

GM Local Enterprise Partnership Governance Assurance Statement

The Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (GM LEP) sits at the heart of the city region's governance arrangements, ensuring that business leaders are empowered to set the strategic course, determine local economic priorities and drive growth and job creation across Greater Manchester

It is a private-sector led, voluntary partnership whose core function is to provide strategic leadership to deliver the region's growth ambitions alongside the GMCA and partners. Together, GM LEP and the GMCA provide a robust set of decision-making and governance structures in delivering our shared vision for Greater Manchester to be one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old.

Greater Manchester's governance arrangements are underpinned by the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) 'Our People, Our Place', which was recently refreshed in consultation with stakeholders including residents, businesses and voluntary groups. It therefore represents a long term blueprint for the future of all the people of Greater Manchester and how we can work together to achieve a better future.

The alignment of LEP and GMCA priorities in the GMS mean that project development, delivery and performance management are overseen jointly with GMCA and fall within the GMCA audit and oversight process. For instance, the latest Annual Performance Report sets out a summary of progress against our growth and reform ambitions and was discussed and endorsed by the GMCA Oversight and Scrutiny Committees.

Transparency extends to holding all LEP meetings in public with meetings, reports and minutes published on both the GMCA and LEP websites along with a commitment to respond to any Freedom of Information requests.

The LEP website also provides details of current Board membership, the Assurance Framework, the LEP Terms of Reference, Governance Statement, key projects and links to the publication of financial information.

The LEP Board continues to act with integrity with private sector members discharging their duties in line with Nolan Principles for standards in public life and GMCA members following the GMCA's code of conduct. The LEP has also adopted GMCA's complaints procedure.

More specifically, we recognise the potential for LEP Board members to have a conflict of interest in decision making and a key principle of our assurance processes is that all LEP members must declare any interests relating to agenda items at every meeting. Earlier this year, we strengthened this approach by publishing a Register of Interests.

The LEP works on behalf of all the people of Greater Manchester and recognises that different people bring different ideas, knowledge and perspectives. As part of this commitment to

equality, GM LEP refreshed its board membership earlier this year via an open and transparent recruitment process to ensure that it better reflects the breadth of industrial sectors and improves the representation of the diversity of Greater Manchester's people.

In particular, we appointed a Board member to be our SME representative, engaging with the SME community, acting as the voice for SMEs on the LEP and championing those issues which affect small businesses.

Signed:



Name: Mike Blackburn
Position: Chair of GMLEP
Date: 11th December 2018

Signed:



Name: Eamonn Boylan
Position: Chief Executive of GMLEP
Date: 11th December 2018