

London Economic Action Partnership

Governance Assurance Statement 2021

LEAP is strongly committed to governance and transparency. We have always consistently abided by the requirements of our [Local Assurance Framework](#), which was last updated in July 2020 following a review in line with HM Government's National Local Growth Assurance Framework.

LEAP's [Constitution](#) sets out our schedule of funding responsibilities. 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; publication of the decision forms ensures transparency.

The LEAP Board currently comprises 18 Members, including 11 Business Members and one nominee from Trades Union Congress. One Business Member stood down at the end of their term in May 2020; all others agreed to be reappointment for an additional year when the mayoral election was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We are processing a new nomination from London Councils and hope to issue the appointment letter soon. Board composition is decided by the Mayor and will be reviewed after the mayoral election due to take place in May 2021.

LEAP's [Diversity Statement](#) outlines our deep commitment to diversity and inclusion. Our Diversity Champion role is collectively owned by three Members who are in regular contact to discuss our diversity action plan. We have had a 50/50 gender balance in our business membership since 2016. When including nominations 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 each meeting and draft minutes are published within 10 clear working days. Papers and minutes are published unless information is exempt under data legislation.

LEAP is chaired by the Mayor. 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. 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.

Only one recommendation resulting from the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships Review remains outstanding: publication of London's Local Industrial Strategy, which HM Government has put on hold.

Angus Knowles-Cutler
Co-Deputy Chair, LEAP
15 January 2021

Philip Graham
Senior Responsible Owner, LEAP
15 January 2021