PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report sets out the background and recommendations of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework and the key implications for Greater Manchester

RECOMMENDATIONS

The LEP Board is asked to note the report and agree:

- To approve the updated GM Single Pot Assurance Framework
- That Lou Cordwell is appointed as Deputy Chair and Vanda Murray is appointed as the Diversity Champion
- That Gifts, Hospitality and Expenses be published quarterly in line with the approach set out in the GMCA Constitution. LEP Board members to notify officers of any relevant gifts, hospitality and expenses received over the first quarter of 2019/20
- That Board members notify officers of any changes to their Register of Interest
- To approve the updated Terms of Reference

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Simon Nokes, Executive Director Strategy and Policy
simon.nokes@greatermanchester-ca.go.uk

David Rogerson, Principal – Strategy and Policy
david.rogerson@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The National Local Growth Assurance Framework (NLGAF) was published in January 2019 and sets out Government’s guidance for places that are required to develop their own Local Assurance Framework.

1.2 The Framework covers assurance of GM’s Single Pot (including Local Growth Fund, Earnback, Devolved Transport Funding and shortly the Adult Education Budget) and provides guidance on how places should appraise, monitor and evaluate schemes to achieve value for money to ensure the robust stewardship of public funds.

1.3 This Framework replaces the previous guidance and reflects the feedback that Government has received from MCAs and LEPs. It also builds on previous work to strengthen assurance of LEPs and addresses the recommendations of the Mary Ney Review into Local Enterprise Partnership Governance and Transparency (October 2017) and the National Review into LEPs, Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships (July 2018).

1.4 Greater Manchester will use this guidance to refresh its existing Joint GMCA/GM LEP Single Pot Assurance Framework to be approved by the LEP Board.

2. **GM SINGLE POT ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK**

2.1 The GMCA and GM LEP Combined Single Pot Assurance Framework (attached) is our local response to the principles and requirements of the National Local Growth Assurance Framework and sets out how these will be delivered at local level.

2.2 The GM Assurance Framework outlines the assurance arrangements for both the Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and the Greater Manchester Local Enterprise Partnership (GM LEP) for funding paid as part of Greater Manchester’s integrated ‘Single Pot’.

2.3 Alongside the LEP’s Terms of Reference, these documents outline the key practices and standards which are necessary to provide Government and local partners with assurance that decisions over funding are proper, transparent, and that they deliver value for money.

2.4 As reported to the Board in January 2018 and September 2018, GM LEP was largely compliant with the recommendations of both the Mary Ney Review and Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnership. Greater Manchester therefore already meets the majority of the requirements within the guidance, particularly on accountability, transparency and decision making.
2.5 However, there are a number of new requirements that have been incorporated into the refreshed framework to ensure GM remains compliant which require Board input. These include:

- **GM SPAF**: The LEP Board to approve the updated GM Single Pot Assurance Framework

- **Board Membership**: The document sets out the updated membership of the LEP following the conclusion of the recent Board membership review. This includes the requirement to appoint both a Deputy Chair and a Diversity Champion. Following discussion with the Chair and feedback from the Board, it is suggested that Lou Cordwell be appointed as Deputy Chair and Vanda Murray as Diversity Champion

- **Gifts, Hospitality and Expenses**: A register of gifts, hospitality and expenses will be established and published online for all LEP Board members to be updated quarterly. In line with the GMCA constitution, this will cover all expenses provided to any private sector member of the Board along with any gifts and hospitality of a cumulative estimated value of at least £100 from a single source. Public sector members maintain their own register as part of their substantive roles as Greater Manchester Leaders

- **Register of Interest**: Each LEP member and GMCA/TfGM Chief Executive must also complete a Register of Interest which is published on the LEP website and refreshed biannually with the deadline for the next iteration being August 2019.

- **Terms of Reference**: The GM LEP Terms of Reference (attached) have been updated to reflect the changes noted above

3. **NEXT STEPS**

3.1 Subject to approval by the Board, the updated Single Pot Assurance Framework with be published on the GM LEP website