



The Midlands Engine Partnership Chief Executive should here provide a brief formal assurance statement on the status of governance and transparency. This should include any overview and scrutiny function undertaken by the Accountable Body. This should be sent to Georgia.elms@businessandtrade.gov.uk by 28th February 2024. **(max 500 words)**

In 2023, the Midlands Engine launched a comprehensive three-year business plan. This set out the manner in which the Partnership's collaborative effort enhances the contributions of individual partners to deliver economic growth opportunities for the Midlands. The plan strategically identifies focal areas of concentration and confirms the Partnership's roles of advocacy, convening, and evidencing.

The leadership of the Midlands Engine comprises representatives from diverse organisations across the Midlands, drawn from its constituent membership. An agreed revised governance structure was implemented in 2023, with members of the Executive Board retaining responsibility for steering the partnership's strategic direction, supported by a new Finance Audit and Risk Board. The Finance Audit and Risk Board has been established and assumes oversight of the integrity of the Midlands Engine budget, risk management, audit and governance matters.

The Midlands Engine Partnership Board, inclusive of senior-level representatives from relevant program and reference groups, oversaw development of a partnership-led business plan and monitors progress towards its implementation. This Board ensures cohesive collaboration throughout the Midlands Engine's initiatives and is entrusted with coordinating partners to ensure successful delivery.

Members of the Executive Board and Partnership Board adhere to a Register of Members' Interest and Declarations of Acceptance of the Code of Conduct, based on the Nolan Principles. The Executive Board Members' details are published on the Midlands Engine website.

Annual policy document refreshes align with the spirit of the National Growth Assurance Framework and are available for public access on the Midlands Engine website. Financial updates, risk statements, and progress against grant milestones are systematically disseminated to the Executive Board through comprehensive agenda packs and are also made publicly accessible on the Midlands Engine website.

The Midlands Engine operates within an approved Scheme of Delegation, ensuring that decision-making processes adhere to principles of fairness, accountability, and transparency. Contract opportunities are advertised through the Midlands Engine website, and contracts exceeding £25,000 are published on the Contract Finder portal.

The Midlands Engine secretariat maintains regular engagements, meeting weekly with Staffordshire County Council finance colleagues and monthly with the Deputy s151 Officer as outlined in the accountable body agreement. Weekly meetings with the Department of Business and Trade, along with quarterly reporting, further exemplify the commitment to effective transparent communication and collaboration.

The Midlands Engine's operations undergo regular audits, demonstrating compliance with stringent financial, governance processes, procurement regulations, HR policies, and the Assurance Framework.

Signed:

Date: 12.02.24

Name: Roger Mendonça

Position: Chief Executive, Midlands Engine