

Marches Enterprise Joint Committee	
Meeting date:	13 February 2017
Title of report:	Update for LEP Accountability & Assurance Framework

Classification

Open

Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

Purpose

To advise members on the updates made to the Accountability and Assurance Framework and seek Marches Enterprise Joint Committee agreement to adopt the proposed changes.

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- (a) Joint Committee members agree the proposed changes to the Accountability and Assurance Framework.

Summary

- 1 In passing funding, powers and responsibilities to LEPs to promote economic growth, LEPs are required to take on the role which Government has traditionally undertaken in administering any funds and managing processes that come with these new local responsibilities. The Marches LEP Accountability and Assurance Framework (AAF) sets out, in a clear and transparent way, how the Marches LEP operates in terms of its decision-making, reporting, monitoring and management of public funds. The previous update of the AAF was approved by the Marches Enterprise Joint Committee on 31 May 2016.
- 2 In October 2016 the Government updated its 'LEP National Assurance Framework' which instructs LEPs as to what must be included in their AAF. The LEP team has now reviewed the Marches LEP AAF in line with this guidance. This updated document forms Appendix 1 of this report and, for ease, all changes are highlighted as tracked changes. The Government requires that the LEP's Accountable Body's S151 Finance Officer has reviewed and is content that the changes proposed are appropriate in meeting government requirements. The Accountable Body's S151 Finance Officer has confirmed contentment with the proposed updates and these have been recommended by the LEP

Board for joint committee approval. The revised AAF must be agreed and operational by 28 February 2017.

- 3 The LEP Board and its sub-groups are now undertaking annual reviews of their terms of reference (ToR). The AAF update includes a revised ToR for the Growth Hub Steering Group, and LEP Management Team, both of which are recommended by the LEP Board for joint committee approval.

Alternative options

- 4 There are no alternative options, the LEP must have an up to date Assurance Framework that meets government requirements set out in the National Assurance Framework.

Financial implications

- 5 None arising directly from this report
- 6 The Finance S151 Officer will write to the Department for Communities & Local Government's Accounting Officer by 28 February 2017, certifying the AAF is agreed & implemented and that it meets the revised standards set out in the LEP National Assurance Framework.

Legal implications

- 7 None arising directly from this report.

Risks, opportunities and impacts

- 8 If the LEP does not keep its AAF up to date there is a chance that the partnership will not be operating in line with Government requirements.

Consultation

- 9 The document is owned by the LEP Board, the MEJC and the Accountable Body s151 Finance Officer. It is an iterative document, regularly reviewed and updated by the Board and Finance Officer.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Draft revised Marches LEP Accountability & Assurance Framework

Background papers

LEP National Assurance Framework (October 2016)