

Annex B: Section 151/73 Assurance Statement

The Section 151/73 Officer should here provide a report to the Annual Conversation 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 issues raised in Annex A. **(max 500 words)**

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

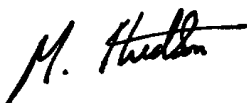
- Value for money sign off for three Full Business Cases: Junction 16 highway improvements, Junction 17 highway improvements and A350 dualling at Chippenham;
- Signed off the amendments to the SWLEP Governance Framework and Assurance Framework;
- Participated in the GPIF Working Group including due diligence checks and interest rate calculations for successful applicants;
- Compilation of management accounts for the SWLEP Board which are openly published as part of the Board papers for each meeting; we will be completing audited accounts for next year;
- Signed off a statement of the annual accounts for inclusion in the SWLEP's Annual Report;
- My nominated representative attends and reports to all Board meetings and scheduled meetings of the Delivery and Performance Team.

The SWLEP Board conducts its business in public and operates in an accessible and transparent manner.

The Assurance Framework will need to be amended to reflect the GPIF programme and delegated authority of the Board to the GPIF Working Group. In addition there are a number of additions required to the Governance Framework to reflect the Mary Ney Review as set out in the Governance Section, question 2 above.

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

Section 151/73 Sign-off:

Signed: 

Name: Michael Hudson

Position: Associate Director Finance and S151 Officer, Wiltshire Council

Date: 7th December 2017