

Extract from National Local Growth Assurance Framework

Scrutiny Arrangements

152. LEPs should agree with their Accountable Body the appropriate scrutiny arrangements to ensure that decisions have the necessary independent and external scrutiny in place.

153. In addition to any agreed internal scrutiny arrangements within the LEP, the LEP should participate in relevant Local Authority scrutiny arrangements to guarantee the effective and appropriate democratic scrutiny of their investment decisions. LEPs should ensure this engagement by either:

- making an open offer to attend Local Authority Scrutiny Committees in their area and attending when requested; this will enable democratic scrutiny to take place when required and enable LEP decision makers to be held to account;
- creating a joint Local Authority Scrutiny Committee, comprised of all Local Authorities from the LEP area, who meet to scrutinise and examine LEP decisions; or

³⁴ The LEP may ask the Accountable Body to perform this function. Where it does not do so, it should consider that some situations will require urgent intervention, for instance if the recipient of funds is likely to be wound up. LEPs should delegate responsibility for recovery in these situations.

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- creating a joint Scrutiny Committee which comprises of all Local Authorities from the LEP area and relevant representatives that can provide scrutiny from a business perspective, who meet to scrutinise and examine LEP decisions.

154. These arrangements should be clearly set out in the LEP Assurance Framework and on the LEP website. An update on these arrangements should be included in the annual performance review statement from the LEP Chief Executive and Chair.

155. LEPs should record publicly their attendance at Local Authority scrutiny committees and ensure that they provide details of the outcome on the LEP website e.g. by publishing or linking to any publicly available reports or minutes resulting from the committee. LEPs should respond positively to requests to share information to ensure that the Committee is in possession of the necessary information to provide robust scrutiny and advice.

156. For further advice on Local Authority Scrutiny arrangements, LEPs should refer to the Department's guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local Authorities and Combined Authorities (forthcoming).³⁵

The Framework published in January 2019, states:

For LEPs, the requirements outlined in this document are mandatory unless they are specified as non-mandatory best practice. Non-mandatory best practice is indicated in text boxes throughout the document. Where the LEP considers that there are exceptional circumstances, this should be discussed with the Department.