



## 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](mailto:localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk), copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead, by **14 January 2022**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2022** and confirmation sent to the email address above.

**(max 500 words)**

The Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) continues to be committed to working in an open and transparent manner and within a strong governance structure.

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

- ensuring that strategies for achieving economic growth and productivity are in place and reflect local needs; and
- driving the successful implementation of these strategies through engagement with local and central government, business, potential investors and other organisations.

**Our governance** is designed to ensure that SWLEP:

1. operates in compliance with the National Local Growth Assurance Guidance 2021;
2. pursues activities which add value, and do not 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;
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's strategic priorities; 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 continue to be 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 Board, its subgroups and staff shall, when performing any duties or responsibilities on behalf of the SWLEP, abide by the seven principles of public life: selflessness; integrity; objectivity; accountability; openness; honesty; and leadership. Directors and senior staff complete declarations of interest and a register is maintained by the CEO. Conflicts of interest are logged at Board, subgroup and working group meetings.

We continue to encourage local organisations to become active members of the company and hold its Directors to account. This is achieved through our public Board meetings; Annual General Meeting; our annual conference; and through business and stakeholder engagement to support the delivery of our Local Industrial Strategy, the development of our emerging Plan for Growth and other programmes as required throughout the year.

We await the recommendations of the government's LEP Review and the company will respond as efficiently and effectively as required within any proposed timescales set.

**Drafting note: word count: 482**

Signed:

Signed:

Name: Paul Moorby  
Position: SWLEP Chair  
Date: 4 January 2022

Name: Paddy Bradley  
Position: Chief Executive Officer  
Date: 4 January 2022