**GMCA Assurance Statement**

**January 2020**

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;
* ensuring that the GMCA and GM LEP’s funding is subject to internal and external audit requirements;
* actively managing the devolved budget and programme to respond to changed circumstances
* updating the GMCA corporate risk register and Risk Management Strategy

Beyond this day to day role, we have demonstrated our ongoing commitment to transparency and good governance by:

* publishing the LEP Annual Delivery Plan for 2019/20. This included:
* Strategic activity: outlining the key activities the GM LEP will lead on to drive the strategic development of Greater Manchester forward
* Local Growth Fund: outlining key milestones for LGF project delivery
* Other funding and growth programmes: outlining key milestones for wider growth programmes
* Ways of working: outlining how the GM LEP will operate and develop as a Strategic Board
* publishing the Greater Manchester Local Growth Assurance Framework in July 2019 with an update in January 2020. This is our local response to the principles and requirements of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework;
* providing a Local Growth Fund Management Update to the LEP Board highlighting progress on the development and delivery of the programme
* presenting the GM Economy, Business and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the work of the LEP, its membership, strategy and delivery along with the partnership role of the GMCA
* publishing a draft LEP Communications Plan setting out a comprehensive media, communications and engagement approach to ensure the work of the GM LEP is being effectively communicated
* regularly updating the GM LEP Register of Interest on a six monthly basis.
* publishing a new Gifts, Hospitality and Expenses Register setting out any claims by LEP Board members
* highlighting these changes of the GM LEP website

**Steve Wilson**

Treasurer

Greater Manchester Combined Authority