

Annex E: Governance Assurance Statement

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 2018). You should cover any overview and scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. **(max 500 words)**

Dorset LEP welcomes the Mary Ney and Strengthened LEPs reviews as part of our work on continuous improvement. We have fully implemented the recommendations from the Ney review and adopted much of the best practice identified in the follow up letter from Melanie Dawes.

Dorset LEP is already well placed to comply with the governance actions recommended in the Strengthened LEPs review, being already incorporated as a community interest company, limited by guarantee and operating a secretariat fully independent of the Accountable Body. The Dorset LEP Board has good gender diversity and is well placed to meet the target of 50% female membership by 2023. A new round of Board recruitment is underway to increase the number of Board members from 18 to 20, in line with Government's recommendation and this will particularly focus on increasing female membership.

We have a strong relationship with our Accountable Body, which enables robust governance and assurance and has been reflected in our excellent track record of programme delivery, being graded 'exceptional' by Government last year. We have attended and presented at a number of overview and scrutiny meetings at the request of our local partners. Local councillors are an important part of our governance structure.

We continue to develop ever closer relationships with our stakeholders, particularly MPs and the business community, which has played an important role in developing our strategy to deliver increased productivity in Dorset. Dorset is a leading member of many productive regional partnerships, working with other LEPs and businesses outside of Dorset on key strategic themes. For example, Dorset has led work on the Great South West partnership, focusing on rural productivity, infrastructure and trade and investment initiatives across Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset. The Dorset LEP Chair has also recently been appointed the Chair of the LEP Network Maritime and Logistics Group.

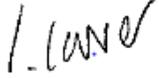
We aim to continue to work in partnership within Dorset and externally as we work towards creating a Local Industrial Strategy.

Signed: 

Name: Jim Stewart

Position: Chair

Date: 10 December 2018

Signed: 

Name: Lorna Carver

Position: Director

Date: 10 December 2018