



Annex C: Governance Assurance Statement

The LEP Chair and Chief Executive should here provide a brief formal assurance statement on the status of governance and transparency. This should include any overview and scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. This should be sent to the Assurance Team via localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk, copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead, by **14 January 2022**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2022** and confirmation sent to the email address above.

(max 500 words)

We are confident that the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (GBSLEP) meets the governance requirements set out in the latest National Local Growth Assurance Framework. We have strong and effective arrangements in place to ensure accountability and transparency of decision-making. The decisions of our business-led Board and sub-boards are based on strong evidence and recommendations are appropriately challenged. Any conflicts of interest are actively managed, supported by regularly updated and reviewed conflicts forms. Agendas, papers and decisions of the Board and Pillar Boards are published on our website.

Meetings of the Supervisory Board and Joint Scrutiny Committee (JSC) continue to be held using video technology or on a hybrid basis to which the public may seek access.

Private sector directors are fully engaged in all the LEP's policy development and decision-making and collectively bring a wealth of skills, experiences, personal qualities and networks to our work. They actively contribute to the three primary roles of the LEP: agitating, enabling and commissioning. The specific roles and responsibilities of the Chair have been agreed by the Board. All Directors and those who contribute to sub-boards and advisory groups are required adhere to the Nolan principles.

This is the second full year of the LEP operating as a fully independent and active company limited by guarantee, controlling its revenue funding and employing its Executive. During the year the LEP has continued to develop and improve its ways of working, The operating structure has continued to responded in an agile and effective manner to the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic impacts on business in the GBSLEP Area.

Birmingham City Council (BCC) continues as the Accountable Body for all capital funding. We have maintained a strong working relationship with BCC as evidenced by their active participation in, and contribution to, the LEP's agenda. There is a Joint Working Protocol in place which sets out the roles and responsibilities of both parties, with a series of performance measures



which are being met. Scrutiny of our operations by the Accountable Body is undertaken in a variety of ways including:

- input into the development of relevant policies and procedures and being part of their approval process;
- making an active contribution to the GBSLEP Board and its decision-making sub-boards;
- reviewing capital funding decisions;
- regular engagement with the S151 officer and team; and
- undertaking internal audits.

Wider overview and scrutiny of GBSLEP is undertaken by the JSC and by individual local authority scrutiny committees where appropriate.

Whilst we have robust processes and structures in place, we are committed to continuous improvement. During the year for example the Terms of Reference of each of the Pillar Board has been revisited to make sure that these are appropriately focused. This enables us to maximise positive impact on our local economy, achieving value for money in the use of public Funds, drawing upon the collective skills and expertise of the LEP Executive and our partners across the private, public and academic sectors.

Signed: 

Name: Anita Bhalla

Position: Interim Chair

Date: 30 December 2021

Signed: 

Name: Ed Watson

Position: Interim Chief Executive

Date: 30 December 2021