1.0 Purpose of the LEP Network

(a) That the LEP Network takes a more proactive and visible position on national matters.

(b) The LEP Network in provides support to LEPs to help them implement the recommendations of the LEP Review.

(c) That the LEP Network takes a lead role on thought leadership, promoting the work of the 38 LEPs and policy development, drawing on sector expertise from across all LEP resources.

(d) That a new board structure is created with representatives from each regional grouping which Chairs should confirm. Diversity and inclusion objectives will be taken into account where possible in the short term and certainly before 2023.

(e) A concerted marketing and communications campaign is launched with key stakeholders.

(f) That the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the LEP Network and the governance processes for the board are reviewed and amended to reflect the revised terms of reference and remit including the process for decision making and how the Board will be accountable to the LEP Network members.

(g) The LEP Network resources and funding are reviewed to ensure that it has what is required for delivering the above. The new CEO will propose a budget to the new LEP Network Board who can approve it if 75% (29) of LEPs agree.

2.0 CLGU has set out its expectations of the LEP Network in the 2019/2020 MoU

2.1 The Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU), with these recommendations expected, has acted and set out the terms of an MoU recently shared with Chairs and CEOs. This positions the LEP Network with a different role and remit from that originally intended. There are also clear messages for all LEPs that all LEP Review actions are mandatory and the Network has been positioned to help LEPs with implementation which is again different from what was considered previously. This has implication for resourcing and an acceptance from all LEPs of this important shift.

The MoU establishes Government's expectations of the LEP Network in supporting LEPs to engage with Government policy and act collectively. The key elements of the MOU are below:

(a) **Quarterly Review Mechanism**: The LEP Network and officials from the Cities and Local Growth Unit will engage in a quarterly review mechanism;

(b) **Strategy & Policy**: The LEP Network will support LEPs to drive growth and productivity by supporting the development of an evidence base of 'what works' in meeting LEP objectives and enabling LEPs to draw on best practice in the sector. There will be particular focus on Brexit, Local Industrial Strategies and planning for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund;

(c) **Capability and Performance**: The LEP Network will provide support and challenge to LEPs on capability and performance to include peer reviews;

(d) **Governance**: The LEP Network will lead work to enhance and improve the standards of governance throughout the sector in line with Strengthening Local Enterprise Partnerships;

(e) **Communications and Stakeholder Engagement**: The LEP Network will seek to represent the sector to business, media, think tanks, academia and government. It will be at the forefront of local economic issues, bringing together relevant stakeholders to advise and lobby government.

3.0   Moving to a Federated Structure

3.1.1   In considering the structure going forward the need to take account of the new supra-regional LEP geographies was recognised and to ensure that any structure worked cohesively with this. The important differentiation between the regional groupings who develop agendas for their respective regions and the national focus for the LEP Network was also respected. It is therefore proposed that the LEP Network adopts a federated structure based on supra-regional geographies with proportional representation being sought from each of these geographies, in line with the number of constituent LEPs within each of these as set out below and which should be confirmed by Chairs:

Supra Regional Geography	LEPs represented
Northern Powerhouse 11	Cheshire and Warrington; Cumbria; Humber; Lancashire; Leeds City Region; Liverpool City Region; Greater Manchester; North East; Sheffield City Region; Tees Valley; York & North Yorkshire.
West Midlands	Black Country; Coventry and Warwickshire; Greater Birmingham & Solihull; Stoke-on-Trent & Staffordshire; The Marches; Worcestershire.
East Midlands	Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (D2N2); Greater Lincolnshire; Leicester & Leicestershire.
Catalyst South	Coast to Capital; Enterprise M3; Hertfordshire; Solent; South East; Thames Valley Berkshire.
Ox-Cam Arc	Buckinghamshire; Cambridgeshire & Peterborough; New Anglia; Oxfordshire; South East Midlands.
London	London Economic Action Partnership (LEAP)
Western Gateway	GFirst; West of England; Swindon & Wiltshire.
Great South West	Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly; Dorset; Heart of the South West.