

To: Permanent Secretary
Accounting Officer
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Paul Blacker
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Response also submitted by email to: localgrowthassurance@levellingup.gov.uk

Date: 28th February 2024

Dear Permanent Secretary,

RE: LEP Assurance 2023/24 - Section 151/73/127 Officer letter template to the Department's Accounting Officer

As the Finance Director and Section 151 Officer for Gloucestershire County Council, the LEP's Accountable Body, I would like to confirm that myself and my deputies have undertaken all the necessary checks to ensure that the LEP has in place the processes to ensure the proper administration of their financial affairs.

I have a standing invitation to LEP Board meetings where I am able to observe and scrutinise LEP board business and decisions and my nominated officer attends the Growth Funds Programme Management Group at which delivery and monitoring of Growth Fund projects is managed.

Accordingly, having considered all the relevant information, in my role as the Section 151 Officer, I am of the opinion that the financial affairs of the LEP are being properly administered. The LEP's Local Assurance Framework is compliant with the minimum standards as outlined in the *National Local Growth Assurance Framework (2021)*.

Thanks & regards,



Paul Blacker
Finance Director and S151 Officer
Gloucestershire County Council