



**GM Local Enterprise Partnership
Governance Assurance Statement
January 2019**

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', 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.

GM LEP is fully committed to transparency and accountability and was happy to comply with the updated assurance guidance provided by both the Mary Ney Review and Ministerial LEP Review.

For instance, the LEP Chair appeared at the GMCA Economy, Business and Skills Oversight and Scrutiny Committee to update GM Members on the LEP's work in overseeing delivery of the GMS in July 2018.

A LEP Annual Delivery Plan will also be published in 2019 setting out clearly our progress in achieving LEP Board priorities.

Transparency extends to holding all LEP meetings in public (including an AGM in June) 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 Assurance Statement, key projects and links to the publication of financial information.

The LEP Board continues to act with integrity and has adopted a new Code of Conduct in line with the Nolan Principles for standards in public life. The LEP has also adopted GMCA's complaints procedure and extended the GMCA Whistleblowing Policy to cover GM LEP and its Board members.

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 which now also covers the GMCA Chief Executive and will be updated on a six monthly basis.

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 in early 2019 via an open and transparent recruitment process to ensure that it better reflects the breadth of industrial sectors.

Mike Blackburn

Chair of the Greater Manchester
Local Enterprise Partnership

Eamonn Boylan

Chief Executive Greater Manchester
Local Enterprise Partnership