

Governance Assurance Statement – LEP Chair & Chief Executive (Sheffield City Region LEP)

SCR has highly effective governance and performance. Founded on a strong and deeply embedded relationship with the Mayoral Combined Authority, our LEP brings together the best of the public and private sectors. This approach is delivering real, tangible benefits.

Key actions completed by the LEP in 2018 include:

- Achieving 100% spending of our initially approved annual profile of the Local Growth Fund (LGF);
- Undertaking successful study and trade visits to China, Singapore and India;
- The opening of key LGF projects across the SCR, including phase 2 of the Great Yorkshire Way, Boeing and McLaren;
- Launching 'Working Win', our health-led employment trial, which almost 2,000 people have now signed up to;
- Supporting 5,000 businesses through our Growth Hub;
- Publishing the SCR Mayor's Vision for Transport and finalising the new SCR Transport Strategy;
- Redevelopment of our website with a dedicated section on governance to improve our openness and transparency;
- The appointment of a provider to deliver the second phase of the SCR Skills Banks;
- The integration of Modern.Gov to vastly improve the publication of meeting papers, meeting attendance statistics, and decisions made; and
- Publishing a Forward Plan of Key Decisions to be taken by the LEP and MCA.

A review by the Government Internal Audit agency earlier this year, ranked SCR as having outstanding governance in 4 out of 6 categories. We are not only committed to demonstrating good governance, we are endeavouring to demonstrate best practice in governance and transparency. Meanwhile our independently audited accounts have been signed off, without qualifications, via the requisite process.

2018 has also been a year of change and evolution in the governance of the Sheffield City Region.

In May, residents in Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield elected the first metro Mayor for SCR. In September we recruited six new private sector LEP Board members, to boost the ratio of private sector members on the Board to just below two thirds, and increase our diversity. We also became the first LEP to appoint a Trade Union representative. Through the winter we undertook a successful and comprehensive recruitment process to appoint a new LEP Chair and Vice Chair, with an announcement on the first part of this expected imminently. The finalisation of these appointments, the agreement and subsequent implementation of revised governance arrangements in the City Region will be major milestones for the first part of 2019.

We have also strengthened our scrutiny and audit arrangements this year. Our Overview and Scrutiny Committee is meeting more frequently than ever before;

reflecting the growth in the responsibilities of the MCA. The Committee ensures that all aspects of decision-making are transparent, inclusive and fair. In 2018 this has included consideration of key programmes such as Superfast South Yorkshire and the Housing Fund. Scrutiny Committee members have been supported in fulfilling their role with a series of training sessions to support them in framing questions and delivering rigorous scrutiny.

The LEP has achieved a huge amount in 2018; with a number of its key investments such as Boeing, McLaren and the Great Yorkshire Way coming to fruition. This is founded on robust, transparent and accountable decision-making processes. In 2019 it will be important to build upon these successes, with the LEP acting as an important anchor in times of considerable uncertainty.

Signed: 
Name: Sir Nigel Knowles
Position: LEP Chair
Date: 31/12/18

Signed: 
Name: Dr. Dave Smith
Position: SCR Managing Director
Date: 03/01/19