

Permanent Secretary
Accounting Officer
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Responses should be submitted by email to:
localgrowthassurance@levellingup.gov.uk

Date: 29 February 2024

Dear Permanent Secretary

Re. Heart of the South West LEP

As the Section 151 Officer for Somerset Council, the LEP's Accountable Body, I would like to confirm that myself and my deputies have undertaken all the necessary checks to ensure that the LEP has in place the processes to ensure the proper administration of their financial affairs.

Accordingly, having considered all the relevant information, in my role as the Section 151 Officer, I am of the opinion that the financial affairs of the LEP are being properly administered. The LEP's Local Assurance Framework is compliant with the minimum standards as outlined in the *National Local Growth Assurance Framework* (2021).

Yours sincerely,



Jason Vaughan
Executive Director – Resources & Corporate Services (Section 151 Officer)
Somerset Council