



Annex B: Section 151/73 /127 Assurance Statement

The Section 151/73 / 127 Officer should here provide a report to the Annual Performance Review on their work for the LEP over the last twelve months, and their opinion, with a specific requirement to identify any issues of concern, on governance and transparency. The report should focus on any issues raised in Annex A: Annual Performance Review Preparation. This report should be sent to the Assurance Team via localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk, copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead by **14 January 2022**.

(max 500 words)

2021/22

As the S151 Officer for Wiltshire Council acting as the Accountable Body for the SWLEP, I, or my nominated representative have been active in a range of ways during the last 12 months:

- i. Financial management and end of year closure of the LGF funding programme;
- ii. value for money sign off for two grant awards presented to SWLEP Board:
List grants:
 - Wiltshire College £400,000
 - Institute of Technology £601,518
- iii. scrutiny of the GBF allocation and spend;
- iv. participation in the GPIF Working Group including due diligence checks and interest rate calculations for successful applicants;
- v. attendance and reporting to all Board meetings and scheduled meetings of the Delivery and Performance Team;
- vi. participation in the independent financial audit of accounts;
- vii. confirmation that the SWLEP Board conducts its business in public and operates in an accessible and transparent manner;
- viii. sign off the updated Governance Framework 2021;

Looking ahead to 2022/23

The following work has already been identified which will require my, or my nominated representative's, involvement, support and scrutiny during the forthcoming year:

- i. scrutiny of the GBF allocation and spend to March 2022 and end of year financial management;
- ii. supporting the monitoring of outputs from LGF projects and ensuring funding for retained schemes is used to gain best value for the public;
- iii. continued support to the GPIF programme in terms of existing loan agreements and future calls;
- iv. attendance and reporting to all Board meetings and scheduled meetings of the Delivery and Performance Team;



- v. LEP Review 2021/22 recommendations and delivery of Accountable Body services as required in terms of SWLEP's future governance and delivery arrangements.

Closing statement

I do not have any issues of concern regarding the SWLEP operation in terms of its governance, delivery, strategy and transparency arrangements as presented within the terms of its Governance Framework.

However, concern is raised in connection to aspects that are outside the SWLEP control around the confirmation on the future operation and form/function of the SWLEP in the uncertainty of the direction and any announcement from Government on future policy. Until this is resolved it potentially limits future decision making for the organisation or indeed affirmation by the accountable body.

Signed:

Name: Andy Brown

Position: Corporate Director for Resources (S151 Officer)

Date: 11 January 2022