



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@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 Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) is committed to working in an open and transparent manner and within a strong governance structure. We review our procedures on an annual basis to achieve this.

Our role is to provide the clear vision and strategic leadership to drive the sustainable economic growth of Swindon and Wiltshire. We do so by:

- Ensuring that strategies for achieving economic growth and productivity within the area reflect the needs of business; and
- Driving the successful implementation of those strategies through engagement with local and central government, business, potential investors and others.

Our governance is designed to ensure that SWLEP:

1. Operates in accordance with the National Local Growth Assurance Guidance and our Governance Framework is reviewed annually.
2. Pursues activities which add value, and do not unnecessarily duplicate the work of our partners or the roles of other organisations with similar aims;
3. Effectively identifies and appropriately represents the views and needs of business in the area;
4. Effectively identifies and appropriately considers the views of other stakeholders;
5. Makes effective use of its resources and accounts appropriately for that use;
6. Is accountable for its performance, through:
 - a. Clear decision-making by the Board;
 - b. Self-assessment by the Board of its own performance, regular monitoring of progress, annual performance review with Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy and relevant benchmarking against other LEPs; and
 - c. Appropriate transparency through public reporting of:



- i. Governance arrangements and the Assurance Procedures;
 - ii. Decisions;
 - iii. Planned and completed activities;
 - iv. Engagement with business and stakeholders;
 - v. Progress against the delivery of the Swindon and Wiltshire Emerging Local industrial Strategy; and
 - vi. Scrutiny of its strategies and operation by the Joint Scrutiny Panel.
7. Is able to meet or respond quickly to any requirements or pre-conditions set by central government with regard to transparency, accountability and robust governance;

Our transparency: Board meetings are held in public and SWLEP welcomes stakeholders and members of the public to scrutinise and participate. SWLEP also complies with the spirit of the Local Government Transparency Code 2015.

Our Governance Framework states that all Directors of the SWLEP Board, its committees and subgroup members and staff shall, when carrying out any duties or responsibilities on behalf of the SWLEP, abide by the 7 principles of public life: selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership. Directors and staff members complete declarations of interest and a SWLEP-wide register is maintained by the CEO. All conflicts of interest are logged in Board, subgroup and working group meetings.

We want to encourage local organisations to become active members of our company and hold our Directors to account on the operation of SWLEP as a business. This will be achieved through our public Board meetings, Annual General Meeting; our annual event which we hope to hold again in 2021; and through business and stakeholder consultation sessions which we will organise to support the delivery of our Local Industrial Strategy and other programmes as required throughout the year.

Signed:

Name: Paul Moorby
Position: SWLEP Chair
Date: 19 January 2021

Signed:

Name: Paddy Bradley
Position: Chief Executive Officer
Date: 19 January 2021