



Annex C: Governance Assurance Statement

The West of England Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP's) role is to secure the region's economic success by promoting an environment where businesses thrive, and create a better, greener future for all our residents.

We continue to regularly refresh our business membership in line with national guidance. Up until November 2022 the total number of female members on the Board was 7 (58%), however two female members recently stepped down following the end of their 3-year term. Once the LEP Integration has been completed we will look to recruit new members to ensure we meet the 2023 target of 50% gender balance whilst adhering to the maximum Board size of 20 to ensure that our LEP is truly business led.

Over the last year:

- The West of England Cultural Compact [Chaired by the LEP Vice Chair] launched a regional Cultural Plan - It focuses on developing cultural and creative skills; putting culture at the heart of happy and healthy communities; supporting creative freelancers and creative businesses and placing culture at the centre.
- Launched the West of England Climate & Ecological Strategy and Action Plan with an ambitious target of bringing 23,000 green jobs to the region.
- The West of England Growth Hub continues to provide tailored support, expert guidance, and access to finance and support programmes. To reflect the impact of macroeconomic factors like the Covid-19 recovery, the team have pivoted more to high intensity support.

Getting Building Fund (GBF) and Local Growth Fund (LGF)

All LGF and GBF funds were spent by the respective deadlines of March 2021 and March 2022 and no freedoms and flexibilities have been required.

Governance

Our governance model is in accordance with the law and Government standards, and public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used efficiently to deliver our regional priorities. All formal decisions are taken at public committee meetings which are available to view live and as a recorded record. Our financial processes are also reviewed by the West of England Audit Committee and the West of England Scrutiny Committee is in place to provide constructive challenge



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

and support - Cllr Winton Duguid, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee has been attending LEP Board meetings as an advisor since January 2022.

The West of England LEP has made a positive difference and we look forward to greater success in the year to come whilst continuing to support our region's residents and businesses to recover from the immediate and lasting impact of Covid restrictions, inflation, and pressures on our economy and highlighted areas of fragility.

Signed:

Name: Richard Bonner

Position: West of England LEP Chair

Date: 19/01/2023

Signed:

Name: Richard Ennis

Position: Interim CEO, West of England LEP and Combined Authority

Date: 19/01/2023