

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)**

The Heart of the South West LEP and our accountable bodies (Somerset County Council and Devon County Council), have responsibility for ensuring that funding decisions are made in accordance with our local Assurance Framework. The framework is periodically updated to meet requirements - the latest version is published on the LEP's website – and is being updated in response to the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships report, expected completion early 2019.

Accountability and decision making has worked well with close, active and constructive working with our 151 officer and accountable bodies. Accountable body representatives attend our Board, Strategic Investment Panel and Finance and Resources meetings where decisions on investments and funds are taken.

The LEP has worked with local authority partners to establish a dedicated scrutiny function and the first of these was held in November and three-times yearly going forward.

The annual conference and AGM were held in November of this year and attracted over 300 attendees. The AGM remains open to any attendees and any are able to ask questions.

There have been no failures identified in our assurance processes during the year by our accountable body or its auditors. We continue to ensure that all of our funding is held by our accountable bodies and we do not maintain any separate bank accounts, petty cash or accounting systems. The detailed analysis of business cases (independently produced from sponsors) by the SIP and Board has worked well – with investment pipelines managed in accordance with the framework.

We welcome our Local Authority partners establishing closer working arrangements and have been pleased to participate in the Joint Committee meetings, with the LEP and Joint Committee overseeing the newly agreed HotSW Productivity Strategy.

Signed:
Name:
Position: [Chair]
Date:

Signed:
Name:
Position: [Chief Exec]
Date: