



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@levellingup.gov.uk, copying the DBT Area Lead, by **29 February 2024**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **15 March 2024** with 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, 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.

We have exceeded the Government target of equal representation of men and women on the Board this financial year through an enhanced approach to succession planning. We have continued to utilise co-opting arrangements as set out in the National Assurance Framework to ensure appropriate, consistent and relevant private sector representation on the Board, with expertise in research and innovation, project development and funding, the visitor economy and sustainability, and small business.

The LEP's Getting Building Fund and Local Growth Fund Programmes have successfully completed and are now in a monitoring phase, our Growth Hub continues to support our business base, the CloS Investment Fund is on target to deliver its programme of equity and debt investment and the £1m Culture and Creative Industries Innovation Fund launched successfully in December 2023. LEP delivery is facilitated by robust governance which reflects the voice of the business community through clear, accountable and evidenced based decision making. The LEP's Audit and Assurance Committee have ensured in depth scrutiny and monitoring of 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



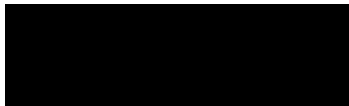
updates on LEP activity. The LEP CEO attends all scrutiny meetings. Further information can be found on the LEP [website](#).

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 in order to provide additional assurance.

We work collaboratively with Cornwall Council, 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. Joint working on strategy and delivery extends to our Members of Parliament and Lords, who we meet quarterly.

The LEP supported a devolution deal for Cornwall. LEP integration is set to conclude at the end of this financial year. The LEP functions will continue and be managed by Cornwall Council to ensure investment via the Growth Hub, Careers Hub, Create Growth Programme and other project related funding. The LEP business voice is set to continue via the new CloS Economic Forum with industry focus on activities such as FLOW, clean energy, tech metals, space and data, agri-food and visitor economy, convening partners and unlocking barriers to private investment and business growth.

Signed:

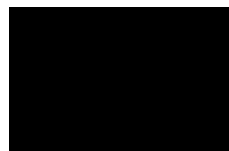


Name: Professor Emma Hunt

Position: Vice Chair

Date: 27.02.2024

Signed:



Name: Glenn Caplin-Grey

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 23.02.2024