



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 **14 January 2022**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2022** and confirmation sent to the email address above.

(max 500 words)

The CloS LEP are committed to embedding the highest standards of governance, transparency and accountability. With its embedded Nolan principles, the predominantly private sector Board (71% private sector and 29% public sector), is led by a private sector chair and has strong connections and working relationships with the business community, reflecting a range of local interests in its decision making, through the Board and its associated sub-boards. There continues to be active debate at Board and delegated sub-boards, reflecting a strong, inclusive private sector led culture of challenge and leadership. This is evidenced through minutes published on the LEP website.

The CloS LEP is committed to improving the gender balance and representation of those with protected characteristics on the Board to ensure full representation of the businesses and communities served. We have met the Government target to ensure that at least one third of the LEP's appointed board members are women by the end of the 2019-2020 financial year and are taking action to ensure equal representation of men and women on Board by the end of the 2022-23 financial year through an enhanced approach to succession planning and have operated between 43%-50% over the last year. We have strengthened our Board recruitment approach, including the use of language in our adverts and role profiles to further inclusivity. We introduced the use of recruitment videos by our Directors which has proven an effective way of getting across messages about the LEP, our impact and opportunities. We have utilised co-opting arrangements set out in the National Assurance Framework to appoint four new private sector directors to the Board. The new directors have been co-opted for a fixed term of one year and have expertise in research and



innovation, project development and funding, the visitor economy and sustainability, and small business.

We continue to deliver out the final year of Getting Building Fund investments, ESIF delivery remains strong, our Growth Hub continues to support our business base and respond to national imperatives and the CloS Investment Fund has deployed £8.21m with a further £16.2m leveraged. LEP delivery is facilitated by robust governance which reflects the voice of the business community through clear, accountable and evidenced based decision making. Both the LEP's Investment and Oversight Panel and Audit and Assurance Committee ensure in depth scrutiny and monitoring of programmes, finance and risk management, reporting to the main LEP Board.

The LEP is also committed to participating in Local Authority scrutiny arrangements. The LEP feeds into Cornwall Council's Economic Growth and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee and provides regular updates on LEP activity. The LEP CEO attends all scrutiny meetings. Further information can be found on the LEP [website](#).

The CloS LEP has strong engagement with the S151 Officer on LEP processes. S151 Officer (or Deputy) signs off and has the opportunity to provide comments on LEP Board and sub-group meeting papers. The LEP's accounts are externally prepared and audited in order to provide additional assurance.

We work collaboratively with our accountable body, the Council of the Isles of Scilly and business communities, combining robust public sector procedures with private sector leadership and strategic vision to successfully manage programmes, such as Getting Building Fund. Joint working on strategy and delivery extends to our Members of Parliament and Lords, who we meet quarterly. This collaborative working can be further evidenced through strong engagement with stakeholders during G7 and our bid for UK City of Culture 2025.

Our continued response to the pandemic, convening of the region's Economic Recovery Group and the work that has been done across the partnership, including the Growth Hub, has made it clear to local partners what the LEP can deliver in the short and long term. We have been protagonists of new thinking and new opportunities in many



sectors, especially around the rural, fishing, tourism, tech metals, space and renewable energy agendas, and have been active in supporting place shaping, including Town Deals. We have shown we can bring together a coalition of partners to shape a common view on priorities for our LEP area from skills to infrastructure to business support.

The COVID pandemic has again made this year a challenging one for everyone, but good governance and operational agility has allowed us to continue to deliver against our strategic priorities. We have adopted 'hybrid' meetings for our LEP Board, with meetings being livestreamed for the press and public.

Signed:

Name:

Mark Duddridge

Position:

Chair

Date:

16 December 2021

Signed:

Name:

Glenn Caplin-Grey

Position:

Chief Executive

Date:

16 December 2021