

Assurance Statement 2021

It is our view that the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership is fully compliant with the requirements of the National Assurance Framework guidance, meeting gender and business quotients required of the Board.

During 2020/21, a substantial amount of work was undertaken, including a full review of LEP Governance, led by the new LEP Chief Executive, and senior officers from each of the Members of the Company, proposing recommendations to:

- Ensure the LEP is resourced and supported to maximise the strategic impact of the LEP
- Address any outstanding accountability requirements
- Build trust and confidence, transacting in fair and transparent processes and operating with independence and impartiality

The proposals were also reviewed by the BEIS/MHCLG Compliance Unit and confirmed compliant for accuracy of statement and carrying out a rigorous and complete review. These recommendations will be implemented at the start of the new financial year and will include a new rotation of Accountable Body and Section 151 Officer to the LEP to Blackpool Council.

There has been a positive working relationship with the S151 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 are met, in the conduct and operation of our assurance arrangements. LEP Board meetings are regularly attended and appropriate financial and legal advice given to support all LEP decision-making.

A new Scrutiny Committee is formed, comprised of representatives from all upper tier authorities and District Councils to ensure that all decisions made, are based on a strong evidence base, and to build positive relationships between local authorities and business, making recommendations for increased partnership collaboration and to enhance decision-making.

Local Growth Funds are fully committed to 52 projects at a value of £273m; all expenditure will be completed within this financial year. The LEP welcomed a new allocation of £34.1m of Getting Building Funds in year, the full amount allocated to 10 new projects approved by the Board.

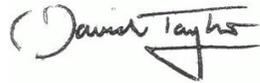
The LEP is committed to involving partners and external stakeholders in all that it does, preparing a new Social Charter for the LEP with ambitious targets for inclusive growth, embracing diversity, and maximising creation of social value.

Business-led Sector Groups are formed to represent key sectors of employment in Lancashire which convene business, education, innovation and public sector partners to produce new Sector Plans for growth and employment.

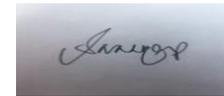
The Local Industrial Strategy is in its final stages of completion, following a recent refresh of the evidence base, to take into account the impact of Covid19 restrictions and opportunities and challenges presented by BREXIT.

Despite the challenges of Covid, the LEP will host an Annual Conference in 2021 and a new Annual Report published.

On the LEP website, all LEP Board and Sub-Committee meeting Agendas and Minutes, Annual Report, Annual Business Plan, Statement of Accounts, Risk Register, Local Assurance Framework, LEP Achievements, Strategies and Policies are published.



David Taylor CBE, Chair



Sarah Kemp, Chief Executive Officer