

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)

This statement is underpinned by detailed documented evidence, the majority of which is made available to the public via the BC LEP website. This includes Performance Dashboards for the Local Growth Fund programme, board reports, policy decisions and minutes of the main board, our Funding sub board and supporting theme boards. The BC LEP, since March 2020 has been holding virtual meetings, and the public element of the meeting are accessible to the public via a published Teams link. The Black Country Consortium Limited Annual General Meeting is being held on 22nd February 2021 – virtually. Arrangements for the Annual Stakeholders Meeting are in hand for 2021.

The Overview and Scrutiny function is undertaken by the Accountable Body (Walsall MBC) and all BC local authorities. During 2020 there were scrutiny sessions with WMCA and all Black Country local authorities. The BC LEP Chair and Chief Executive have also recently attended a WMCA Scrutiny Review Session which is scheduled to report through to the WMCA Board in February.

The BC LEP publishes a LEP Delivery Plan and Annual Economic Performance Management Framework which sets out measurable metrics and progress towards an agreed set of ambitions through SMART objectives, covering economic, social and environmental matters. All performance information is available to the public via our website. We have introduced a dedicated project section on our website, supported by maps and locational information.

The BCLEP has an approved monthly process for performance and financial monitoring against projects and outputs in delivery and inflight. These dashboards are published. During 2020 work has been done on creating a PowerBi interactive pipeline dashboards and the intention is to provide public version which will enable to review investment opportunities in the region.

The Black Country Consortium Ltd (registration number 05159791), a company limited by guarantee, provides the Secretariat for the BC LEP and all funds associated with this work form part of the audited financial statements filed at Companies House in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards. The other funds administered through the BC LEP, (e.g. – the Local Growth Fund, Land and Property Investment Fund, to include the Get Building Fund etc) are reported through the Single Accountable Body (Walsall MBC) as part of their accounting and audit procedures.

In addition to the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, Black Country Consortium Ltd is committed to increased transparency and in line with this has filed full unabridged financial statements at Companies House with an enhanced disclosure of income in line with contractual requirements. In addition to our independent external auditor appointment, the business has commissioned independent internal auditors.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

We are satisfied that the BC LEP conducted its business practices within the appropriate legal framework and standards that public money was properly accounted for and used economically, efficiently and effectively.

Signed: 

Name: Tom Westley

Position: Chair of Black Country LEP

Date: 20th January 2021

Signed: 

Name: Sarah Middleton

Position: Chief Executive of Black Country LEP

Date: 20th January 2021