



## 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](mailto:localgrowthassurance@levellingup.gov.uk), copying the DBT Area Lead, by **29 February 2024**. This statement should also be published on the LEP's website by **15 March 2024** with confirmation sent to the email address above. **(max 500 words)**

The SYMCA Business Advisory Board, and previously the LEP, operates within the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority governance and scrutiny frameworks.

The critical importance of the private sector voice is embedded within the work of the MCA and continues to be reflected in the wider work of the MCA Board and MCA Executive, alongside the newly established Mayors' Economic Advisory Council.

The MCA upholds the highest levels of transparency and is committed to robust decision making. The Assurance Framework fully complies with Government regulations; decisions are evidence based and sign off processes are transparent. All decisions are published and promoted in accordance with national guidance.

The MCA is the Accountable Body, and its statutory committees scrutinise the decisions of the MCA. The Audit, Standards and Risk Committee maintains a focus on governance and assurance, on risk management arrangements and on financial and non-financial performance. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee holds the MCA to account for all decisions taken, including devolved powers and funding. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which comprises elected members from Constituent Local Authorities, has the authority to review and scrutinise any decision made, or action taken by the MCA, Mayor, or MCA Executive Team. The Committee reviews the Forward Plan of Key Decisions at each of its meetings.

Following a review of MCA Governance, and in line with the Government's Devolution Accountability Framework, the LEP Board ceased in July 2023, and the Business Advisory Board was established in November 2023 with 13 members, appointed with the full support of the Mayoral Combined Authority Board.

The Business Advisory Board is led by two Co-Chairs drawn from the Private Sector, meets approximately every 8 weeks, and all Business Advisory Board procedures, and meeting minutes are publicly available and accessible via the SYMCA webpages. All Board members were recruited



through an open recruitment process, with members selected from across Local Authority areas and with a diverse range of expertise. The Board has been adopted under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 and is consistent with the general principles of conduct identified by the Committee on Standards in Public Life ('Nolan Principles').

The Mayor's Economic Advisory Council was also formed in January 2024. Made up of 11 world renowned economic and business experts, it is another of the MCA's economic partnerships which will help boost economic activity in the region.

The Business Advisory Board and Mayor's Economic Advisory Council are crucial to MCA priority and strategic planning. Both Boards advise the MCA, and provide the required voice of the private sector, on economic developments in the region, and our engagement with Government and the national policy environment. Recent topics on which the Board has advised the MCA and the Mayor have included: financing growth and unlocking private investment into South Yorkshire, South Yorkshire's presence at UKREiiF, and the development of a SYMCA Plan for Growth.

Signed:

Name: Martin Swales

Position: Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service

Date: 29/02/2024