

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**)

The West of England is a place where ideas flourish and businesses grow, where creative, digital and high tech meet traditional industry. It is at this interface that the solutions to the challenges of the future lie. The strength of the UK in the global economy is dependent on dynamic, globally competitive, outward looking and creative places like the West of England.

The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership is a driving force for the region, boosting productivity and people's earning power through our Local Industrial Strategy.

Over the last year we have:

- Launched the West of England Local Industrial Strategy setting an ambitious vision for clean and inclusive growth.
- Hosted a series of high profile ministerial and senior civil servant visits including: The Rt Hon Chris Grayling Secretary of State for Transport, The Rt Hon Chris Skidmore Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation, Luke Hall MP Parliamentary Under Secretary for Homelessness, Patricia Hayes, Director General, Department for Transport,
- Recruited five women senior business leaders, who really understand the needs of the local economy, to our Board.
- Strong attendance record at LEP Board meetings at 72%.

Local Growth Fund investment

To date we have completed 21 LGF schemes. These projects and others in progress have levered £176m of match funding spend to date, and we are on track to deliver the Growth Deal target of 9,000 local jobs across almost 50 projects in the LGF programme.

These are big and impressive successes.

- Schemes completed include:
 - Over 31,000m² of new or refurbished further education floorspace delivered across 7 projects at 4 Colleges and training providers, benefitting over 5,800 learners.
 - £5.8m investment to support the acquisition of the Bristol and Bath Science Park by the University of Bath and South Gloucestershire Council as a centre of excellence for research and development.
 - £9.7m support for innovation at the Robotics Lab/University Enterprise Zone and Health Tech Hub at UWE and at the National Composites Centre.
 - 8 transport projects supporting sustainable transport, addressing congestion and providing improved urban realm.
 - Enabling works to facilitate transformational new development at Bath Quays and the Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus within the Enterprise Zones.

Local Industrial Strategy

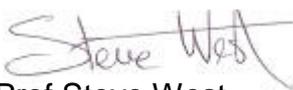
Our Local Industrial Strategy brings further growth opportunities. We have been progressing several innovative ideas, from a Global Centre of Innovation Excellence, the Digital Engineering and Technology Institute to the West of England Network of Living Labs; creating a real-life platform for testing new technology at scale. We are actively working to reshape our post 16 skills system, which will allow us to tailor skills and training based on what local businesses want.

Governance

Our governance model is an example of best practice. Everything we do is in accordance with the law and Government standards, and public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used efficiently to deliver our vision for clean and inclusive economic growth in the region.

Government needs to give regions the continuity of funding to continue to deliver economic success through investment in Local Industrial Strategy. This is particularly important post Local Growth Funds and EU Structural Funds.

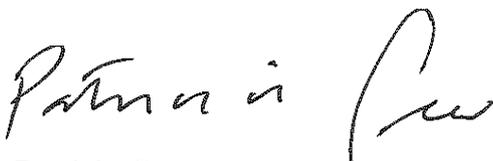
The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership has made a significant positive difference and I look forward to even greater success in the year to come.

Signed: 

Name: Prof Steve West

Position: Chair, West of England Local Enterprise Partnership

Date: 13.12.2019

Signed: 

Name: Dr Patricia Greer

Position: CEO, West of England Local Enterprise Partnership

Date: 13.12.2019