

Report of the Leader and Cabinet – Items for Decision

Cabinet Member: Mr D Fothergill – Leader of the Council

Division and Local Member: All

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1. Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out the Leader's and Cabinet's recommendations to Council arising from their consideration of reports at the Cabinet meeting on 15 November 2017.

Since August 2015, Devon and Somerset County Councils, all Somerset and Devon Districts, Torbay Council, Plymouth City Council, Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the three Clinical Commissioning Groups have worked in partnership to progress towards securing a devolution deal for the HotSW area focusing on delivering improved productivity. The partnership has continued to progress its objectives in spite of policy shifts at a national level.

The attached Heart of the South West (HotSW) Joint Committee proposals (see Annex A and its appendices) were endorsed by the Cabinet at their meeting on 15 November. This report brings forward for consideration the formal proposal for the establishment of a Heart of the SW (HotSW) Joint Committee from January 2018. The report details a list of recommendations for the decisions necessary to establish the Joint Committee. This follows the Council's decision on 16th February 2017 to give 'in principle' approval to the establishment of the Joint Committee, subject to approving the Joint Committee's constitutional arrangements and an inter-authority agreement necessary to support the Joint Committee.

Without a Joint Committee in place, the HotSW area will continue to struggle to position itself to be able to take advantage of Government policy initiatives and new funding opportunities compared to those areas that have and are establishing formal strategic partnerships.

The proposed date of establishment of 22nd January 2018 reflects the timetable of decisions to be taken by the Constituent Authorities and if agreed will allow the Joint Committee to have its first formal meeting on 26th January 2018.

The attached mid-Year Treasury Management report 2017-18 at Annex B was endorsed by the Cabinet. The mid-year report is presented annually to the County Council's November meeting.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Heart of the South West Joint Committee – see the attached report and appendices (set out in Annex A) that Cabinet considered and approved at its meeting on 15 November 2017. Following Cabinet's endorsement the Council is recommended to:

- 1. Approve the recommendation of the HotSW Leaders (meeting as a shadow Joint Committee) to form a Joint Committee for the Heart of the South West;**
- 2. Approve the Arrangements and Inter-Authority Agreement documents set out in appendices A and B of the attached report for the establishment of the Joint Committee with the commencement date of Monday 22nd January 2018;**
- 3. Appoint the Council's Leader - Cllr D Fothergill - and the Deputy Leader - Cllr David Hall - as the Council's named representative and substitute named representative on the Joint Committee;**
- 4. Appoint Somerset County Council as the Administering Authority for the Joint Committee for a 2 year period commencing 22nd January 2018;**
- 5. Approve the transfer of the remaining joint devolution budget to meet the support costs of the Joint Committee for the remainder of 2017/18 financial year subject to approval of any expenditure by the Administering Authority;**
- 6. Approve an initial contribution of £10,500 for 2018/19 to fund the administration and the work programme of the Joint Committee, noting that any expenditure will be subject to the approval of the Administering Authority;**
- 7. Agree that the key function of the Joint Committee is to approve the Productivity Strategy (it is intended to bring the Strategy to the Joint Committee for approval by February 2018);**
- 8. Authorise the initial work programme of the Joint Committee aimed at the successful delivery of the Productivity Strategy;**
- 9. Agree the proposed meeting arrangements for the Joint Committee including the timetable of meetings for the Joint Committee as proposed in para 2.14. of the attached report**

2.2 Treasury Management mid-year report 2017-18 - see the attached report (at Annex B) that Cabinet considered and approved at its meeting on 15 November 2017. Following Cabinet's endorsement the Council is recommended :

To endorse the Treasury Management Mid-Year Report for 2017-18.

3. Options considered and consultation undertaken

3.1 Options considered and details of consultation undertaken in respect of the recommendations set out above are set out in the attached reports and their appendices.

4. Implications

- 4.1** Financial, legal, Human Resources, equalities, human rights and risk implications in respect of the recommendations set out in this report are detailed within the attached reports and their appendices.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1** These are set out within the attached reports and their appendices.