# Annex C: Governance Assurance Statement

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| 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@communities.gov.uk, copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead, by **20 January 2021**. This statement should also be published on the LEP’s website by **24 February 2021** and confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)**  |
| The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership’s (LEP’s) role is to secure the region’s continued economic success by promoting an environment where businesses thrive, and healthy and productive communities grow in a sustainable way.Over recent years we have continued to regularly refresh our LEP Board Membership in line with national guidance, with six new members recruited in 2019. 40% of our Board Members are women. We will continue this trajectory to meet the 2023 target of 50%.Over the last year we have:* Published a Climate Emergency Action Plan identifying actions to help achieve our regional goal of net zero carbon by 2030
* Worked with our Regional Recovery Taskforce to develop a recovery programme that will help us to build back greener, better and stronger as we move through the pandemic
* Actively engaged in roundtables with Government Ministers and officials to help inform the national response to the pandemic
* Recruited a Higher Education representative to our LEP Board, which enjoys average attendance of over 85%

**Local Growth Fund investment** To date we have completed 30 LGF schemes. We have attracted over £300m of additional investment alongside our £201m from the LGF and are on track to deliver the Growth Deal target of 9,000 local jobs across almost 50 projects in the LGF programme.     **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.  All formal decisions are taken at public committee meetings which are available to view live and as a recorded record. Our financial processes are reviewed by the West of England Audit Committee, alongside internal and external Audit functions. The West of England Scrutiny Committee is in place to provide constructive challenge and support. Government needs to give regions the continuity of funding and access to devolved, flexible, locally-controlled funding streams that we can use to ensure we can meet local needs as we move to the next stage of our recovery programme and look to future opportunities for strategic investment through the SPF and Levelling Up funds.   The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership has made a significant positive difference and we look forward to even greater success in the year to come.   |

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Signed:

Name: Prof Steve West

Position: Chair

Date: 19.01.21

Signed:

Name: Patricia Greer

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 19.01.21