



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 2023** with confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)**

For over 10 years, SEMLEP has aimed and achieved high standards of strategy and delivery underpinned by robust governance. We remain committed to the Nolan Principles including transparency and accountability in all business areas. Throughout 2022, with the challenges of the war in Ukraine, the post pandemic adjustments, uncertainty in Government and the publication of the Levelling Up White Paper we have maintained focus on our mission and communities.

We have strengthened work with our accountable body, local authority partners, Government and stakeholders locally and in the Ox-Cam Pan Regional Partnership to achieve good standards of strategy, delivery and governance:

- Our analyst has maintained an excellent evidence base and have published work on commercial premises and the critical logistics sector
- Our Growth Hub has led the way collaborating with partners to deliver wide ranging support to businesses on resilience and energy.
- Our Skills teams are transforming the Luton Careers Hub model to the SEMLEP Careers Hub with Enterprise advisors for each local authority area and work with the Chambers on the Local Skills Improvements Plans.
- Getting Building Fund has now been delivered with all grants defrayed and we were pleased to attend opening events at Bedford Green Energy Park and Barnfield College in Luton.
- Local Growth Fund has £1.68m of a £265m fund still to spend on 2 projects and we are confident these will spend in 2023/24. We are continuing to report our outputs to Government and the Board.
- We have supported local authorities in LUF2, the Towns Deals and their UKSPF processes and are keen to support their excellence in delivery from 2023.
- Our Assurance Framework was updated to respond to the latest guidance and we held a board recruitment campaign in the summer and successfully appointed 3 new private sector members.



- Our Northampton AGM in December was well attended with 3 great speakers on decarbonisation and innovation and this followed excellent virtual and in-person business events this year.
- Our Communications team ensures that our channels offer a wide range of information and local intelligence.

2022 has been a difficult year due to the uncertainty of the devolution agenda for the future of LEPs. A lack of certainty about funding for next year means budget uncertainty continues and staff only have contracts to 30 June 2023 which makes retention of our high quality team very difficult.

We are committed to delivering the best economic interventions for the South East Midlands through continuous improvement. We have a strong reputation on strategy, governance and delivery among LEPs and intend to maintain this with additional focus on Innovation and Green Recovery, as LEPs evolve into their next phase.

437 words

Signed:

Name: Peter Horrocks CBE

Position: [Chair]

Date: 16 January 2023

Signed:

Name: Hilary Chipping

Position: [Chief Exec]

Date: 16 January 2023