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D2N2 Chief Executive and Chair Assurance Statement

(The D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership, November 2017)



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The D2N2 Local Assurance Framework and Governance framework was confirmed as compliant by LGIU at the end of February 2017 and since then we have implemented further improvements to our website e.g. whistleblowing policy, salaries, clearer links to decision making processes, more details about where spending has been directed and have updated our Declarations of Interest register as of October 2017. The front page of the website now directs people through to our Governance processes.

The LEP Board and Infrastructure and Investment Boards are public meetings with their agendas and minutes available on our website.

We published our 16/17 Annual Review in July 2017 at our Annual General Meeting and the 16/17 LGF programme has been internally audited by Derbyshire County Council. Their findings and recommendations are being considered by the November D2N2 Infrastructure and Investment Board. The report is currently confidential.

The LGF programme is also currently being reviewed through Derbyshire County Council Scrutiny and a LEP update report was presented to Derbyshire County Council Policy Committee in September 2017.

The Board was fully briefed on its Transparency and Accountability responsibilities at its meeting in February 2017 where they agreed specific actions including:

- Working with other LEPs through the LEP Network buddying system – initially by Enterprise M3 and a follow-up review by Cumbria LEP and
- Implementing all recommendations from these external reviews – copies of these reviews are available if required.

The Board were advised at the July meeting that these improvements had been made and our processes are compliant.

It has been highlighted to all 3 LEP Section 151 Officers that all LEP funding needs to adhere with the National Assurance Framework guidelines.

The D2N2 Board also received a full copy of the Ney review at their November meeting – and this was circulated to all 19 D2N2 Local Authority CEOs and LEP funding Accountable Body S151 Officers.

The Board agreed at this meeting to “make any further changes to Governance processes identified in the Annual Conversation, further upgrade the website and develop an action plan following the publication of the revised National Assurance Framework”.

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Actions proposed as part of the AC:

The LEP remains aware that having (3) different Accountable Bodies for different LEP funding Streams – Core, Local Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund. The Enterprise Zone is a challenge which was identified in both the 16/17 audit, the annual business plan and the Service Level Agreement with Derbyshire County Council as the Accountable Body for D2N2's Local Growth Fund allocation and as yet little progress has been made. The current Local Growth Fund Service Level Agreement runs out in March 2018 so as agreed with Derbyshire County Council there is a good opportunity to address this now.

The LEP board is aware of both a direct and a perceived conflict of interest on the Enterprise Zone sub-committee which is currently managed through declarations of interest in agreement with the Accountable Body. The Chair is making every effort to ensure the NEY principles are totally adhered to and is hopeful that very soon the LEP board will receive and agree a new way forward for Leadership of the Enterprise Zone.

Develop compliant Local Assurance Frameworks for Enterprise Zone and Growing Places Fund programmes (rather than rely on the Local Growth Fund framework)

Develop and implement an action plan – to be agreed by the Board – once the revised National Assurance Framework and best practice guidelines are published.

Chair & Chief Executive Sign-off:

Signed:

Handwritten signature of Peter Richardson in black ink.

Name: Peter Richardson

Position: Chair

Date: 29th November 2017

Signed:

Handwritten signature of David Ralph in black ink.

Name: David Ralph

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 29th November 2017