

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. In particular, you should focus on any issues raised in Annex A. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website following conclusion of the Annual Conversation process (in April 2018). You should cover any Overview and Scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. **(max 500 words)**

Liverpool City Region (LCR) LEP strives to meet government's expectations of the increased role for LEPs, balanced against the local expectations of a newly formed Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA). There is absolute alignment of these expectations in looking to provide strategic leadership in economic growth in LCR for its benefit and that of the UK.

The LEP, working with its partners, has adopted a governance structure that focuses on developing and implementing strategy to maximise opportunities for growth and overcoming barriers. In so doing, the LEP has provided LCR, and neighbouring Districts, with a long-term vision through 'Building Our Future' which considered the findings of the report 'The State of the Liverpool City Region: Making the most of Devolution', a joint publication between the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University.

With the election of a Metro Mayor, the Combined Authority received additional powers and funding and created a Single Investment Fund (SIF). The LEP was consulted and included in the negotiation of the Devolution Deal, where appropriate, and as a result, agreed that funds devolved to the LEP that were unallocated would be invested through the SIF. These funds are subject to the SIF Assurance Framework (AF) agreed with government in November 2016. Funds that were allocated prior to the creation of the SIF are subject to the LEP AF.

Although there are two AFs this reflects a change in local governance rather than a divergence in purpose or objectives. The investment of funds under the management of the MCA is guided by the LEP produced Growth Strategy and individual projects as part of the hurdle criteria must demonstrate strategic fit with this strategy to proceed. However, the governance arrangements of the LCR mean that the LEP Board does not make funding decisions over individual projects or programmes, these are reserved for the MCA. In that regard, although the LEP Chair is a member of the MCA this is in a non-voting capacity.

The Metro Mayor's election manifesto, 'Our Future Together', included a commitment to work with the LEP to develop an action plan to deliver economic benefits and opportunities. There is a strong synergy between 'Building Our Future' and the Mayor's manifesto in relation to economic growth.

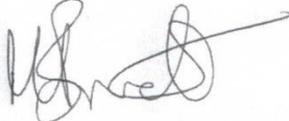
In July 2017, the LEP Executive relocated to Mann Island where it is co-located with the MCA Executive and Metro Mayor's team. In August 2017, the Metro Mayor attended his first LEP Board meeting alongside all of the leaders and Mayor of the constituent local authorities. At the same time, the LEP Board's size was increased through its private sector contingent. These changes were reflected in a

new LEP Constitution that will be referenced in a revised LEP AF that is being re-drafted to reflect changes consequent upon the Ney review. The LEP has adopted a code of conduct based on the Nolan Principles, has a Register and routine declaration of interests and other policies but will adopt further policies and make sure meet appropriate standards in line with the Ney review.

The LEP website publishes all policies, meetings agendas and papers as well as key documents. The MCA website carries additional complementary information, such as a rolling list of projects, that is connected through hyper-links to the LEP website. However, the LEP Executive is working closely with the MCA Executive to enhance transparency through both LEP and MCA websites. Whilst not directly subject to FOI the LEP has a policy for 'Enquiries, Feedback and Complaints' and also supports the MCA and others who may receive FOI enquiries relating to funds awarded to the LEP.

Chair & Chief Executive Sign-off:

Signed: 

Signed: 

Name: Asif Hamid

Name: Mark Basnett

Position: Chairman

Position: Managing Director

Date: 4 December 2017

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