

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 localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead by **16 December 2019**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2020** and confirmation sent to localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk (**max 500 words**)

We have continued to maintain the high bar regarding transparency. All the committee and board meetings are open to the public and all our committee and board papers continue to be published on the LEP website.

We have recently amended the LEP website to add a tab for transparency to make the details of board and committee meetings and associated papers easier to find as well as the additional information required to be public as set in the Assurance Framework.

The Local Assurance framework was updated early in the year, following publication of the National Local Assurance Framework guidance and was signed off by the Board and S151 officer, following an audit by our Accountable body.

Following the publication of the Annual Delivery plan we set up a monitoring system. Every month an annual delivery plan monitoring report is reviewed by the Performance and Investment Committee (P&I), with a presentation covering a separate work area each month. This provides the opportunity for challenge and has enabled the LEP to address slippage at an early opportunity. The requirement by officers to update the report monthly helps to keep the focus on delivery. P&I meetings are open to the public and the monitoring report is published as part of the papers.

During 19/20 we have introduced non-executive members onto a number of Board sub-committees. They were appointed via an open recruitment process, and of the 13 new committee members 8 (over 60%) were female. The high number of applications received from females we believe was in part to the work carried to raise the profile of LEP within the professional women community.

We have also completely refreshed the membership of the new Overview and Scrutiny committee and will be holding the first meeting of the new committee in January with a revised focus. In the interim, and to ensure scrutiny continued, the CEO has attended the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings of Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Council and the policy Committee of Warrington Borough Council, in all cases at their request to discuss the Local Industrial Strategy



Signed:

Name: Christine Gaskell
Position: Chair
Date: 16.12.19



Signed:

Name: Philip Cox
Position: Chief Exec
Date: 16.12.19