



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)

Since the Black Country Assurance Framework was adopted, we have continued to review and improve processes to ensure that it is fit for purpose, fully compliant and easily understood to the full range of stakeholders. Therefore, as we enter our seventh year, there has been no need for any significant updates to the framework, as the lessons learned have been captured through an iterative review process.

There are no significant matters to report in this period;

- our systems and controls have been operating effectively
- monitoring and compliance audits have been successfully completed on all live projects and programmes
- internal audits, in line with our risk based internal audit plan, have completed and yielded no significant findings or recommendations.

I am therefore confident that our Framework provides the required financial oversight and governance, and risk is understood and managed well.

As we move into the next period, we will need to understand the impact of the results of the LEP review, and flex our resource requirements to continue to deliver a proportionate yet robust Accountable Body function to the LEP, in particular in relation to LEP legacy funds such as the Enterprise Zone and output monitoring for financially compete programmes such as Growth deal.

Signed:

Name: Deborah Hindson

Position: Executive Director – Resources & Transformation / s151 Officer

Date: 7 January 2022