



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

Annex B: Section 151/73/127 Assurance Statement

The Section 151/73/127 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. The report should focus on any issues raised in Annex A: Annual Performance Review Preparation. This report should be sent to the Assurance Team via localgrowthassurance@levellingup.gov.uk copying the BEIS Area Lead by **19 January 2023. (max 500 words)**

I took over as the Section 151 Officer for Buckinghamshire Council in July 2022, and I am fully aware of the close working relationship that has been developed between Buckinghamshire Council and the LEP to manage and develop the Assurance and Accountability framework for the LEP.

As part of my role I aim to attend all LEP Board meetings and where this is not possible I have ensured that a suitably qualified and experienced deputy is always present to support any assurance questions that may arise during the decision making process. Furthermore, a Section 151 representative is always present at the LEP's Audit and Finance Sub-Group meeting.

I continue to provide s.151 oversight on the Local Growth Programme and am satisfied that the assessment criteria established in the Growth and Assurance Framework is being followed and that the appropriate contractual arrangements are in place and programme management operations are robust to support the release of funding.

I am pleased to report that the Board Members fully comply with their responsibilities and ensure that there is no conflict of interest in their discussions or decision-making processes. Where uncertain, the LEP have erred on the side of caution and relevant Members have excused themselves from discussions. All this is documented in minutes. All declarations of interest are published on the LEP's website.

There is a clear Memorandum of Understanding between the LEP and Buckinghamshire Council to cover the Accountable Body and LEP responsibilities, financial and oversight arrangements. This was reviewed in spring 2022 and signed off by the previous S151 and the LEP's Finance & Audit sub group

Signed:

Name: David Skinner

Position: S151 Officer, Buckinghamshire Council

Date: 18/01/2022