

## 2017/18 Governance and Transparency Statements

### Annex B: Section 151/73 Assurance Statement

The Section 151/73 Officer should here provide a report to the Annual Conversation 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. In particular, you should focus on any particular issued raised in Annex A. **(max 500 words)**

**The Cumbria LEP has its local assurance framework in place which is published on the Cumbria LEP website. The Accountable Body is satisfied that the Government requirement for the LEP to agree, implement and annually review its assurance framework to ensure that it meets the standards set out in the DCLG National Assurance Framework in Nov 16, has been met. The Assurance Framework for 17/18 was agreed by the Council's Section 151 Officer on the 17th February 2017 and the required assurance statement completed.**

**An MOU is in place between the Council and the LEP which clearly establishes the roles and responsibilities of each party and the requirement for the Assurance Framework to be implemented by the LEP, including governance and transparency arrangements.**

**The LEP and the Accountable Body have welcomed the national Mary Ney review into the LEPs and have taken the opportunity to reflect, review and identify where compliance with the recommendations exists and where subsequent changes should be made. When a revised National Assurance Framework is published, the LEP and Accountable Body will undertake a further review and refresh of the Cumbria Assurance Framework accordingly to ensure compliance with the updated guidelines.**

**The LEP Investment Panel, the body established to make decisions on funding investments and monitor the progress of LEP funding programmes, includes active Section 151 Officer representation through the presence of the Deputy Section 151 Officer. This allows for direct representation and involvement in the decision making process. It provides an opportunity to raise any concerns relating to compliance with the CAF or queries on investment decisions if appropriate. The visibility and representation of the Section 151 Officer provides a continued link to the Accountable Body function, reducing the risk of issues or concerns being raised later in the process.**

**The due diligence documentation has been recently updated to include the opportunity for Legal and Finance comments from the Accountable Body to be made prior to an application being considered by the Investment Panel. This allows the Accountable Body to consider the risks raised during the due diligence process and ensure the conditions included within the recommendation mitigate and manage these risks appropriately.**

**The Accountable Body are pleased with the progress being made on the development of a new LEP website. The new website will include a separate section on Governance allowing for key documents and programme information and records of decision to be found more easily. The new website will be hosted by the Accountable Body which will mitigate concerns relating to website reliability and access to information.**

**The Section 151 Officer has raised concerns about the visibility of the scrutiny function of the LEP. It is important that there is transparency on how the scrutiny functions, as identified within the current CAF, is implemented. The agendas and minutes from the Scrutiny Panel should be published on the LEP website.**

**Section 151/73 Sign-off:**

Name: Julie Crellin

Position: Section 151 Officer

Date 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017

## 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. In particular, you 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 Conversation process (in April 2018). You should cover any Overview and Scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. **(max 500 words)**

**Since the last Annual Conversation in December 2016 the LEP has completed an update and refresh of the Assurance Framework and ensured that the new arrangements fully complied with the National Guidelines issued in November 2016.**

**The LEP has also commissioned an Independent Organisation and Governance Review that has been overseen and directed by the Private Sector members of the Scrutiny Panel, chaired by Chris Holmes (Chairman of the Carrs Group). This has not yet been received but is expected shortly. The LEP Board will then consider any recommendations.**

**The LEP has also contributed to the NEY Review and already has a schedule of steps to be taken to ensure compliance and the schedule is attached to the Annual Conversation papers.**

**The LEP has also used the more open and transparent recruitment process for Private Sector Board Member recruitment agreed by the Board in January 2017 to recruit Nigel Wilkinson and John Coughlan to the Board.**

**We can therefore confirm that the LEP has adopted fully compliant Assurance Framework arrangements that accord with the National Guidelines and is taking steps to fully implement the Recommendations from the NEY review.**

**The LEP anticipates that further Assurance Framework changes may be needed when the Ministerial Review of LEP's is concluded in the Spring and further National Guidelines are issued.**

### Chair & Chief Executive Sign-off:

Name: George Beveridge

Name: Graham Haywood

Position: Chair

Position: LEP Director

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017