

**GMCA Assurance Statement  
February 2021**

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.

In 2020/21, 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

Alongside these ongoing commitments, GMCA and the LEP have demonstrated our shared commitment to transparency and good governance by:

- Publishing the LEP Annual Delivery Report 2019/20. This included:
  - Strategy: Driving the strategic agenda through the Greater Manchester Strategy; GM Local Industrial Strategy; broader policy development; and communications
  - Governance: Strengthening the LEP's governance procedures through refreshing Board membership; maintaining transparency and accountability; and further developing partnership and engagement
  - Performance: Reporting on progress made in realising the Greater Manchester's strategic ambitions
- Publishing the LEP Annual Delivery Plan for 2020/21. This included:
  - Strategy: Developing the strategic agenda through the Greater Manchester Strategy; GM Living with Covid Resilience Plan; GM Local Industrial Strategy; and the GM Economic Vision
  - Governance: Supporting the LEP's unique governance model and role in policy oversight; exploring diversity and inclusion; and strengthening local and national engagement

- Performance: Delivering on LEP priorities through programmes supported by the Local Growth Fund, Get Building Fund and LEP Capacity Fund along with projects with key partners such as TfGM, the Growth Company and GMCA
- Refreshing the Greater Manchester Local Growth Assurance Framework in November 2020.
- Supporting the refresh of the LEP Board to attract a diverse group of potential candidates to ensure gender balance and to improve the representation from BAME groups as well as reflect the range of GM's industrial sectors.
- Regularly updating the GM LEP Register of Interest on a six monthly basis.
- Publishing the Gifts, Hospitality and Expenses Register setting out any claims by LEP Board members and updating as necessary
- Remodelling the GM LEP website to include information on the new GM Economic Vision; the Insights page highlighting progress in realising the LEP's ambitions; and providing regular news updates

**Steve Wilson**

Treasurer

Greater Manchester Combined Authority