

GMCA Assurance Statement
January 2019

The unique GM leadership model has GM LEP integrated into the heart of our decision-making processes, putting the private sector at the centre of policy development and providing robust assurance processes that ensure that any LEP monies distributed transparently and effectively.

This follows the approach set out in the original GM LEP proposal to government which was clear that the GMCA was to have the 'primary responsibility for prioritising funding decisions' (as the democratically accountable body) with the GM LEP 'bringing a strong private sector input to decisions'.

Over the last twelve months, GMCA has continued to act as the accountable body for GM LEP, ensuring that all decisions about regarding LEP funding remain transparent and comply with grant conditions, the GMCA's procurement framework and state aid rules within the statutory framework.

In practice, this has included:

- ensuring the decisions and activities of the GMCA and GM LEP conform with legal requirements with regard to equalities, environmental, compliance with State Aid rules, procurement of services;
- working with the GM LEP to identify a prioritised list of investments in accordance with GM's strategic priorities;
- ensuring that GMCA and the GM LEP's funds are used appropriately and value for money is achieved;
- ensuring that the provisions of the Assurance Framework are being adhered to;
- Maintaining an official record of GMCA and GM LEP proceedings are maintained;
- ensuring that the GMCA and GM LEP's funding is subject to internal and external audit requirements; and
- actively managing the devolved budget and programme to respond to changed circumstances
- Updating the GMCA corporate risk register and Risk Management Strategy

As part of this commitment to transparency and good governance, we have strengthened our assurance protocols over the past 12 months in light of the updated national guidance including:

- Noting the Mary Ney Review and the subsequent best practice guidance and how this reflected current GM LEP practice as outlined to the LEP Board in a report on [January 2018](#)
- Updating the LEP Board on the Annual Conversation with recommendations on maintaining areas of strength and addressing any issues in a report in [March 2018](#)
- Presenting the GM Economy, Business and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work of the LEP and the role of GMCA as the Accountable Body in [July 2018](#)
- Reflecting on the Ministerial LEP Review – Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships – and the key implications for GM's assurance procedures as set out in a report to the LEP Board [in September 2018](#)
- Agreeing a new GM LEP Code of Conduct based on the Nolan principles which has now adopted by the Board
- Extending the GMCA Whistleblowing Policy to cover GM LEP and its Board members

- Strengthening the GM LEP Register of Interest so that it now also covers the GMCA Chief Executive and is updated on a six monthly basis
- A LEP Annual Delivery Plan will also be published in 2019 setting out clearly our progress in achieving LEP Board priorities.
- Highlighting these changes of the GM LEP website

Richard Paver

Treasurer

Greater Manchester Combined Authority