

Annex E: Governance Assurance Statement 2019 (GFirst LEP CIC)

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 2019). You should cover any overview and scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. **(max 500 words)**

As chair and chief executive respectively, we can confirm that GFirst LEP operates in accordance with the latest revision of the National Assurance Framework for Local enterprise Partnerships. We can also confirm that GFirst LEP has fully implemented the recommendations of the Ney report both in practice and in spirit and also the recommendations of the LEP review report, "Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships" published in July 2018 to ensure good governance is central to GFirst.

This is reflected in our Local Assurance Framework version 5, dated 1st May 2018. GFirst LEP commits to make all decisions relating to the expenditure of public funds in an open and transparent way.

All board directors are required to fully declare any commercial interests and potential conflicts of interests in relation to funding decisions. A publically available register of interests is maintained and a register of interests in relation to specific business at each board meeting is also published. Every board meeting has a standing agenda item for board members to declare any new or changed conflicts of interest before the meeting continues.

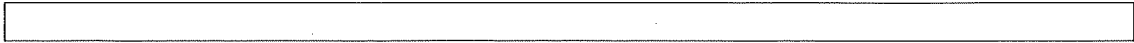
The board members have all committed to the Nolan Principles of conduct in public office. The LEP has also committed to increasing the number of board members to 14 in 2019 in order to facilitate increased diversity within the board.

The LEP works with a number of advisory forums, as detailed in Annex D of the Assurance Framework including the LEP Investment Panel and the GEGJC. It is also subject to oversight from the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee drawn from representatives of all of the local authorities in Gloucestershire.

The LEP is also subject to regular audit of compliance against the assurance framework, conducted by the Accountable Body. Our next audit is scheduled for March 2019.

Board member details, Board papers and minutes are published on the GFirst LEP website in line with the recommend timings, i.e. 5 working days prior to meetings and 10 days post meetings for minutes. Appointments to the board are in accordance of the GFirst LEP CIC articles of association and are subject to an open recruitment process.

For 2019 we have committed to hold a public AGM in order to give the wider public the opportunity to understand the work of the LEP and to ask questions as appropriate.



Signed:

Name: Diane Savory OBE

Position: [Chair]

Date: 8-1-19

Signed:

Name: David Owen

Position: [Chief Exec]

Date: 8-1-19