

SUBJECT: GM LEP Governance Update

DATE: 17th November 2020

FROM: Lou Cordwell/Mo Isap – Co-Chairs of GM LEP

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report sets out the latest version of the GM Local Growth Assurance Framework which has been updated in line with Government guidance along with the updated GM LEP Terms of Reference.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The LEP Board is asked to:

- note the report and approve the updated GM Local Growth Assurance Framework
- note the report and approve the updated GM LEP Terms of Reference
- approve the appointment of Cllr Elise Wilson as LEP Deputy Chair

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The GM Local Growth Assurance Framework sets out that GM LEP recognises it works on behalf of all the people of Greater Manchester and recognises that different people bring different ideas, knowledge and perspectives. This includes the appointment of a LEP Diversity Champion and a commitment to regularly refresh LEP board membership to ensure it reflects the breadth of industrial sectors on its Board as well as represents the diversity of Greater Manchester's people.

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The GM Local Growth Assurance Framework sets out the respective roles and responsibilities of GM LEP and GMCA in delivering spending programmes within the GM Single Pot. All funding decisions are directed by GM's strategic priorities as expressed through the GMS and LIS which includes a commitment to achieve carbon neutral living in Greater Manchester by 2038 by launching the UK's first city-region Clean Growth mission.

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The National Local Growth Assurance Framework (NLGAF) was published in January 2019 and sets out Government's guidance for places that are required to develop their own Local Assurance Framework.
- 1.2 This Framework replaces the previous guidance and reflects the feedback that Government has received from MCAs and LEPs. It also builds on previous work to strengthen assurance of LEPs and addresses the recommendations of the Mary Ney Review into Local Enterprise Partnership Governance and Transparency (October 2017) and the National Review into LEPs, Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships (July 2018).
- 1.3 Greater Manchester will use this guidance to refresh its existing GM Local Growth Assurance Framework to be approved by the LEP Board.

2. GM SINGLE POT ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 The GM Local Growth Assurance Framework (attached) is our local response to the principles and requirements of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework and sets out how these will be delivered at local level.
- 2.2 The GM Assurance Framework outlines the assurance arrangements for both the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (GM LEP) for funding paid as part of Greater Manchester's integrated 'Single Pot'.
- 2.3 The Framework covers assurance of GM's Single Pot (including Local Growth Fund, Earnback, Devolved Transport Funding and the Adult Education Budget) and provides guidance on how places should appraise, monitor and evaluate schemes to achieve value for money to ensure the robust stewardship of public funds.
- 2.4 Alongside the LEP's Terms of Reference, these documents outline the key practices and standards which are necessary to provide Government and local partners with assurance that decisions over funding are proper, transparent, and that they deliver value for money.
- 2.5 This Assurance Framework is reviewed on an annual basis by the GM Executive Team in consultation with the LEP. The purpose of the review is to examine whether there is any evidence that existing processes could be improved, and to take into account any legal, funding, or other contextual changes that might require a change of assurance process.
- 2.6 The Assurance Framework was last updated in January 2020 following feedback from the Department of Transport. Following the current review, the Assurance Framework has been updated with details of the refreshed LEP Board membership including the new Co-Chair model; strengthened LEP engagement with stakeholders and district links; improved decision making, evaluation and audit protocols in line with Government guidance.
- 2.7 Specifically, these changes can be found at the following paragraphs:
 - **3.21:** Updated reference to the GM Local Industrial Strategy noting its publication in June 2019

- **4.14:** Noting that any further calls for bids or projects and funding opportunities will be advertised on the GMCA and GM LEP websites where appropriate.
- **6.10:** Updated GMCA membership and substitute members for 2020/21
- **6.15:** Noting that GMCA will continue to maintain a robust audit trail to demonstrate compliance with appropriate protocols and regulations as the Accountable Body
- **6.26:** Noting that that an official record of GMCA and GM LEP proceedings are maintained by the GMCA Governance Team
- **7.6 – 7.12:** Updated LEP membership section to reflect the new Co-Chair model, Deputy Chair proposal and most recent LEP Board membership review
- **7.19:** Updated decision-making protocol to confirm that all decisions are made in accordance with the process set out in the Assurance Framework. Any decision which is made in contravention of the process will be invalid.
- **7.24 - 7.25:** An additional section setting out that the LEP continues to engage with local stakeholders to inform the development of policy and delivery. This includes engaging through a variety of business networks and representation organisations but also by private sector LEP Board members taking a lead for each of GM's ten districts and participating in key local initiatives such as the Towns Board.
- **9.27:** Confirmation that GMCA and GM LEP can robustly assess, monitor, and maintain a robust audit trail throughout the lifetime of projects
- **Annex A:** Updated LEP person specification to reflect new Co-Chair model

2.8 As part of this approach, the LEP is required to appoint a Deputy Chair. Government has agreed that, because of our unique Co-Chair model of leadership, GM LEP can appoint a Deputy Chair from the existing Board membership without the need for an external recruitment.

2.9 Further to LEP Board discussions in September, no nominations have been received for the role of Deputy Chair. However, Elise Wilson has agreed to take up the role subject to the agreement of the Board.

3. GM LEP TERMS OF REFERENCE

3.1 In line with the changes highlighted above, the LEP Terms of Reference have been amended to reflect the new Co-Chair model and appointment of a Deputy Chair.

3.2 This includes specific updates to the following paragraphs:

- **8.6 and 8.8:** Revised Declaration of Interest procedures to reflect the new Co-Chair model
- **Annex A:** Updated LEP membership section to reflect the new Co-Chair model, Deputy Chair proposal and most recent LEP Board membership review most recent LEP Board membership review
- **Annex B, paragraph 4:** Updated Declaration of Interest Form to reflect the new Co-Chair model

4. NEXT STEPS

- 4.1 Subject to approval by the Board, the updated GM Local Growth Assurance Framework and GM LEP Terms of Reference will be published on the GM LEP website.