

## Annex D: Section 151/73 Assurance Statement

The Section 151/73 Officer should here provide a report to the Annual Performance Review on their work for the LEP over the last twelve months and their opinion with a specific requirement to identify any issues of concern on governance and transparency. In particular, you should focus on any particular issued raised in Annex A. **(max 500 words)**

### During 2018/19

As the S151 Officer for Wiltshire Council acting as the Accountable Body for the SWLEP, I, my predecessors, or my nominated representative have been active in a range of ways during the last 12 months:

- i. value for money sign off for 7 Business Cases presented to LEP Board:
  - Chippenham Station Hub Overall OBC
  - Rapid Transit (Wichelstowe Phase) FBC
  - Corsham Mansion House OBC
  - Wichelstowe Southern Access OBC
  - Wiltshire College – Salisbury Refurbishment FBC
  - Chippenham Station Hub – Phase 2 OBC
  - Ultra-Fast Broadband OBC
- ii. participation in the GPIF Working Group including due diligence checks and interest rate calculations for successful applicants from the March 2018 call.
- iii. participation in the GPIF loan agreement terms re-negotiation for the Concertare Lansdown Court/Woods Group loan agreement.
- iv. Ensuring robust financial records keeping, working within the Wiltshire Council financial control environment and complying to financial policies and procedures.
- v. compilation of management accounts for the SWLEP Board which are openly published as part of the Board papers for each meeting;
- vi. Signing off a statement of the annual accounts for inclusion in the SWLEP's Annual Report;
- vii. attendance and reporting to all Board meetings and scheduled meetings of the Delivery and Performance Team; and.
- viii. confirmation that the SWLEP Board conducts its business in public and operates in an accessible and transparent manner.

### Looking ahead to 2019/20

The following work has already been identified over and above regular S151 activity which will require my, or my nominated representative's, involvement, support and scrutiny during the forthcoming year:

- i. the SWLEP Governance Framework will need to be amended to:
  - reflect any changes required by MHCLG in respect to revised National Assurance Framework guidance being published: and
  - reflect any changes to the partnership's operational structure which the Board agree as the result of becoming a company limited by guarantee;
- ii. compilation of audited accounts for 2018/19;

- iii. continued support to the GPIF programme in terms of existing loan agreements and future calls; and
- iv. Continued scrutiny of the LGF allocation and spend.

**Closing statement**

I do not have any issues of concern regarding governance and transparency and the SWLEP operates within the terms of its Governance Framework.

Signed: 

Name: Becky Hellard

Position: Interim Director of Finance & Procurement

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019