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# Annex C: Governance Assurance Statement

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| 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@levellingup.gov.uk, copying the BEIS Area Lead, by **19 January 2023**. This statement should also be published on the LEP’s website by **28 February 2022** with confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)** |
| This year CWLEP has been continuing to review role and structure as a result of Government’s policy position and feedback from our three local authority partners. Throughout this period of uncertainty we have continued to maintain our strong track record of delivery against the Assurance Framework. The future structure and role of the LEP as it emerges for next financial year will trigger a significant review and update of the local assurance framework, to ensure it is reflective of our operations.  The AGM took place on the 4th October alongside a “Made in Cheshire” economic summit, which maximised engagement and attendance in the event, allowing robust scrutiny of our operations in 2021/22. The annual report for 2021/22 was also published on the LEP’s website and was launched alongside a video campaign for the AGM.  Our board and sub-board meetings remain predominantly virtual and remain open to the public, with future dates and times published on our website. Terms of Reference, agendas and minutes for committees are published on our website, other than items which are confidential in nature. We use the same test as local authorities to identify these items.  *Dates for board meetings in 2023 are still be published, as the role and structure of our Board and its sub-committees is being reviewed as part of the wider LEP review.*  A new collaboration agreement has been signed between Cheshire East Council and the LEP, reflecting current and active funding streams. Our s.151 Officer remains committed to attending key assurance meetings, including our Performance and Investment and our Finance and Audit Committees, as well as the main Board. To gain the assurances the s.151 Officer needs the Cheshire East Audit team continue to audit our local assurance framework and its implementation across our delivery. The main area identified to date, as part of the January 2023 audit, is to ensure all policies and terms of reference are reviewed on an annual cycle, even if they haven’t undergone a significant re-write, to ensure they are still fit for purpose.  The following policies were reviewed, updated and published this year:   * Complaints policy * Declaration of interests policy * EDI policy * FOI policy * G&H policy * Recruitment & selection policy * Sustainability policy * Whistleblowing policy   We continue to embed our new online solution to capture registers of interest for board members and senior officers, as well as gifts and hospitality.  To improve our operations and increase our effectiveness, significant reviews have been completed of our procurement & risk policy. We have also introduced new programme management software to ensure greater transparency and access to data across the organisation. |

Signed:

Name: Trevor Brocklebank

Position: [Deputy Chair]

Date: 19/01/23

Signed: 

Name: Philip Cox

Position: [Chief Exec]

Date: 19/01/23