

Annex E: Governance Assurance Statement

The LEP Chair and Chief Executive should here provide a brief formal assurance statement on the status of governance and transparency. In particular, they should focus on any issues raised in Annex A. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website following conclusion of the Annual Performance Review process (in April 2018). You should cover any overview and scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. **(max 500 words)**

We confirm that the LEP follows its Assurance Framework and demonstrates strong governance, accountability and transparency.

The framework is reviewed on an annual basis and despite our assurance and S151 officer relationship receiving excellent status, we have continued to improve.

Governance

1. Conflicts

- The LEP publishes a register of Board Members interests; and
- Conflicts of Interest are registered at every meeting. Any Board member conflicted does not take part in the related investment decision.

2. Decision Making

- All investments are independently appraised; and
- A simple structure with clear decision making responsibilities.
- Redesigned our application process to be more customer focused.

3. Transparency

- Full compliance with transparency requirements.

4. Accountability

- A strong relationship with its Accountable Body who undertake a legal and financial checks as part of the due diligence process.
- The LEP attends O&S within the Accountable Body and also holds an O&S review with all LA partners annually.

5. Diversity

- The LEP implemented a process to increase diversity. The private sector membership of the Board in 50% male 50% female

Delivery

We have had another successful year. Delivery highlights include:

- **Local Growth Deal** – our growth deal remains on track with a strong pipeline.
- **Careers and Enterprise Programme** is engaged with every school in the region.
- **EU Programmes** continue to provide mixed MI, however we retain strong relationships, with skills in particular an exemplar of partnership working. We are on track to fully commit.

Strategy

The LEP review and proposed merge has resulted in the need to re-evaluate our Local Industrial Strategy plans, however we have a place based evidence base and have strengthened our stakeholder engagement with industry workshops around rural, circular economy, apprenticeships, social inclusion along with a skills dissemination event with the regions skills providers.

The LEP merge with Leeds City Region is progressing, however is bringing together two very different cultures and models. Our LEP Board has been clear, building on our excellent governance rating we should seek to retain this in the new LEP, reflecting the fact WYCA cover only a small part of the wider LEP region. Our Board outlined the following principles to retain the impact across York and North Yorkshire;

- **Rural, Coastal and City of York priorities** must be protected as spatial priorities within strategies and governance.
- **Private Sector Membership of the LEP Board** should reflect the whole LEP geography
- For Capital Investments, the **Local Authority where the investment is based must be included in the decision making Board.**
- The government review is clear about the need for **strong private sector leadership and independence of decision making.** WYCA as Accountable Body must discharge its financial and legal responsibilities as part of the due diligence process.
- There must be **clear differentiation between the role of the independent LEP and the role of a Combined Authority as the accountable body.** The LEP CEO and Combined Authority MD must be separate roles.
- **A York & North Yorkshire office will be retained** leading on key agenda's and relationships.
- **A formal collaboration with East Riding/Humber** will be retained.

Chair & Chief Executive Sign-off:

Signed:



Name: David Kerfoot

Position: YNYER LEP Chair

Date: 28th March 2019

Signed:



Name: James Farrar

Position: YNYER LEP Chief
Operating Officer

Date: 28th March 2019