



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@levellingup.gov.uk, copying the BEIS Area Lead, by **19 January 2023**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2023** with confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)**

EM3 strives to maintain high standards for transparency and accountability in all that we do. We have adhered to the values and standards set out in our Assurance Framework, which is reviewed regularly and is published on our website. We have met the requirements of LEPs set out in the National Assurance Framework; this includes meeting the target to achieve 50% female representation on our board.

Our commitment to transparency and accountability is reflected in the following:

- Strong local authority representation within our governance arrangements, including six Leaders on the EM3 Board
- The Joint Leaders Board, which brings together all 15 of our local authority partners
- Regular meetings with the MPs in our region
- An Annual General Meeting which is open to the public and includes questions to EM3 Board members
- Publication on our website of Board papers and other governance-related documentation

Our Annual General Meeting, in May, was attended by over 150 delegates from the business, local government and education sectors. Our Annual Report for 2021-22, *Together Again: Back to Business*, was launched at the AGM and widely disseminated to partners.

We continue to align our work with the work of our local authorities, including regular meetings of the Joint Leaders Board (JLB). The formal scrutiny panel of the JLB met in November 2022 and paid credit to the broad range of EM3's activities, with no issues or concerns raised.

Representatives of our Accountable Body (Hampshire County Council) attend meetings of our Board and of our Resources, Finance and Audit Committee. We have worked closely with colleagues from our Accountable Body throughout the year to ensure effective delivery of financial, procurement, HR and legal processes.

During 2022, we carried out an evaluation of our Board, looking at the Board's effectiveness and seeking detailed feedback from Board members.



The evaluation did not identify any governance concerns. An action plan has been put in place to take forward suggested improvements, demonstrating EM3's commitment to maintaining outstanding governance.

Our priorities for each year are set out in our Delivery Plan, which is published on our website. Key elements of our Delivery Plan for 2022/23 included:

- A new vision to create a low carbon, high growth region driven by innovation and enterprise
- Delivery of our Growth Hub and Careers Hub programmes
- Expanding our programme to develop high potential sectors and clusters, including promotion of inward investment
- Development of a new Enterprise Zone Implementation Plan
- Convening partners to support key skills initiatives, including Strategic Development Fund projects and a Local Skills Improvement Plan
- Delivering the Gigabit EM3 (fibre spine) project, and implementing a new Future Fund

During 2022, we have undertaken an organisational review and implemented a new organisation design, to ensure that EM3 is financially sustainable, and has the capabilities needed to deliver for businesses and communities across Hampshire and Surrey.

Signed:

Name: Michael Queen

Position: Chair Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership

Date: 19 January 2023

Signed:

Name: Sue Littlemore

Position: Joint Managing Director Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership

Date: 19 January 2023

Signed:

Name: Stephen Martin

Position: Joint Managing Director Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership

Date: 19 January 2023