



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 the Assurance Team via localgrowthassurance@levellingup.gov.uk, copying the BEIS Area Lead, by **19 January 2023**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2022** with confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)**

HEY LEP has continued to uphold high standards of governance/transparency ensuring the Nolan Principles of governance are embedded throughout all the LEP's activities. We participate in the Humber Leadership and Freeport Boards and have attended 4 Scrutiny Committees, at both Councils and a joint Unitary Leaders Board.

LEP Board members have been appointed as champions for SMEs, Rural and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and work closely with the team and other senior business leaders in the region providing advice and support to the LEP Chair and Executive.

Additional assurance is provided by the Audit, Finance and Governance Panel, which consists of an independent Chair, a Solicitor, and a Chartered Accountant (just retired and will be replaced) to provide independent advice on governance, financial and audit issues, and any remuneration matters not covered by the Accountable Body. The LEP Chair, one other Board member attend plus the S151 representative on financial matters.

The 2022 AGM was held at Hull's Guildhall in July, via Teams due to continued Covid concern.

We have successfully continued delivery of inherited programmes from the Humber LEP and have grown business support functions, via the Growth Hub, enabling hundreds of SMEs to sustain business activity/grow.

The Careers Hub continues to provide strategic guidance/support for over 36 Careers Leaders. We have recruited 38 regional 'Enterprise Adviser' employers, partnering with schools ensuring high quality, impartial careers information, advice and guidance is delivered to our young people.

Following launch of our Economic Growth & Workforce Wellbeing Strategy in February 2022, our first Delivery Plan for 2022/23 was published in June, updated in November to reflect delivery in 2023/2024, only focussing on activities the LEP can deliver itself, given the ongoing uncertainty on funding and staff capacity.



Supporting the Local Resilience Forum, we are commissioning a 4th Economic Impact Report, which will illustrate the region's recovery/challenges arising from the pandemic and current economic situation.

The Chair and the LEP were instrumental in setting up the Humber Energy Board, bringing together all interested parties in the Net Zero/Clean energy space across the Humber. The CBI is a major partner as the region is one of its first industrial Clusters.

Close and continuous partnership working with GLLEP colleagues has ensured the smooth handover of 7 projects for output monitoring/reporting by GLLEP to 2025. Only Cleethorpes remains to be monitored by ourselves pending physical/financial completion, likely to be post 2025. Regular meetings with GLLEP ensure Humber-wide activities are managed and monitored in a cooperative manner.

The Chair regularly attends NP 11 Chairs meetings and is joint Chair of the NP11 Net Zero activity. Both the Chair and COO regularly attend NP11 and LEP Network meetings.

We continue to promote the economic benefits of the region, engaging with stakeholders and convening partners, so as to support the local economy. We will continue to facilitate and support private and public sector colleagues to deliver continued recovery and increased investment in what remains challenging times for industry and business in general.

Signed:

Name: James Newman OBE

Position: Chair

Date: 18th January 2022

Signed:

Name: Teresa Chalmers

Position: Chief Operating Officer

Date: 18th January 2022