



Annex C: Governance Assurance Statement

The purpose of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership has been to secure the region's continuing, ambitious, and inclusive economic success; its attractiveness as a place to live and thrive and for businesses and communities to grow in a sustainable way delivering a robust economy and secure skill base.

The success of our region is reliant on strong a partnership between a range of national, regional, and local organisations. A strong business voice is a vital component of that partnership. The integration of the LEP into the Combined Authority, in accordance with Government's ambitions, offers the opportunity to build on the work of the LEP Board to further strengthen the voice of business in regional decision making. We are in discussion with Government on routes to concluding the LEP integration process.

Successes to note:

- The Bristol Temple Quarter regeneration programme (BTQ) is one of the UK's largest city-centre regeneration programmes, aiming to transform 130 hectares of land around Bristol Temple Meads station while delivering 10,000 new homes, 22,000 jobs and opportunities for people right across the region. The impact of the scheme is anticipated to deliver an annual boost of at least £1.6bn to the regional economy.
- We continue to invest in the creative industries, providing substantial support to businesses and freelancers. This assistance, facilitated through initiatives such as Create Growth, Creative Scale-Up, and the Creative and Cultural Recovery Fund, has yielded significant outcomes.
- We remain committed to deliver on actions to tackle the climate emergencies, as outlined in our Climate & Ecological Strategy and Action Plan. This includes supporting businesses and homeowners to retrofit their properties to reduce emissions and save money on energy bills. We have engaged over 200 businesses across the region and paid over £790,000 of grant to help them reduce their energy bills and save over 900 tonnes of carbon pa.
- Our Growth Hub has supported over 1,000 businesses across the region in the first half of 2023/24, including nearly 200 start-ups, helping to continue growing our regional economy and create new job opportunities for residents.
- We are also leading delivery of our new regional Digital Plan, ensuring we tackle digital exclusion, transform services, and accelerate digital transformation for the benefit of local people. Our immediate priority is to maximise access to superfast connectivity, targeting the 17k plus premises that are currently being left behind.

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 and support.



The West of England LEP continues to make a positive difference to support our region's residents and businesses. Once the LEP Integration has been completed it is essential that we attract high calibre, influential members of the business community to add significant value as a robust Business Board can play a strong role in ensuring that decision making reflects the needs of the broader regional economy.

Signed:

Name: Richard Bonner

Position: West of England LEP Chair

Date: 28.02.2024

Signed:

Name: Richard Ennis

Position: West of England LEP Interim Chief Executive

Date: 28.02.2024