



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

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)

The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) is committed to the highest standards of governance as outlined in this Annual Governance Assurance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021. The LLEP board has strengthened its governance and transparency over the last 12 months by undertaking a governance review which has resulted in the formation of an Investment Panel to replace the former Programme Board. In addition, a Finance and Audit Committee and Scrutiny Committee has also been formed. There have not been any governance issues during this year.

The LLEP is a Company Limited by Guarantee

<https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/11932434>

The memorandum of association and the articles of association set out how the company is run, governed and owned including the responsibilities and powers of the directors.

<https://llep.org.uk/app/uploads/2021/01/Articles-of-Association-2020.pdf>

We are responsible for ensuring that our business is conducted in line with the law and proper accounting standards and governance arrangements of our Accountable Body, Leicester City Council, and for using public money economically, efficiently and effectively. In order to meet our responsibility, we have in place proper governance arrangements as set out in our Local Assurance Framework (LAF) that make sure that we do the right things in the right way, and that we are open, transparent, honest and accountable. The LAF has been updated and is under regular review.

<https://llep.org.uk/app/uploads/2020/12/Local-Assurance-Framework-LAF-2020.pdf>

We have implemented a strong process for declaring and managing board director conflicts of interest. Declarations of interest (DOIs) are a standing item at every meeting within the minutes of meetings. All directors and senior officers Register of Interests are updated and published on the LLEP website.

<https://llep.org.uk/governance/our-boards/board-papers/>



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We have implemented stronger scrutiny arrangements by extending the membership of the LLEP to establish an independent Scrutiny Committee by end of this financial year. We also held our AGM on 1st December 2020 at which we launched our Annual Report for 2019/20.

<https://llep.org.uk/governance/communications/annual-report-and-agm/>

Policies that have been updated over the past 12 months to reinforce our determination and commitment to excellence in governance and transparency include our Equality & Diversity and Complaints Policies.

<https://llep.org.uk/governance/policies/>

The LLEP is committed to diverse representation reflective of the local businesses, communities and geography which it serves. We aim to ensure gender equality by 2023, and we have over one third female board directors. In October 2020 a recruitment exercise was undertaken which resulted in the appointment of two new board directors bringing a wealth of sector experience and knowledge to the board. The board now comprises 19 directors, with over three quarters representing the private sector, over one third females and nearly a quarter from ethnic minorities.

Signed:

Name: Kevin Harris

Position: Chair

Date: 20 January 2020

Signed:

Name: Mandip Rai

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 20 January 2020