

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@communities.gov.uk, copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead, by **20 January 2021**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **24 February 2021** and confirmation sent to the email address above.

(max 500 words)

Hertfordshire LEP continues to respond positively to LEP Review requirements and remains fully compliant, including the move to become incorporated in April 2019.

It has an excellent relationship with its accountable body, Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), which continues to support the LEP in a range of areas. The LEP has instigated bi-annual meetings with District and County partners and assigned a lead Board Member contact for each authority.

We are committed to ensuring we meet the needs of our businesses. The LEP AGM/Annual Conference 2020 was held online but public with over 200 delegates. The LEP Annual Report was also published to share impact and progress.

We quickly pivoted the LEP's work to provide a package of business interventions in response to COVID-19 that have made a tangible impact. We have also led on the recovery 'cell' as part of the overall LRF response.

Hertfordshire LEP continues to go 'above and beyond' in supporting the work and reputation of LEPs from local leadership into the Hertfordshire Growth Board, its regional role in the establishment of Catalyst South to supporting and leading the development of the LEP Network.

At a national level, it now has a seat at the top table of COVID-19 economic recovery planning in Whitehall thanks to the strengthened role of the LEP Network and its Chair Mark Bretton.

The LEP continues to have strong private sector engagement in its governance. It has recently appointed an additional Business Board member. Whilst it is fully compliant in terms of the diversity composition of the LEP Board, it is fully committed to ensure that its Board continues to represent the diverse communities that it supports.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Members from public and private sectors, in all parts of the LEP, uphold high standards of integrity in line with Nolan Principles. Board member Declarations of Interest are available on the LEP website. These are reviewed regularly following any updates to the code of conduct and conflict of interest policy.

Board papers continue to be published five working days in advance of meetings, with the minutes of meetings published 10 days following the meeting on the Hertfordshire LEP website.

We welcome the opportunity to share good practice via the peer review exercise and are working with colleagues in Buckinghamshire LEP to progress the review in 2020/21.

Any further feedback through the Annual Performance Review process is welcomed.

Signed:
Name: Mark Bretton
Position: Chair
Date: 15/1/2021

Signed:
Name: Neil Hayes
Position: Chief Executive
Date: 15/1/2021