

GM Local Enterprise Partnership Governance Assurance Statement

February 2022

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 inclusive growth ambitions alongside GMCA and partners. Together, GM LEP and GMCA provide a robust set of decision-making and governance structures in delivering our shared vision for Greater Manchester.

These governance arrangements are underpinned by the Greater Manchester Strategy which, along with the GM Local Industrial Strategy and GM Economic Vision, provide a long-term blueprint for the future of all the people of Greater Manchester.

The LEP published its Annual Delivery Report this year which highlights our progress in achieving these priorities in 2020/21 along with the Annual Delivery Plan setting out the key actions and performance indicators required to realise our future ambitions.

This included a number of key deliverables at the heart of the GM Economic Vision reflecting our aim of creating a greener, fairer and more prosperous economy by:

- i. Making Greater Manchester the UK's Leading Green City Region
- ii. Supporting all people in the city-region to achieve their full potential
- iii. Tackling inequalities to make Greater Manchester the UK's most Diverse and Inclusive City Region

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 approach, LEP launched a programme of meetings at business venues across Greater Manchester and allocated a link LEP Board member to each district. LEP Board leads were also identified to champion key topics helping us to engage with local business as we deliver for all parts of the city region.

GM LEP remains fully committed to transparency and accountability and holds all formal Board meetings in public (Covid restrictions permitting) with dates, reports and minutes published on both the GMCA and LEP websites along with a commitment to respond to any FOI requests.

The LEP Chair regularly attends the Economy, Business Growth and Skills Scrutiny meeting with the next LEP update scheduled for February 2022.

The LEP website 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 is covered by 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.

The LEP published a Register of Interests updated on a six-monthly basis along with separate Gifts & Hospitality and Expenses Registers updated as necessary.

Lou Cordwell

Chair of the Greater Manchester
Local Enterprise Partnership

Simon Nokes

Chief Executive Greater Manchester
Local Enterprise Partnership