



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)

At the Marches LEP (MLEP), we are committed to continue our excellent track record for good governance and ensure our systems and processes meet the requirements of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework.(NLAF)

Our Board which is the MLEP's ultimate decision-making authority, comprises public, voluntary and private sector partners. Each Board member receives a comprehensive induction on appointment including an overview of the NLAF.

Our governance arrangements are designed to ensure that the Board has an overview of all MLEP's related activity and that funding is allocated in a transparent and coordinated manner, which achieves the aims of the Strategic Economic plan, offers value for money and has a lasting impact and benefits to communities across the Marches area.

Assurance on the proper use and administration of public funds is provided by the S151 Officer at Shropshire Council, our Accountable Body. The S151 Officer or deputy attends all MLEP Board and other key Committee meetings.

Regular progress reports on programmes and funds managed by the LEP are presented at both the Board and the Performance Risk and Monitoring Committee (PRMC).

The Board approves all funding allocations, ensuring they meet Government requirements as set out in the NLAF and sets the strategic direction for the MLEP. PRMC monitors performance of all the MLEP programmes, ensuring that risks and issues are dealt with early and mitigation measures are put in place. Matters are escalated to the Board as required.

The MLEP Board may delegate specific functions to the MLEP Chair, CEO, PRMC or the S151 Officer at our Accountable Body as required for the timely and efficient operation of the MLEP. However, when it does that the



MLEP Board retains overall responsibility for these functions and these decisions are minuted at the next Board meeting.

We have held all our LEP virtual Board meetings in public since March 2020 and held this year's AGM at the end of November, when the LEP's Annual Accounts for financial year 2020/21 were approved. Our 2021 Annual Report was launched in December.

Information on the MLEP's programmes and projects, governance arrangements and policies are available on our website along with all Board papers. We will look to publish all our committee papers in 22/23 and open them to the public subject to Board approval.

We offer to attend a scrutiny committee meeting of each of the authorities at least once a year to review the LEP operations or specific projects and programmes and answer any queries. In 21/22 we have so far attended a meeting with Telford and Wrekin.

Signed: MANDY THORN
Name: Mandy Thorn
Position: Chair Date:
12.01.22

Signed: RACHEL LAVER
Name: Rachel Laver
Position: Chief Exec
Date:12.01.22