

## Annex C: Governance Assurance Statement

At Greater Lincolnshire LEP we pride ourselves in working towards a high level of governance and scrutiny on our processes and decision making. We continue to work with Government to find solutions that not only ensure we remain true to the latest version of the Assurance Framework <http://bit.ly/2i0IVGK> but that also enable us to deliver the strategic projects and programmes that will drive local prosperity and economic growth in our area.

We are pleased to say that many areas identified within the recent Mary Ney Review on Governance and Transparency have already been considered by GLLEP and incorporated into its Assurance Framework, and we are working through where enhancements may be required, with a view to incorporate any necessary changes by February 2018.

We are governed by a Board of up to 16 private and public sector Board Directors with a private sector Chair and supported by a number of formal boards alongside strategic and advisory forums.

Lincolnshire County Council successfully act as our Accountable Body and as such retain overall legal accountability for the Greater Lincolnshire LEP investment programme, supported by the Chief Finance Officer (S151 officer).

The LEP operates a strict Code of Conduct for LEP Board Directors and Declarations of Interest are updated annually with any subsequently arising interests further declared and minuted at meetings. GLLEP has already adopted the Nolan Principles of Public Life as the basis of its Code of Conduct and continually looks to enhance and improve its existing policies. We welcome additional guidance on decision making, and should additional measures prove necessary post review, they will be formally considered by the GLLEP Board early in the New Year.

We have responded to advice and guidance from the National Audit Office, LEP Peer reviews and external audits to ensure we remain open and transparent.

To help with this we have updated our website to allow both internal and external stakeholders to easily gain access to a variety of information sources and policies. We publish all papers of a non-confidential nature to demonstrate that our discussions and decisions are fair and commensurate with the work we do.

As the role of LEPs has developed so has the need for us to continue to raise our

standards and be consistent in our approach to support all our stakeholders. The National Assurance Framework set out what government expected LEPs to cover in their local assurance frameworks. Having undertaken this review it was clear that we aligned strongly with the published requirements.

This led to a successful sign off by our Section 151 officers to confirm with the DCLG Accounting officer that our framework was being implemented to these new standards.

Although we feel we have a good history of establishing robust governance arrangements we are clear that we will strive for continuous improvement and respond to best practice.

The Mary Ney review has been welcomed by all board members and our officers are already making headway, prior to official guidance being released by government, to assess where strengthening can be demonstrated.

**Chair & Chief Executive Sign-off:**

Signed: (Redacted vs)

Signed:

Name: Ursula Lidbetter

Name:

Position: LEP Chair

Position:

Date: 01.12.17

Date: