

## HotSW Annual Assurance Statement 2018

The Heart of the South West LEP and our accountable bodies (Somerset County Council and Devon County Council), have responsibility for ensuring that funding decisions are made in accordance with our local Assurance Framework.

The framework is periodically updated to meet requirements - the latest version is published on the LEP's website – and is being updated in response to the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships report, expected completion early 2019.

Accountability and decision making has worked well with close, active and constructive working with our 151 officer and accountable bodies. Accountable body representatives attend our Board, Strategic Investment Panel and Finance and Resources meetings where decisions on investments and funds are taken.

The LEP has worked with local authority partners to establish a dedicated scrutiny function and the first of these was held in November and three-times yearly going forward.

The annual conference and AGM were held in November of this year and attracted over 300 attendees. The AGM remains open to any attendees and any are able to ask questions.

There have been no failures identified in our assurance processes during the year by our accountable body or its auditors. We continue to ensure that all of our funding is held by our accountable bodies and we do not maintain any separate bank accounts, petty cash or accounting systems. The detailed analysis of business cases (independently produced from sponsors) by the SIP and Board has worked well – with investment pipelines managed in accordance with the framework.

We welcome our Local Authority partners establishing closer working arrangements and have been pleased to participate in the Joint Committee meetings, with the LEP and Joint Committee overseeing the newly agreed HotSW Productivity Strategy.



Signed:  
Name: Steve Hindley  
Position: Chair  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018



Signed:  
Name: David Ralph  
Position: Chief Executive  
Date: 19<sup>th</sup> December 2018

## Creating opportunities in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay

Heart of the South West LEP CIC, is a Community Interest Company Limited by Guarantee.

Registered in England and Wales.

No. 8880546, Registered Office, PO Box 805, Exeter, Devon, EX1 9UU



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