



## 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](mailto: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)**

The Marches LEP continues to be committed to operating in a fully transparent manner with strong governance processes in place. The LEP board is supported by the work of the Performance, Monitoring and Risk committee, which has a rolling programme of projects to monitor and hold projects to account. It's particularly important that we ensure that the projects which have received capital support under the Local Growth Fund and Getting Building Funds, complete the projects as contracted and achieve the outputs and outcomes expected.

We have appointed two new private sector board members and a new chair this year following an open and transparent recruitment process. As part of the induction process, we have asked the board members to attend PRMC meetings for a year so that they can get fully immersed into operating of the LEP and understand more about the projects through the more detailed discussions we have at PRMC. We therefore now have five board members attend this committee which helps provide great strategic oversight.

Our Board meetings are open to the public and papers for both board and all our sub committees continue to be published on our website five days before meetings with minutes from each committee also published on our website after the meetings so that all decision making is transparent as well as how the LEP is being operated and how public funding is being spent.

We have reviewed an updated our Assurance Framework and reviewed out policies making sure they are actively being adhered to. For example, we have reviewed our Equality and diversity Policy and report bi-annually to the PRMC on what measures we're taking to continue to embed best practice. All our staff also complete annual Equality and Diversity training. While board members typically don't receive any gifts and hospitality, we make sure this is reviewed quarterly and record a nil return which is published on our website.

Our Section 151 officer and Deputy s151 officer play an active role in the work we carry out and provide useful oversight and input into both Board and PRMC meetings. Further to discussion at PRMC we have agreed to



further strengthen our risk management procedures, with the s151 officer now reviewing and confirming independently that our risks and mitigation measures are appropriate, accepting that some risks are outside of the LEP's control.

The LEPs systems and processes were audited by the Accountable Body before Christmas, and it was found that the LEP continues to have "good governance and processes in place" with no recommendations for any changes to be made.

We are satisfied that there continues to be robust governance in place and are committed to maintaining the high standards of governance and assurance we have again demonstrated throughout the year.

Signed: SONIA ROBERTS

Name: Sonia Roberts

Position: Chair.

Date: 19.01.23

Signed: RACHEL LAVER

Name: Rachel Laver

Position: Chief Exec

Date: 19.01.23