

London Economic Action Partnership

Governance Assurance Statement 2020

LEAP is strongly committed to governance and transparency. We have always consistently abided by the requirements of our [Local Assurance Framework](#), which was updated early this year in line with HM Government's National Local Growth Assurance Framework.

LEAP's [Constitution](#) sets out delegation levels for decision-making. Funding proposals must comply with the GLA's governance, financial, legal and procurement frameworks and be accompanied by a LEAP business case. Following LEAP endorsement, proposals are subject to the GLA's decision making procedure; the publication of GLA decision forms ensures transparency in this area.

Further to HM Government's requirement to re-balance Board Membership in favour of the private sector, our Board now comprises 20 Members, including 12 Business Members and one nomination from the Trades Union Congress. This includes four additional Business Members appointed in 2019 following an open recruitment process, in line with the GLA's [Protocol on Mayoral Appointments](#). This process followed an audit of skills, experience and diversity in the current Membership.

We are deeply committed to diversity and inclusion. We updated our [Diversity Statement](#) in early 2019 and the Diversity Champion role is held by several Members to ensure collective ownership. We achieved a 50/50 gender balance in our Business Membership in 2016 and this is maintained with the four new Members. When including nominations from other organisations and ex-officio Members, the overall split is 45/55 female/male. The Board is diverse in terms of background and experience – and 50% of our Business Members are from SMEs.

The Terms of Appointment and [Code of Conduct](#), signed by Members on appointment, include a requirement to observe the Nolan principles and a commitment to ensure the diversity of London's communities and economy is reflected in our work.

Interests are recorded and managed appropriately in line with our [Declaration of Interests Policy](#). Registers are reviewed bi-annually and published on our [Member pages](#). Officers advise on potential conflicts and suggest appropriate action. There is a standing item on every agenda and any declarations are recorded in the minutes.

LEAP is committed to openness and transparency. Agendas are published at least five clear working days before the meeting and draft minutes are published within 10 clear working days. We publish all papers and minutes unless there are exemptions under data legislation.

LEAP is chaired by the Mayor of London. London Assembly Members play an active role in scrutinising the Mayor's work, including LEAP. Our Members are accountable to Assembly Members through public meetings, and actions are addressed through formal

letters. On 6 June 2019 the [Assembly Plenary meeting](#) focussed on LEAP and questioned a Co-Deputy Chair and two Members. LEAP funded programmes are also subject to the GLA's Internal Audit regime.

Our management of complaints and whistleblowing reports is set out in the [Local Assurance Framework](#). LEAP has adopted the [GLA's Complaints Procedures](#) and stakeholders have the option of submitting a complaint in confidence using our [Confidential Reporting of Complaints](#) guidance.

We have made excellent progress in implementing the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships Review recommendations; only the publication of London's Local Industrial Strategy is still in progress.

Signed: **A. Knowles-Cutler**

Signed: **D. Jackson**

Name: **Angus Knowles-Cutler**

Name: **Debbie Jackson**

Position: Co-Deputy Chair

Position: Senior Responsible
Owner

Date: 24 January 2020

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