu) was co-opted to the LEP Board during the year and the Chair of the Future Impact Board (Rachael Patterson) has been invited to attend Meetings and input informally to date with a view to being co-opted.

The LEP, whilst working very closely with the MCA, maintains a separate and distinct public persona, most tangibly through its own website where the LEP provides transparency on the governance arrangements and publishes all Board Papers as well as other useful information on the LCR, its growth sectors, business support and investment activities.

The LEP and MCA adopted a single Assurance Framework (AF) which is reviewed periodically and is found to be compliant, this is published on the LEP and MCA websites. The LEP adopts a strategic advisory role to the MCA but where necessary any decisions of the LEP are executed by the MCA on its behalf. The Head of Paid Service and the Section 73 Officer of the MCA have standing invitations to the LEP Board meetings and do attend.



The LEP Main Board and Sector Boards maintain a vital role in providing strategic guidance and challenge to the CA and so potential conflicts of interest are taken seriously, whether actual or perceived.

All LEP Board members are required to make a Register of Interests declaration, updated as changes occur and confirmed annually, the latest version is published on the LEP website. Each meeting of the LEP Board records any situational conflicts of interest with members completing a Declaration of Interest. The minutes record this which together with the agenda and papers are published seven days before the meeting and remain on the LEP website for public access. Draft minutes are published within ten days of the meeting.

The LEP website provides for 'Enquiries, Feedback and Complaints' and supports the MCA and others who may receive FOI enquiries relating to funds awarded to the LEP. The LEP is within the scope of the MCA's Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The LEP has been the subject of an intensive review late in 2019 and an action plan was agreed with the Scrutiny Committee to implement recommendations from that review including an open invitation to attend LEP Board meetings. A further review Scrutiny session with the LEP took place in September 2022 focussed on the Business and Innovation Portfolio which is led by the LEP Chair.

The relationship between the LEP and MCA has continued to develop and mature to the extent that both the LEP and the jointly governed delivery vehicle that incorporates the Growth Hub (Growth Platform) are looking to fully integrate by 1 July 2023.

The LEP and MCA have strong and transparent governance, which also provides an effective partnership between public and private sectors, and this is formally confirmed by the S 73 Officer's statement each year. The proposed integration will seek to ensure the same levels of strong and transparent governance whilst maintaining the quality and value of input from the private sector to the policy, strategy, and delivery functions of the MCA in Liverpool City Region.

Signed: 

Name: Asif Hamid MBE (Chair)

Date: 16.1.2023

Signed: 

Name: Mark Basnett (Managing Director)

Date: 16.1.2023