



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 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 Leeds City Region LEP board has been a formal part of the West Yorkshire CA for a long time. The LEP and CA's plan for full integration was agreed by DLUHC in July 2022. A LEP governance review has since been undertaken and it has now evolved into a West Yorkshire Business Board, with the Chair also acting as the Mayor's Business Adviser. The Chair of the Board has been appointed as a voting member of the CA, and private sector members continue to act as deputy chairs and voting members of the CA's 5 decision making thematic committees.

The Combined Authority ran an open recruitment process for the new Business Board Chair and members. Membership is diverse and reflective of local communities and sectors. Of the 13 private sector members, 10 are women (as are 5 public sector members), and 6 are of black, Asian or minority ethnic heritage. <https://westyorkshire.moderngov.co.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=150>).

For transparency purposes, the governance arrangements for the LEP Board are set out in the Combined Authority's Constitution at Article 10 [Part210ArticleTheLEP.docx.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

The Combined Authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Governance and Audit Committee retain an independent role in relation to holding the LEP to account.

Engagement with external stakeholders is central to LEP activity and reflected in its structure:

- the LEP's Business Communications Group (made up of representatives from key business organisations) advises the LEP on barriers to growth and ensuring that businesses are at the heart of everything the LEP does.
- The Development Manager for the Federation of Small Businesses is a co-opted member of the Board in the role of business



representative and the substitute co-optee is a member of the Mid-Yorkshire Chamber.

Signed:
Name: Mandy Ridyard
Position: [Chair]
Date: 29/02/24

Signed:
Name: Ben Still
Position: [Chief Exec]
Date: 20/02/24