



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@communities.gov.uk, copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead, by **20 January 2021**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **24 February 2021** and confirmation sent to the email address above.

(max 500 words)

We confirm that the LEP follows its Assurance Framework and demonstrates strong governance, accountability and transparency.

The framework is reviewed on an on-going basis with a full annual review as we look to continually improve our processes and governance. It also provides the basis of trust and assurance to the Accountable Body and Section 151 officer with whom we have an excellent relationship.

Governance

1. Conflicts

- The LEP publishes a register of Board Members interests; and
- Conflicts of Interest are registered at every meeting. Any Board member conflicted does not take part in the related investment decision.

2. Decision Making

- All investments are independently appraised; and
- A simple decision making structure exists with clear responsibilities outlined.
- Our application and appraisal process is designed to be customer focused.
- Project investments are subsequently managed under the LEPs contract management processes and escalated to the Performance Group, where under performance exists, for scrutiny. Holding project sponsors to account with clear steer and decisions taken to address performance are a strength of this LEP

3. Transparency

- The LEP has met the transparency requirements set out in the Assurance Framework and national guidance with independent checks previously undertaken by MHCLG verifying this.

4. Accountability

- Strong scrutiny of the LEP exists by the Accountable Body through
 - LEP Chief Operating Officer attending NYCC members' committees to provide evidence and performance updates.
 - LEP COO and Senior LEP Officers providing performance updates and reporting to NYCC Directors and the Section 151 Officer.



- The Leader of NYCC is a member of the LEP Board whilst the Chief Executive attends the LEP Board in an observational capacity but can provide comment. Both challenge information presented.
- There is also a strong relationship with the Accountable Body who are involved in the legal and financial checks as part of the investment due diligence process.
- The LEP also attends Overview & Scrutiny meetings with all Local Authority partners on an as and when and annual basis.
- The LEP Chair also meets with the Leader of NYCC on a fortnightly basis and also on a regular basis with the Chief Executive of NYCC and Section 151 Officer.

5. Diversity

- The LEP strives to increase diversity in Board membership with previous recruitment campaigns targeting female leaders in the area. The LEP currently has 7 female members (46%) of the total.

We are satisfied that the requirements of the LEP Review are now met in full.

- Geography - removal of overlapping boundaries and move to a York and North Yorkshire LEP area.
- Board Membership - meets the minimum requirement for private/public/gender representation
- Adopt a Legal Entity - The LEP was incorporated on 30th July 2020.

In summary, the LEP has strong governance and robust decision making processes with which to defend our investments should the need arise and in that weak business cases have been rejected in the past. There is healthy debate at the main LEP Board and at our Programme Boards where due consideration is provided to each agenda item.

Signed:

Name: David A Kerfoot

Position: Chair YNY LEP

Date: 14012021

Signed:

Name: James Farrar

Position: Chief Operating Officer YNY LEP

Date: 14012021