

STOKE ON TRENT & STAFFORDSHIRE
LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP
COMPANY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

17 April 2019

Public

LEP Review – Assurance Framework Updates

1. Background

- 1.1 A key requirement of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework (January 2019) was for LEPs to move to an incorporated body model by 1st April 2019, reflecting their more prominent role in local growth going forward. The Extraordinary LEP Executive Board meeting of 7 March 2019 formed the new Stoke on Trent & Staffordshire LEP company limited by guarantee. The LEP was also required to revise its Assurance Framework, which includes the Constitution, to the same deadline. This work has been undertaken by the LEP secretariat, overseen by the Accountable Body S151 Finance Officer who is required to confirm to government that the updated document is in line with the National Assurance Framework.
- 1.2 The changes made to the document which have enabled the S151 Officer to notify our compliance by the government deadline, are as follows:
- The Constitution, which sets out LEP governance and procedural arrangements, has been updated in line with the new company Articles of Association agreed by the Board on 7 March 2019.
 - The Constitution has been brought together with other LEP Policy documents to provide a single Assurance Framework, in line with good practice and for ease of access by government departments, stakeholders and any other interested parties. As such, this is now a lengthy document which has not been circulated electronically but can be found on the LEP website at:
<https://www.stokestaffslep.org.uk/app/uploads/2019/03/SSLEP-Assurance-Framework-v4.0.pdf>
- 1.3 It should be noted that the Assurance Framework is a living document and will be continually updated as required by the Company Board and government policy changes. It will be brought to Board for consideration biannually, as a minimum. While minor changes will be notified to and agreed by the S151 Officer, changes of note will be brought to the Board for agreement, for example, ongoing work on to update the Accountable Body Agreement and Scheme of Delegation.

Recommendation: That the Board approves the updated Assurance Framework (March 2019v4).