



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 **14 January 2022**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2022** 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. 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. 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 2022 of 42%.

Much of this year has been focussed on supporting business and organisations through the impact of COVID 19. The team have remained working largely from home but despite this we have maintained the highest standards of governance, accountability and transparency.

We brought our growth hub in house in April 2021 and continued seamlessly to deliver support to our businesses throughout the pandemic. We have integrated growth hub activity and the website with the work of the LEP and have updated our website and key documentation to ensure that they are accessible and easily located. We remain in discussion with our Accountable Body throughout the year to review our procedures and policies

We held our virtual Annual General Meeting in June 2021, which was attended by over 200 delegates and focused on our role in championing net zero. Our online digital Annual Report was published in June 2021 and shared with our partners including our MPs.

Dave Aham stepped down as chair of the LEP in July 2021 after being on the Board for 7 years. The Board appointed a new chair through an open process and Michael Queen joined EM3 as the new Board Chair in August 2021. The new Chair is steering a new vision for the LEP as we await the conclusions of the LEP Review.



Our culture of continuous improvement, accountability and transparency can be evidenced by the following key strands of work in 2021:

1. We published our **Delivery Plan** in April 2021 which set out what we intended to achieve in 2021/22 and we are on track to deliver all of our targets
2. We continue to make excellent progress in delivering against our Revive and Renew plan and published our skills action plan.
3. We have extended our reach to business and introduced a programme of peer-to-peer networks including specialist networks aimed at young tech entrepreneurs and female business leaders
4. We continue to align our work with the work of our local authorities, including regular meetings of our Joint Leader's Board. The formal scrutiny panel of our JLB met in November 2021 and our confirmed their full confidence in the LEP
5. We started the process of a **Board Review** in 2021 to ensure the effectiveness of our Board. The Board Review shall begin in January 2022 with a programme due to last 4/5 months of reviewing, discussing and implementing changes. It is envisaged that this will become an annual review.

Signed: _____
Name: Michael Queen
Position: Chair Enterprise M3 LEP
Date:

Signed: _____
Name: Kathy Slack
Position: Chief Executive Enterprise M3 LEP
Date: