



**GM Local Enterprise Partnership
Governance Assurance Statement
February 2021**

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 work with GMCA and Districts to set the strategic course.

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.

Greater Manchester's governance arrangements are underpinned by the Greater Manchester Strategy 'Our People, Our Place' which, along with the GM Local Industrial Strategy, provides a long term blueprint for the future of all the people of Greater Manchester.

The LEP published its Annual Delivery Report which highlights the LEP's progress in achieving these priorities in 2019/20 along with the Annual Delivery Plan setting out the key actions and performance indicators require to realise their future ambitions.

The LEP built on this foundation in 2020 by launching the GM Economic Vision *Building a Greater Manchester, Making a Greater Britain*. This bold vision aims to remodel the city-region's economy and includes a range of long-term initiatives to help businesses innovate more effectively and become more productive, creating a greener and more resilient economy.

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 2020/21 to ensure that it better reflects the breadth of industrial sectors and improves the representation of the diversity of Greater Manchester's people.

Following the resignation of Co-Chair Mo Isap, Lou Cordwell will continue as sole Chair of the LEP with Cllr Elise Wilson being appointed as Deputy Chair. Cllr Wilson is a small business owner as well as Leader of Stockport MBC and GMCA Economy Portfolio holder.

GM LEP remains fully committed to transparency and accountability and holds 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 FOI requests.

The LEP website also provides details of current Board membership, the refreshed Local Growth Assurance Framework, the LEP Terms of Reference, Governance Assurance Statements, key project updates and links to the publication of financial information.

The LEP Board continues to act with integrity as set out in our Code of Conduct in line with the Nolan Principles for standards in public life. The LEP has adopted GMCA's complaints procedure and is also included in the GMCA Whistleblowing Policy.



The LEP recognises the potential for 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.

We publish a Register of Interests which is updated on a six-monthly basis along with a Gifts, Hospitality and Expenses Register updated as necessary.

Lou Cordwell

Chair of the Greater Manchester
Local Enterprise Partnership

Simon Nokes

Chief Executive Greater Manchester
Local Enterprise Partnership