



Annex C: Governance Assurance Statement

The LEP Chair and Chief Executive should here provide a brief formal assurance statement on the status of governance and transparency. This should include any overview and scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. This should be sent to the Assurance Team via localgrowthassurance@levellingup.gov.uk, copying the BEIS Area Lead, by **19 January 2023**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **28 February 2023** with confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)**

We have a strong culture of accountable governance, and we are pleased to highlight the following:

- Set a clear target to maintain our "Met" Governance rating.
- Exceeded all targets set by Government consistently and had any Governance issued raised at any point during the past year resolved quickly.
- Received no Complaints, have no outstanding FOI's or have had any Whistleblowing reported.
- Continue to work closely with our Accountable Body to allow them to fully scrutinise and challenge our processes as they see fit. Continually communicate with Brighton and Hove on all Committee meetings, decisions and processes to ensure they have oversight.
- Embedded high-quality robust and transparent governance throughout our governance structure with strong Accountable Body involvement.
- Developed an updated version of our Assurance Framework. Working to produce another version to ensure that the document not only complies with the NLGAF, but represents our high value work the best it can.
- Committed to continual improvement.
- Re-developed our Risk Register.
- Developed a comprehensive Audit Plan and delivering a series of audits which are being scrutinised by our Audit and Risk Committee.
- Undertook a further re-organisation to be able to cope with the changing funding landscape that we are experiencing.
- Have continued to adapt the organisation to the constant funding uncertainty.
- Continued to undertake Local Authority Leader Meetings at regular intervals.
- We stay committed to attend Local Authority Scrutiny Committee meetings as required.
- Deeply embedded the Nolan Principles into our organisational culture, including robustly managing any conflict of interest issues.



- Board re-fresher training has taken place around directors roles & responsibilities.
- Prioritised Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion.
- Reviewed our company handbook and policies throughout the year.
- We will be delivering an online AGM.
- Enhanced our active, consistent, and collaborative engagement with External Stakeholders to support our priorities.
- Have solid working relationships and open communication with our Area Leads to identify and resolve any areas to be developed.
- Management of Board Succession Plans and our Chair has been appointed as the Chair of Catalyst South group of 6 LEPs.
- Established a strong emphasis on new sources of income generation through delivery of consultancy services to our partners to ensure we continue to be a going concern.
- We are focussed on co-opting high profile Board members to enhance the future of the organisation.

Our aim is to demonstrate that Coast to Capital is an outstanding LEP recognised as leading best practice, with a clear culture of governance, transparency, and accountability.

Signed:

Name: Julie Kapsalis

Position: Chair

Date: 12/01/23

Signed:

Name: Anthony Middleton

Position: Chief Executive

Date: 12/01/2023