



## 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](mailto:localgrowthassurance@levellingup.gov.uk), copying the DBT Area Lead, by **29 February 2024**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **15 March 2024** with confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)**

The Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership (LLEP) is dedicated to operating transparently, adhering to a robust governance framework. The Local Assurance Framework was reviewed and refreshed in April 2023.

Through our drive to be open and transparent we publish a range of documents to demonstrate this [Register of Interests](#), [Code of Conduct](#), [Hospitality and Gifts Register](#), [Live Project List](#), [Operating Accounts](#), [Payments over £500](#), [Pay Policy statement](#).

After the government chose to halt funding for LEPs, the Board convened in April 2023 and resolved to dissolve the company by March 2024, a decision subsequently endorsed at the June board meeting.

In May, a new CEO was appointed, and after the local elections two public sector directors were substituted, resulting in a 53% female representation however, following the resignation of one the private sector directors this has now dropped to 50%.

The majority of the board meetings are still conducted in person, with directors consistently attending in full capacity.

The AGM held in October was a small intimate affair, with various company members in attendance.

A transition board has been formed to support the Board and the upper-tier local authorities in carrying out the essential functions presently managed by the LLEP. These functions primarily include business support, local economic planning, and the implementation of government programmes such as Create Growth, Careers Hub.

Chaired by the LLEP CEO, the transition board consists of four LLEP Board members, a representative from the education sector, two senior officers from the upper-tier local authorities, and one district council leader.



The Accountable Body remains actively engaged and supportive of the LLEP. The s151 officer holds a standing invitation to all Board meetings, while the Head of Finance continues to actively support both the Board and the LLEP CEO particularly through the transition phase.

All financial and legal decisions are actively scrutinised by the Accountable Body, and opinion given where necessary prior to the board sign off.

Through agreements with their audit service, the Accountable Body has designated 10 days for in-depth audit investigations. Previous workstreams have covered areas such as Governance, Careers Hub, and capital programs, in addition to the annual Growth hub audit.

The LLEP consistently participates in the scrutiny committees of upper tier local authorities, with the upcoming scheduled appearance at LCC set for [20<sup>th</sup> March 2024](#).

Signed:  
Name: Andy Reed  
Position: Chair  
Date: 29 Feb 2023

Signed:  
Name: Phoebe Dawson  
Position: Chief Executive  
Date: 29 Feb 2023