

## Governance Assurance Statement

LEAP has a strong commitment to governance and transparency and an overview of key processes is set out within this statement. Arrangements in LEAP's [Assurance Framework](#) remain current, and members and officers have a commitment to the processes set out within.

The relaunch of LEAP in late 2016 provided an opportunity to strengthen governance arrangements and refocus the Board to make it more effective. The Board comprises 16 members, eight of whom represent business and were appointed through an open recruitment process which includes an independent element in line with the [GLA's Protocol on Mayoral Appointments](#). The new Board is more diverse in terms of business size and gender.

The Terms of Appointment and Code of Conduct signed by members upon appointment includes a requirement observe the Nolan principles, and a commitment to ensure the diversity of London's communities and economy is reflected in the work of LEAP.

Conflicts of interest are recorded and dealt with appropriately, with the policy in this area reflecting and exceeding the standards expected of elected Members of local authorities. Members' RoI forms are published to the website and reviewed regularly. While Members take personal responsibility for their declarations, officers send regular update reminders and a standing Declarations of Interest item is present on every agenda, with declarations recorded in the minutes. Where required, officers provide advice on potential conflicts and suggest any action a member may need to take, e.g. withdrawing from a meeting.

LEAP is committed to openness and transparency in line with Mayoral policy and stakeholder expectations. Agendas are published at least five clear working days before the meeting, and reports that are reserved from publication (in line with FoI exemptions) are clearly marked as such. Draft minutes are published shortly after each meeting, with a publication target of two weeks.

The LEAP Schedule of Funding Responsibilities sets out the levels at which decisions are made and by whom. All decisions are subject to the GLA's decision making procedures, and must comply with the GLA's corporate governance, financial, legal and procurement frameworks and processes. Transparency in taking this forward is assured through the publication of all GLA decision forms.

The GLA operates several structures to ensure LEAP decision making and project implementation is subject to independent scrutiny. Arrangements include scrutiny by the London Assembly, and in the past year this has included a session on the work of LEAP at the London Assembly Plenary meeting in February 2017. In addition, Officers seeking a Mayoral Decision or Director Decision must conduct due diligence of that decision, and seek senior officer buy-in, making the case for spending and seeking delegated authority to act.

LEAP welcomes the recommendations of the Mary Ney Review and the commitment to ensure a consistent approach to governance and transparency across LEPs. We are content

that LEAP already complies with most recommendations, but recognise some areas where we could be more explicit about our processes, such as ensuring the website displays a clear link to the GLA's Whistleblowing Policy. Officers are working on an action plan to address any areas where LEAP is not already meeting the recommendations, and awaits guidance from Government regarding implementation.

**Deputy Chair & Chief Executive Sign-off:**

Signed: **F. Fletcher-Smith**

Name: Fiona Fletcher-Smith

Position: Executive Director,  
Development, Enterprise and  
Environment, GLA

Date: 17 November 2017

Signed: **A. Knowles-Cutler**

Name: Angus Knowles-Cutler

Position: LEAP co-Deputy Chair  
(Business)

Date: 17 November 2017