



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 **14 January 2022**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2022** and confirmation sent to the email address above.

(max 500 words)

SELEP has faced a further challenging year with the twin challenges of the ongoing pandemic plus uncertainty concerning the future role and funding of LEPs. Despite these challenges, governance and transparency has been the bedrock of the operations of the partnership.

All LEP Board meetings continue to be open to the public. Our Accountability Board meetings have moved to in-person during the year. Members of the public have attended Accountability Board meetings and taken the opportunity to pose questions to the Board. Strategic Board meetings have continued to be held virtually with the option for members of the public to join and observe the meeting live or watch later via YouTube. Members of the public can also put questions to Strategic Board as per our Public Questions Policy.

Project delivery continues with the oversight of both Boards and robust change control processes are in place. This includes requiring the renewed assessments of Value for Money for projects with material changes to costs and/or benefits. These assessments are also subjected to a further independent technical evaluation.

The relationship with the Accountable Body is robust and active. The Section 151 Officer or staff in her delegation review and scrutinise all decisions before they are presented to either Board. A representative of the S151 Officer attends every Board meeting and is able to offer advice during the meeting and has done so during the year.

During 2021/22 the Accountable Body carried out an internal audit of the processes of SELEP during the year. The processes were assessed as providing 'good assurance' which is the best category available.

Good governance continues to be prioritised within the team, with dedicated governance resource remaining in place following a recent restructure. However, without any assurance of future funding there is a significant risk to the governance activities beyond March 2023. Good governance requires appropriate investment and resourcing; reduced funding could require



Department for Levelling Up,
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& Industrial Strategy

decisions around which elements of the current Assurance Framework are prioritised and able to be delivered.

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Position: Chair of SELEP
Date: 13/01/2022

Name: Adam Bryan
Position: Chief Executive Officer of SELEP
Date: 13/01/2022