

# GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership

## Board Paper – 21<sup>st</sup> June 2016

**1. Agenda Item 5**

**2. What is this item for:**

- a. To confirm to the Board that the Assurance Framework for the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) has been revised and updated.
- b. To outline the changes made and reasons for this
- c. To ask the LEP Board to approve the revised and updated version of the Assurance Framework so that it can replace the existing version for the Framework as soon as possible.

**3. Background:**

Members of the Programme Management Group (LEP staff and Gloucestershire County Council officers) have used lessons learned during the first year of implementing the SEP and Growth Deal to update the Assurance Framework. This annual review and updating of the Assurance Framework is something expected by BIS and is good practice to ensure the Assurance Framework remains fit for purpose.

The Programme Management Group has now completed its update of the Assurance Framework and a copy is supplied with this covering paper. The current version can be found at <http://www.gfirstlep.com/Home/Assurance-Framework/?Result=1>

The main changes/updates made to the Assurance Framework are as follows:

- i) The transfer of Gloucestershire Local Transport Board (GLTB) decision-making arrangements to the GFirst LEP Board
- ii) Refining and explaining the role of the Programme Management Group
- iii) The introduction of the Investment Panel to review project business cases and due diligence reports, etc. in order to make recommendations to the LEP Board for final investment funding decisions
- iv) Clarification of arrangements for when Gloucestershire County Council is both accountable body and project promoter
- v) Changes to the LEP business groups and project management boards
- vi) Explanation of the Gloucestershire Infrastructure Investment Pipeline to bring forward and prioritise infrastructure projects supported by the local authorities so that they can enter the Single Local Growth Fund project pipeline
- vii) Updating of processes for selection of Single Local Growth Fund projects

Please note that the annexes to the main Assurance Framework document are currently being updated to ensure consistency with the main document and are available on request. All revised and updated annexes will be published on the GFirst LEP website along with the revised and updated main Assurance Framework document.

4. **Risks / Issues:**

The existing published Assurance Framework needs updating and any delay in approving and publishing the revised assurance Framework may delay implementation of projects and weaken GFirst LEP's submission for Growth Deal 3.

5. **Recommendations:**

The Board is asked to:

1. Note that the Assurance Framework has been revised and updated.
2. Note the main changes to the Assurance Framework listed in this covering paper.
3. Approve the updated and revised updated Assurance Framework so that it can be published as soon as possible.

6. **Further information:**

For further information about the Assurance Framework or points raised in this Board paper, please contact Pete Carr [peter.carr@gfirstlep.com](mailto:peter.carr@gfirstlep.com)