



Annex B: Section 151/73/127 Assurance Statement

The Section 151/73/127 Officer should here provide a report to the Annual Performance Review on their work for the LEP over the last twelve months, and their opinion, with a specific requirement to identify any issues of concern, on governance and transparency. The report should focus on any issues raised in Annex A: Annual Performance Review Preparation. This report should be sent to the Assurance Team via localgrowthassurance@levellingup.gov.uk copying the BEIS Area Lead by **19 January 2023. (max 500 words)**

Leicester City Council's s151 officer, Deputy Director of Finance/Deputy s151 officer and staff continue to ensure the LLEP is properly reflected in the Accountable Body's (AB) wider governance framework.

The LLEP company remains legally dormant and hence the LLEP continues to use AB systems, including accounting, payroll and the corporate IT network. Almost all LLEP staff are formally employed by the AB, barring a small number of secondments from other partners. Given future uncertainties around the structure and role of LEPs, this is expected to continue for the foreseeable future.

LLEP and AB decisions remain subject to the Council's formal governance and decision-making processes, e.g., acceptance and allocation of new funding and management of the GPF as determined by the LLEP Board. The Council's rules specifically provide for AB decisions. The LAF has been consistently implemented at all decision-making levels.

The elected City Mayor continues to distinguish between his roles as 'the Council' and as AB to the LLEP. The distinction is drawn in the Council's Constitution and capital programme governance.

The Council appointed a new Director of Finance and s151 officer in November 2022. For the moment, the Deputy Director of Finance continues to take the operational lead for the AB.

The LLEP CEO left in early 2022 and due to the wider uncertainties, the post was not immediately recruited to. By agreement, the DDoF has provided additional support to the Co-Chairs, Board and the acting Head of LLEP. The Council's Chief Operating Officer has remained in contact with the Co-Chairs and more recently has been actively engaged in the process for recruiting a new director/CEO on a fixed term contract. The Chief Operating Officer, s151 officer and the DDoF have an open invitation to Board meetings, with at least one attending each meeting.

The AB is fully engaged in discussions regarding the future role, shape, staffing and financial sustainability of the LLEP. As noted above, the AB is the formal employer of most LLEP staff.

Other AB finance and legal officers work closely with the LLEP secretariat on the range of business, and review reports to the Board and Investment



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Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Panel. They also review matters such as spending profiles, LLEP operating finances and GPF loan applications and repayments. The AB continues to support progressing investments in Enterprise Zones.

There are no particular issues of concern on governance and transparency to report.

Signed:

Name: Amy Oliver

Position: Director for Finance

Date: 07.02.2023