

## Annex E: Governance Assurance Statement

The LEP Chair and Chief Executive should here provide a brief formal assurance statement on the status of governance and transparency. In particular, they should focus on any issues raised in Annex A. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website following conclusion of the Annual Performance Review process (in April 2018). You should cover any overview and scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. **(max 500 words)**

LEPs serve to bring together the strengths of the private and public sectors to achieve extraordinary growth that benefits everyone. In that context, governance is not an end in itself but a means of ensuring collaborative leadership, mutual trust, external challenge and clear accountability to the City Region's business base and partners.

The LEP's bold ambition to be the most transparent in the country is built upon the values we have championed together to make the LEP, working alongside the Combined Authority as the accountable body, a transformative City Region partnership.

In 2018, the LEP has completed the integration of its accountability and decision-making arrangements with the Combined Authority. These arrangements work very effectively, with benefits including:

- Joining-up decision-making, while reflecting the particular roles set in the local Assurance Framework. As well as being highly efficient, this brings clearer governance and transparency, including the consistent publication of meeting papers and holding all meetings in public
- Extending the influence of private sector leadership over strategy and delivery across broader agendas, including on transport and how culture, sport and major events contribute to a high quality of life to attract and retain workers. The commitment of, including being the first LEP in the country to explore a more flexible use of its business grants programme to incentivise productivity improvements.
- Officers in the Combined Authority are independent of any local authority, and are able to provide objective advice focused on the whole of the LEP geography.

We are equally clear about the need to continually review and improve arrangements. For example, following the successful 2017 recruitment campaign, the current LEP Board and wider private sector membership on panels is the most diverse it has ever been, but we recognise the need to further improve and work towards gender balance by 2023. Another step forward is how system improvements mean decision-making over the

annual investment programme of around £200 million is supported by better quality of information, contributing to improved performance on delivery.

Looking to the future, the LEP is positive about the opportunity to work with its partners and neighbours in the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding LEP to create a new LEP, covering the whole of West and North Yorkshire. This will further improve accountability by removing overlaps and provides an opportunity to continue to improve governance, while addressing challenges that such a transition entail. Both LEPs have made an excellent start to this process by establishing a joint transition subgroup that will examine options and make recommendations to both LEP Boards by March 2019, ahead of the planned launch of the new LEP in April 2020.

Signed:

Name: Roger Marsh OBE  
Position: Chair  
Date: 6 December 2018

Signed:

Name: Dr Ben Still  
Position: Managing Director  
Date: 6 December 2018