

Open

Title:	Audit & Finance Sub-Group Update
Purpose:	To provide feedback from the Audit and Sub Group.
Recommendation:	That Board members note the content of this report and endorse the recommendations of the Audit & Finance Sub Group and note the revised Corporate Risk Register and endorse the updated Assurance and Accountability Statement.

- 1 The Audit and Finance Sub Group met for the first time on the 5th May. The meeting was Chaired by Hiren Gandhi and approved the Terms of Reference of the Group before receiving budget reports, receiving feedback from the annual performance review and LEP Network Peer Review, reviewing the corporate Risk Register and reviewing and updated draft of the Assurance and Accountability Framework following an internal audit inspection from Buckinghamshire County Council minutes from this meeting are attached as **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 2 **Terms of Reference** – The terms of reference were approved by the Sub-Group providing a focus on scrutinising the Buckinghamshire LEP finances to ensure that its business is fully compliant with all legal, audit and financial requirements and in providing an oversight on the corporate risk register and assurance and accountability framework. A copy of the terms of reference are attached as **Appendix 2** to this report.
- 3 **Budget Summary** – The sub-group welcomed the clarity of the financial update and noted the strong financial position of the LEP. Members asked for the basis upon which operational reserves are calculated and for further clarity on contracted income on our balance sheet.
- 4 **Annual Performance Review & LEP Network Peer Review** – The sub-group received feedback on the excellent results of the Annual Performance Review where this LEP were considered outstanding for delivery and good for governance. The relative benefits of the Peer to Peer Review organised by the LEP Network
- 5 **Corporate Risk Register** – The Corporate Risk register had been considered by this board at its February meeting and members had asked that a cumulative risk was added to the register and that the risks were more clearly defined within the covering statements. Both changes were included in the updated register considered by the sub-group. No new risks were added to the register at this time, but four risk ratings had changed all due to the potential impact of the Covid 19 crisis. Sub-group members asked that the changes from the February Board meeting were clearly highlighted and that the register was actively used within day to day operations for the LEP. The revised risk register is attached as **Appendix 3** to this report.
- 6 **Assurance & Accountability Framework** – The Assurance and Accountability Framework has been updated to take into account the new sub-group structure approved by this board at its February meeting and the implications of the local government restructure in Buckinghamshire, the sub-group were happy with the changes being recommended and are recommending that the new version attached as

Appendix 4 in which the amended sections are highlighted in yellow is approved by this Board.

Board members are asked to:

- Note the content of this report and endorse the recommendations of the Audit & Finance Sub Group and note the revised Corporate Risk Register and endorse the updated Assurance and Accountability Statement.