

Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership

Governance Assurance Statement

January 2023



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@levellingup.gov.uk, copying the BEIS Area Lead, by **19 January 2023**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2022** with confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)**

Dorset LEP has a comprehensive local assurance framework document on our website that demonstrates our commitment to transparency and accountability and sets out our approach to appraise, deliver, monitor and evaluate our schemes to ensure value for money. The LAF was updated in August 2022.

We have an excellent relationship with our Accountable Body including our S151 officer who attends our Board meetings and is an active member of our Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Committee (FACR).

All our policies and procedures are on our webpages and updated at least annually, with all being updated in July/ August 2022. These policies include decision making and due diligence, codes of conduct, expenses, etc

Our Board and committees all have their own webpages with members listed, agendas and papers and forthcoming meeting dates.

We publish our delivery plan, annual report and annual accounts on our webpages and have a publicly available project dashboard showing all core project information such as status, duration, budget, outputs, location and delivery partner. We have Standard Operating Procedures for all aspects of work of the LEP and this provides exceptional business continuity

Additional assurance and performance monitoring is undertaken through our governance structure. Following Board approval of a refreshed governance structure between March and August we have rationalised our groups and passed some administration of some of the groups to the LAs, leaving us with a leaner, but still comprehensive, governance structure for our activities. In Sept we merged the Performance and Investment Committee reporting with the FACR Committee to reflect no longer issuing capital grants but rather monitoring outputs and the risks that come with that.

There are now four main LEP committees:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee - with representation from both councils
- Nominations and Remunerations Committee
- Finance, Audit & Corporate Risk Committee (FACR) – attended by S151 officer
- Enterprise Zone Committee – work with DC to refresh EZ governance and committee TOR



Additionally, the LEP provides the secretariat for the DfE Skills Advisory Panel. We are currently undertaking a Board composition review and while we are currently compliant with the gender balance requirement of the Board, we plan on having 50% gender balance in 2023/24.

Signed:

Name: Cecilia Bufton
Position: Chair
Date: 23 January 2023

Signed:

Name: Vinita Nawathe
Position: Executive Director
Date: 23 January 2023