



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)**

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

- Any funding 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 LEP's contract management processes and, where under performance exists, escalated to the Performance Group for scrutiny.

3. Transparency

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

4. Accountability

- Strong scrutiny of the LEP exists by the Accountable Body through the LEP Chief Operating Officer attending NYCC Overview & Scrutiny 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 Chair meets with the Leader of NYCC and the Chief Executive of NYCC on a regular basis and Section 151 Officer occasionally and as needed.

5. Diversity

- The LEP strives to proactively recruit the best diverse candidates as Board members, balancing the mix of gender, sector experience and worldview. The LEP currently has 8 female members (50%) of the total.

6. Overview & Scrutiny

- The LEP has established an Overview & Scrutiny Board comprising members of all local authorities within York and North Yorkshire.
- The LEP also attends Overview & Scrutiny meetings with all Local Authority partners on an as and when and annual basis.

In summary, the LEP has strong governance and robust decision making processes with which to defend our actions and investments should the need arise. 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: Helen Simpson

Position: Chair

Date: 19/01/2023

Signed:

Name: James Farrar

Position: Chief Operating Officer

Date: 19/01/2023