

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk) (**max 500 words**)

D2N2 is fully committed to a strong culture of accountable governance and has embedded the highest levels of transparency and accountability in all aspects of its governance and decision making. We have made significant changes over the last year to strengthen our overall governance and remain committed to seeking opportunities for continuous improvement across all areas of our work.

We have implemented all the recommendations of the LEP review and fully embedded best practice guidance on transparency and accountability in line with Nolan principles across all areas of our board and advisory boards.

Over the last year we have established a new stronger model of governance that clearly sets out roles and responsibilities of the different boards and their members. All boards have clear terms of reference which are publicly available.

As part of this we have refreshed our private sector board membership through an open recruitment exercise to ensure that the board structure reflects the interests of the region and is in line with the guidance of the National Assurance Framework in terms of both private sector board representation and gender diversity.

As a result the LEP is ahead of the gender balance target, and is on track to recruit a new private sector board member to replace a long term private sector board member who recently stood down to achieve the 2/3<sup>rd</sup> private sector majority board.

All new board members are fully inducted in terms of their roles and responsibilities. We have clear policies for code of conduct and declarations of interests for all our board and investment board members.

In order to ensure that we have the most transparent and robust assurance process for our decision making we have implemented a new process for all funding decisions with the LEP Board now ratifying any decisions made by the D2N2 Investment Board, which is also now chaired by the D2N2 Chair. With this two-stage process in place the LEP is now ensuring that there is a more robust challenge over decisions and much stronger private sector engagement in decision making.

Within the new governance model we have established four new advisory boards each chaired by a Private Sector Board member which report directly to the board. The membership of the boards ensure the LEPs commitment to collaboration with all areas of the D2N2 economy and engagement with a breadth of external

stakeholders to lead on strategic development and thought leadership for the region.

The recruitment to both the main and advisory boards was undertaken in an open and transparent manner to encourage a wide and diverse membership. The advisory boards also contribute towards future succession planning for the main board.

We now have a single accountable body in place who oversees the governance of the LEP, as part of this they have supported the LEP to put in place an independent scrutiny committee with elected representatives from across the region.

Signed:



Name: Elizabeth Fagan

Position: Chair

Date: 16/12/19

Signed:



Name: Sajeeda Rose

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 16/12/19