

Melanie Dawes  
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Our ref LEP  
Your ref  
Date 01 March 2018

Dear Melanie

### **D2N2 compliance with National Assurance Framework and Best Practice Guidance**

I am writing as Section 151 officer for the Accountable Body for the D2N2 Local Growth Fund and Growth Hub, however the comments below represent the views and agreement of the other accountable bodies responsible for the Local Enterprise Partnership's core funding and the Growing Places Fund.

I can confirm that the Local Assurance Framework has been agreed by Derbyshire County Council, LEP Senior Management Team and Board. The framework meets the revised standards set out in the Local Enterprise Assurance Framework dated October 2016 and is in accordance with the standards set out in the Government guidance published in January 2018 following the Mary Ney report.

The LEP has also made appropriate arrangements to meet the requirements set out in the best practice guidance published in January 2018.

The LEP developed a clear plan of action to address the matters raised in the Ney Report. These actions have now been completed and in doing so, the LEP will enhance its governance and internal control arrangements.

Business Interest forms and Code of Conduct have been signed by all Board Members and have been made available for viewing via D2N2's website.

The Annual Conversation was held on 29 November 2017 and the LEP has a clear plan of action to address all matters highlighted from the meeting. These include:

- Review of accountability and associated policies;
- Consideration of a single accountable body to ensure robust assurance and greater alignment with the different programmes such as Local Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund;
- Regular engagement with members of parliament;

It should also be noted that further work on the LEP's accountability and transparency has been undertaken at the local level. The Council's Internal Audit team recently completed an

audit of the Local Growth Fund for which the Council is the Accountable Body. Areas of good practice that were identified included:

- An established board Investment and Infrastructure Board (IIB) with clear terms of reference for decision making;
- Minutes of the IIB published promptly on the Council website, promoting transparency and accountability;
- Financial activities of the Growth Fund governed by the Council's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders;
- The Local Assurance Framework sets out the process for ensuring value for money, prioritisation, business case development and risk management for inclusion in the LGF programme;
- Plans to undertake an independent review of the role of the Accountable Body by the Council's Improvement and Scrutiny Committee in an effort to improve the current systems and processes.

The audit highlighted areas for improvement to enhance the LEP's transparency and assurance and I can confirm that the LEP has implemented the recommendations made.

I trust that this information is useful, however should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Handford'.

Peter Handford  
Director of Finance & ICT