

Enterprise M3 Annual Assurance Statement 2018

This is the agreed assurance statement from Dave Axam, Chair and Kathy Slack, Director Enterprise M3, on the status of governance and transparency.

Enterprise M3 has a strong culture of continuous improvement and embrace change whether it be in governance, new delivery models or within the way we work as a board and team. We strictly adhere to the values and standards set out in our Assurance Framework, revised version published on our website on 20th November 2018. This Framework is regularly reviewed by our team and by our board and we have embraced and implemented quickly the changes proposed through the Mary Ney report and set out in the LEP Best Practice Guidance January 2018. We have already implemented many of the recommendations from the LEP Review published in July 2018. We can confirm we have a published conflicts of interest policy, which is kept up to date and have published a complaints policy.

This calendar year Enterprise M3 has appointed a new chair, 8 new board members and 5 new permanent team members and 5 contracted staff. We ensure that our strong culture of good governance and high standards of accountability is embedded with all board members and staff.

We are open, transparent and accountable. We publish board papers and minutes within 10 days of a meeting, hold open calls for proposals with clear criteria with a clearly articulated decision process. Our annual report is published and widely disseminated in June alongside our AGM. Our audited accounts are available on our website and summarised in our annual report. Finance reports to our board are also published.

We both attend the Enterprise M3 Joint Leader's Board (JLB) which is run and attended by all Leaders and Chief Executives from our 14 districts and two county councils. We provide an update of LEP activity which is questioned by JLB members. Our JLB plays a strong role as a scrutineer and we have worked with them and our Accountable Body on improving the level of scrutiny. We highly value the relationship with our JLB and Accountable Body and regard these as key elements behind our success.

We are well advanced in our plans to establish Enterprise M3 as a company limited by guarantee which we plan to have in place by the end of March 2019. We published our revised Strategic Economic Plan in September 2018 and are working on our Local Industrial Strategy with partners and business which will support the government in its plans to improve productivity and to address the government's grand challenges.

We have welcomed the renewed focus on the standards expected of LEPs and have established a high-level group of board members, under the leadership of Deborah Allen our deputy chair and Managing Director, Corporate Governance for BaE Systems to drive through the changes needed. We have focussed on achieving a more diverse board and are on course to meet the government target of 50% female representation by 2023.

In summary, at Enterprise M3 we are determined to have and be seen to have the highest standards of governance, accountability and transparency. We recognise this involves making sure theory is played out in day to day practice; being open to outside scrutiny and keeping standards constantly under review.



Dave Axam



Kathy Slack OBE

Chair

Director