



## 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](mailto:localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk)

**(max 500 words)**

D2N2 is fully committed to a strong culture of accountable governance and continues to embed the highest levels of transparency and accountability in all aspects of its governance and decision making. We hold ourselves to the highest standards of Governance and continuous improvement, keeping up to date with the latest Government standards and reflect this across our Board structures.

Within the last year we have recruited 3 new private sector board members to the LEP Board, and they have all been appointed through open and transparent calls with a full process of recruitment undertaken by the Nominations and Remunerations committee. All new members partake in the Board induction process, in this we ensure that full visibility is in place for new company directors with new directors being added to companies House upon appointment. As standard for each of the new directors' inductions we ensure that all new members complete and sign a Declaration of Interest and the LEPs code of conduct, which can be seen and are continuously refreshed on the LEPs website.

Although we have not maintained the gender balance targets and private sector representation on the board due to the ongoing uncertainty following the Levelling Up White Paper. We are undertaking succession planning of Board members and are in discussion with our LAs in particular about securing a more diverse representation.

All Advisory Boards are chaired by a private sector Board member, and each has at least one nominated Inclusion and Diversity representative at all times. In alignment with the LEP Board, all recruitment exercises for Advisory Boards are conducted in an open and transparent manner and D2N2 aims to be inclusive of all sectors of the business community in the area.

As a LEP we continue to ensure that our Local Assurance Framework and Governance procedures all align to the National Local Growth Assurance Framework. A full review of our LAF will be completed by March 2023.

The Investment Board continues to meet following the approval of all business cases bar one from the Getting Building Fund to give certainty over the correct management of funds and the Accountable Body are regularly engaged in management decisions providing clarity and assurance over decision making. It is also taking the lead role in approving the projects which were recommended for approval from the Low Carbon Growth Fund, with staggered approvals during the year increasing our potential for good news stories. The proposed Early State Angel Investment Fund is close to the point when it can tender for a funding partner, and the IB will again have the role of signing off our approach.



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy

Through our Accountable Body structure, we continue to regularly engage with the formal scrutiny and improvement processes. As well as this we have once again been independently audited by the Accountable Body which reinforced the strong governance in place with no high priority recommendations stated.

We are now actively engaged in the work to design the proposed EMMCCA, including on the governance workstream, where we will champion a strong voice for the private, education and third sectors.

Signed:

Name: Elizabeth Fagan CBE

Position: Chair

Date: 19/01/2023

Signed:

Name: Will Morlidge

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 19/01/2023