



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 **20 January 2021**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **24 February 2021** and confirmation sent to the email address above.

(max 500 words)

We confirm that EM3 adhered to the values and standards as set out in our Assurance Framework which was published on a dedicated governance section on our refreshed website in September 2020. Our Assurance Framework is regularly reviewed by our team and by our board and we strive to reach high standards in transparency and accountability in all that we do.

EM3 has always responded swiftly and positively to refreshed governance requirements. We have met the requirements of LEPs as set out in the National Assurance Framework including having met the diversity target of one third representation of women on our board by March 2020 and are on course to achieve 50% female representation by 2023 with current female representation in January 2021 of 45%.

We are open, transparent and accountable and have a strong culture of continuous improvement. Over 2020, we have continually revised our website and key documents to ensure that they are accessible and easily located. Our Annual Report was published in June 2020 in conjunction with our virtual Annual General Meeting which was attended by over 200 delegates.

We have worked with our Accountable Body to independently audit the arrangements in place and this work concluded that these arrangements were substantial, meaning that Enterprise M3 have a sound system of governance, risk management and control operating effectively and consistently applied. As we have done for a number of years, we publish our audited accounts on our website, along with our finance monitoring papers which are presented to the EM3 Board.

Our culture of continuous improvement, accountability and transparency can be evidenced by the following key strands of work in 2020:

1. We published our **Delivery Plan** in April 2020 which set out what we intended to achieve in 2020/21.
2. Our existing **scrutiny arrangements** which have been implemented through our Joint Leaders Board. The formal scrutiny panel last met in November 2020 and our JLB confirmed their confidence in the LEP and the minutes are available on our website.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

3. We recruited a dedicated **Governance and Assurance Manager** to ensure that Enterprise M3 build upon and constantly improve our governance arrangements.

This year has provided a number of challenges with the team working from home but despite this we have maintained 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.

Signed:

Name: Dave Axam

Position: Chair

Date: 19 Jan 2021

Signed:

Name: Kathy Slack

Position: Chief Exec

Date: 19 Jan 2021