

## **Coast to Capital Governance Assurance Statement**

### **Annual Conversation – 11 December 2017**

Coast to Capital is committed to good governance and transparency, and as such made a strategic decision to ensure that our Assurance Framework 2017 went above and beyond what was expected of us.

Given this, we have strong governance arrangements and we feel that we are in a good place to respond to the Mary Ney Review recommendations. We stand ready to immediately implement any necessary changes following guidance issued by Government.

We welcome the scrutiny of the Annual Conversation process which is also a good opportunity for us to take stock and identify how we can continue to improve. We are eager to give Government the confidence in our ability to make decisions appropriately and deliver effectively.

The future is exciting for LEPs as they will play a greater role in supporting local growth, unlocking productivity and transforming the UK economy as set out in the Industrial Strategy. As LEPs become an even more intrinsic part of the landscape it is only right that LEPs are held to account in the most appropriate way.

The Annual Conversation process has enabled us to highlight our:

- Effective governance arrangements
- Strong Executive and Board leadership
- Commitment to continual improvement
- Ambition to go above and beyond what is required

We have commissioned a review to improve the structures of our Accountable Body arrangements. For historic reasons, we have used different Local Authorities S151 services in different areas of our work. We are aware of the drawbacks of this and are seeking a best practice response based on evidence from other LEPs and our S151 colleagues. This will conclude in the New Year. We are also undertaking an independent review of our financial processes to make sure that we represent best practice for an organisation of our size and will consider this in the context of the Accountable Body review.

Looking ahead to 2018 we will be undertaking an independent scrutiny review of the implementation of our assurance framework in January. We will also be reviewing our Assurance Framework and anticipating the new National Assurance Framework so that once this is issued we will be able to publish an updated Assurance Framework which not only meets all current expectations but establishes Coast to Capital as a leading LEP in relation to governance, transparency and accountability.

Jonathan Sharrock – Chief Executive

Tim Wates - Chairman