



OxLEP's existing assurance framework complies with the national guidance and with the best practice guidance arising from the Mary Ney review.

The guidance on the role of LEP Accountable Body Officer issued by CIPFA for consultation in May 2018 was considered by the Finance & Audit committee.

The change in the level of post from Head of Corporate Services to Director of Corporate Services following the departure of the Head of Corporate Services in May 2018, has had a positive impact on OxLEP's already strong governance arrangements.

I continue to have good and close working relationships with the Chief Executive of OxLEP and meet monthly. I attend the Executive Board meetings, providing regular financial updates and can comment on any of the items presented. In addition, I attend the Finance & Audit Committee, a sub-committee of the Board and where relevant, can bring agenda items.

The Programme Board established last year which includes an officer from the accountable body is working well. This Board has oversight of, and recommends, future programmes to the LEP Board for approval. It oversees and monitors all signed off projects and programmes and these are all be included in the LEP Operating Plan. This Board is a welcome addition to the governance framework.

Please note this is an interim statement for the year ending 31 March 2019

Lorna Baxter

Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer  
Oxfordshire County Council