

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 localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead by **16 December 2019**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2020** and confirmation sent to localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk (**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.

This is reflected in our **Local Assurance Framework** – (Version 8 Updated 26th March 2019 & 20th June 2019).

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.

In 2019, we appointed both a **Risk Champion** and a **Diversity & Equality Champion** to the Board.

GFirst LEP has achieved the Government's requirement of two thirds **private sector representation** on its board and surpassed the Government's requirement for **gender diversity** on its board. All board members have committed to the **Nolan Principles** of conduct in public office.

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 August 2020.

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.

Our public **AGM** is scheduled for January 7th, 2020 giving an opportunity for the public to understand the work of the LEP and to ask questions as appropriate.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Diane Savory', written in a cursive style.

Name: Dr Diane Savory OBE
Position: Chair, GFirst LEP
Date: 12th December 2019

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Owen', written in a cursive style.

Name: David Owen
Position: Chief Executive Officer, GFirst LEP
Date: 12th December 2019