

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 localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead by **16 December 2019**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2020** and confirmation sent to localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk (**max 500 words**)

The CloS LEP are committed to embedding the highest standards of governance, transparency and accountability. Since the last Annual Performance Review significant progress has been made on implementing the requirements within the *Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships* document and ensuring the requirements set out by Government in the National Assurance Framework, including Board size, female and private sector representation are met.

With its embedded Nolan principles, the predominantly private sector Board (79% private sector and 21% public sector), is led by a private sector chair and has strong connections and working relationships with the business community, reflecting a range of local interests in its decision making, through the Board and its associated sub-boards. The introduction of a diversity champion at Board level has strengthened the active debate at Board and delegated sub-boards, reflecting a strong, inclusive private sector led culture of challenge and leadership. This is evidenced through minutes published on the LEP website.

Our private sector priorities have been articulated through our '10 Opportunities' which is informing our Local Industrial Strategy and translated in to delivery through a variety of investments. Building upon significant transport infrastructure investment, the recent GD awards reflect a more diverse, private sector, portfolio. ESIF delivery remains strong. We are one of the best performing LEP areas for ERDF and have ensured strategic alignment and locally appropriate delivery in partnership with the Intermediate Body. The Growth Hub continues to support our business base, as well as respond to national business readiness campaigns and the £40m CloS Investment Fund has reached its £5m investment milestone. Delivery has been facilitated by robust governance which reflects the voice of the business community through clear, accountable and evidenced based decision making.

The CloS LEP is committed to improving the gender balance and representation of those with protected characteristics on the Board to ensure full representation of the businesses and communities served. We have met the Government target to ensure that at least one third of the LEP's appointed board members are women by the end of the 2019-2020 financial year and are taking action to ensure equal representation of men and women on Board by the end of the 2022-23 financial year through an enhanced approach to succession planning. All Directors complete an induction with the LEP CEO and officers, with annual appraisals with the LEP Chair and improvements/recommendations championed through the LEP Nominations Committee.

The LEP is also committed to participating in Local Authority scrutiny arrangements. The LEP has fed into Cornwall Council's Economic Growth and Development Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme to establish regular reporting on LEP activity. Further information can be found on the LEP [website](#).

The CloS LEP has strong engagement with the S151 Officer on LEP processes. S151 Officer (or Deputy) signs off and has the opportunity to provide comments on LEP Board and sub-group meeting papers.

We work collaboratively with our accountable body, the Council of the Isles of Scilly and business communities, combining robust public sector procedures with private sector leadership and strategic vision to successfully manage programmes. This ability to convene partnerships, provide leadership and bring together the public and private sector is encapsulated in our international Spaceport partnership with Virgin Orbit, GES and Cornwall Council and our pathfinder Work & Health Beacon project.

Signed: 

Name: Mark Duddridge

Position: Chair

Date: 16 December 2019

Signed: 

Name: Glenn Caplin

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 16 December 2019