

## Hertfordshire LEP: Governance Assurance Statement 2019

The LEP has moved from strength to strength over 2018/19, culminating with the positive news of a successful outcome of the LEP Review. Our work over 2018 to improve governance has ensured that the LEP has a model in place that already meets future requirements.

Over 2018/19, the LEP has worked proactively with its Accountable Body to ensure that the LEP benefits from external scrutiny as part of our approach to continuous improvement. The LEP was subject to Hertfordshire County Council Overview & Scrutiny Committee in early 2018. The Committee commented on the success of the LEP to date and a further review in December confirmed that all recommendations had been achieved.

2018/19 has been challenging in delivery terms with the need to swiftly reallocate funds from the withdrawn MLX scheme to other projects. Despite a challenging timetable, the LEP has fully reallocated funds to a series of projects that will deliver greater output numbers than the previous scheme.

Primarily, this has been proactively addressed with the establishment of pipeline schemes and a recent call for projects will continue to ensure the LEP has a firm handle on programme management.

However, the Stevenage element of our Local Growth Fund programme requires urgent resolution if private investors are not to lose confidence. The LEP will continue to work with stakeholders to lobby, but would appreciate prompt Government intervention so that these issues do not drag into 2019 with no outcome in sight, as was the case in 2018.

Over 2018, the LEP has established a firm foundation to progress a Local Industrial Strategy via early commissioning of the evidence base and a programme of engagement with stakeholders.

However, in order to fully realise a Local Industrial Strategy, it is imperative that HMG provides firm backing for LEPs with sufficient, long term funding to ensure the LEP has sufficient capacity to carry out its duties.

At the time of writing the process of moving from EU and Local Growth Funds to the Shared Prosperity Fund is unclear and requires a swift resolution on behalf of Government, particularly in these turbulent times.



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12.02.2019

