

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)**

We are committed to ensuring high standards of governance and transparency in all our activities. Over the last year we have introduced changes to integrate the LEP panels (with their public and private sector representation) into WYCA's decision making process as advisory committees, thus providing a consistent, accountable and transparent framework across both the LEP and WYCA, so far as possible.

This change in status of the Panels to WYCA advisory committees brings them under the remit of all statutory provisions relating to local authority meetings and the WYCA Members' Code of Conduct. All voting Panel members have complied with the Code's requirement to register their disclosable pecuniary interests, which are published on the WYCA web-site. A standing item provides for declarations of interest at Panel meetings and these are noted in the minutes.

LEP Board meetings are now held in public, with papers published on-line in accordance with the timescales required for meetings of WYCA. The same arrangements apply to the new advisory committees.

The assurance framework sits at the heart of decision making, with all projects subject to a consistent level of rigour and scrutiny and well defined decision points marking their progress from an idea through to delivery. The framework is reviewed annually, with a working group of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee providing detailed input to the review.

Decisions on expenditure on Growth Deal projects are taken by WYCA, with advice from the Investment Committee and other advisory committees as required. These decisions can all be called in by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The LEP Constitution to be considered by the LEP Board in 29 November recognises the importance of scrutiny arrangements and proposes extending these to LEP decisions.

We will continue to ensure our arrangements are further developed and improved and welcome the recommendations in the Ney report which we have already introduced.