

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)

The CloS LEP are committed to embedding the highest standards of governance, transparency and accountability. With its embedded Nolan principles, the predominantly private sector Board (73% private sector and 27% 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. There continues to be 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.

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 and have already reached 47%. We have strengthened our Board recruitment approach, including the use of language in our adverts and role profiles to further inclusivity. We have introduced the use of recruitment videos by our Directors which has proven an effective way of getting across messages about the LEP, our impact and opportunities.

We have developed our Local Industrial Strategy, utilising it to support a strategic approach to the Getting Building Fund bid process in the Summer and to develop our project pipeline to drive future activity focussing on clean growth and place-based opportunities. Our LIS has been approved by the board and formally

endorsed by our Local Authority partners following extensive consultation with the private sector.

We continue to deliver out the final year of Growth Deal investments, ESIF delivery remains strong, our Growth Hub continues to support our business base and respond to national imperatives and the CloS Investment Fund has deployed £6.3m with a further £4.7m leveraged. LEP delivery is facilitated by robust governance which reflects the voice of the business community through clear, accountable and evidenced based decision making.

Our response to the pandemic, convening of the region's Economic Recovery Cell and the work that has been done across the partnership has made it clear to local partners what the LEP can deliver in the short and long term. We have been active advocates of new thinking and new opportunities in many sectors, especially around the rural and energy agenda, and have been active in supporting place shaping. We have shown we can bring together a coalition of partners to shape a common view on priorities for our LEP area from skills to infrastructure to business support.

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, such as Getting Building Fund. Joint working on strategy and delivery extends to our Members of Parliament and Lords, who we meet quarterly

The COVID pandemic has made this year a challenging one for everyone, but good governance and operational agility has allowed us to adapt our governance arrangements and reallocate resource to support our private sector partners. We have adopted 'virtual' meetings for our LEP Board and all our sub-groups, with the LEP Board being livestreamed We have taken the opportunity to refocus and revitalise our approach to Skills development by recruiting an entirely new



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Employment and Skills Board, bringing in new private sector experience and ideas to adapt to a fast-changing agenda.

We have prioritised ensuring that the CloS Growth Hub is robust and resilient and have worked with them (Chairing the Steering Group) to ensure they are providing timely and accurate advice on EU Transition and COVID.

Our rearranged public facing AGM/Annual event will be held in March.

We go in to 2021/22 looking ahead and have developed a significant project pipeline, through an open Expression of Interest (EOI) process to make sure that the LEP is well placed to contribute to the economic recovery and ensure the Shared Prosperity Fund is investing in business opportunity and social inclusion as quickly as possible.

Signed:

Name:

Mark Duddridge

Position:

Chair

Date:

15 January 2021

Signed:

Name:

Glenn Caplin-Grey

Position:

Chief Executive

Date:

15 January 2021