

### Joint Assurance Statement 2020

It is our view that the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership is fully compliant with the requirements of the National Assurance Framework guidance, is on course to meet the 1/3 gender balance of board membership, and has already exceeded the target for 2/3 of the board to be from the private sector.

The defined terms agreed by the Board on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019 provides the opportunity for more robust succession planning and ensure membership of the board is refreshed on a regular basis. This will enable the board to make progress towards membership which is reflective of the local business community and demographics of the county. This will also allow for a periodic review of existing and emerging skills requirements for the board, with recruitment targeted accordingly.

During 2019 a substantial amount of work has been undertaken to ensure existing governance arrangements are enhanced and will provide assurance that all processes and structures are sufficiently robust and transparent to withstand rigorous scrutiny and challenge. Proposed new Joint Scrutiny arrangements will provide the opportunity for the LEP to demonstrate all decisions are made based on a strong evidence base, as well as increased collaboration with local authority partners.

The existing Articles of Association for the LEP are under review and once revised will provide for greater clarity on the roles and relationship between the LEP and the Accountable Body, as well as making provision for wider Membership.

To ensure transparency, all finalised documents relating to governance and decision-making, along with Board papers are available for public viewing on the website, along with board director and LEP officers' conflict of interest declarations. All board meetings are held in public and the LEP's first AGM will be held in Summer 2020.

There is a positive working relations with the s.151 officer of our Accountable Body and the LEP's Company Secretary. Both of whom are actively involved and engaged with the LEP to ensure the highest public standards in the conduct and operation of our assurance arrangements.

The LEP is committed to involving partners and external stakeholders, and the process which has been undertaken in the development of Lancashire's Local Industrial Strategy is a result of extensive collaboration and engagement. In early 2020 the LEP will be reviewing its approach to stakeholder engagement and communications and will develop a strategy which will strengthen its approach to wider business and stakeholder involvement, as well as increased collaboration with other LEPs and the NP11.



Steve Fogg, Chair



Andrew Pettinger, Interim Chief Executive