

Greater Manchester Business Board (LEP) Governance Assurance Statement

February 2023

The Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (GM LEP) sits at the heart of the city region's governance arrangements, ensuring that business leaders are empowered to work with GMCA and districts to set the strategic course.

It is a private sector led, voluntary partnership whose core function is to provide strategic leadership to deliver the region's inclusive growth ambitions alongside GMCA and partners. Together, GM LEP and GMCA provide a robust set of decision-making and governance structures in delivering our shared vision for Greater Manchester.

These governance arrangements are underpinned by the Greater Manchester Strategy which, along with the GM Local Industrial Strategy and GM Economic Vision, provide a long-term blueprint for the future of all the people of Greater Manchester.

The LEP published its Annual Delivery Report this year which highlights our progress in achieving these priorities in 2021/22 along with the Annual Delivery Plan setting out the key actions and performance indicators required to realise our future ambitions.

As we evolve into the GM Business Board (LEP) fully integrated with GMCA, we will drive an economic recovery that puts people first, embraces the benefits of diversity, rebalances inequalities, creates lasting resilience, supports the move to net zero carbon and rethinks productivity.

The LEP recognises that it works on behalf of all the people of Greater Manchester and understands that different people bring different ideas, knowledge and perspectives.

As part of this approach, LEP maintained a link LEP Board member to each district to strengthen LEP connection and visibility, gather evidence from local business and support delivery of key district initiatives.

GM LEP remains fully committed to transparency and accountability and holds all formal Board meetings in public (Covid restrictions permitting) with dates, reports and minutes published on both the GMCA and LEP websites along with a commitment to respond to any FOI requests.

The LEP Chair regularly attends the GMCA Overview and Scrutiny meeting with the next LEP update scheduled for March 2023.

The LEP website provides details of current Board membership, the refreshed Local Growth Assurance Framework, the LEP Terms of Reference, Governance Assurance Statements, key project updates and links to the publication of financial information.

The LEP Board continues to act with integrity as set out in our Code of Conduct in line with the Nolan Principles for standards in public life. The LEP is covered by GMCA's complaints procedure and is also included in the GMCA Whistleblowing Policy.

The LEP recognises the potential for Board members to have a conflict of interest in decision making and a key principle of our assurance processes is that all LEP members must declare any interests relating to agenda items at every meeting.

The LEP published a Register of Interests updated on a six-monthly basis along with separate Gifts & Hospitality and Expenses Registers updated as necessary.

Lou Cordwell OBE

Chair, GM Business Board (LEP)

Simon Nokes

Chief Executive, GM Business Board (LEP)