

HoftSW Joint Committee

Meeting date – Friday 5th October 2018

HOTSW JOINT COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE UPDATE

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1. Summary

1.1. This report:

- (a) Proposes a review of the Joint Committee's role and functions in the light of the outcomes of the Government's review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) and the announcement that HotSW has been prioritised by the Government in Wave 2 of developing Local Industrial Strategies (LIS)
- (b) In advance of the review outcomes proposed in (a) above, proposes that the Joint Committee recommends the constituent authorities to delegate authority to the Joint Committee to develop and agree their contribution to the development and approval of the HotSW LIS (noting that the final approval of the HotSW LIS rests with the LEP and the Government).
- (c) Proposes that the Joint Committee submits a formal update report to the constituent authorities updating them on the Committee's work over the last 6 months and to include the Joint Committee's Budget and Cost Sharing Agreement for formal approval.

2. Recommendations

2.1. The Joint Committee is recommended to:

- (a) **Approve the proposal to review its role and functions as proposed in paragraph 1.1(a)**
- (b) **Agree to recommend that the constituent authorities delegate authority to the Joint Committee to agree their contribution to the development and approval of the HotSW LIS as proposed in 1.1(b) above.**
- (c) **Agree to the proposal that the Programme Management Office prepares and submits an update report to the constituent authorities on the work of the Joint Committee as detailed in 1.1(c) above.**

3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1** The recent Government's announcements in relation to LEPs and the development of Local Industrial Strategies will impact on the role of the Joint Committee and its relationship with the LEP. An assessment of this impact is proposed which will lead to a report being brought back to the Joint Committee recommending changes to its role and function working alongside the HotSW LEP. This work will also include a review of the management arrangements supporting the work of the Joint Committee and the LEP where changes are required to strengthen and rationalise the current arrangements.
- 3.2** In advance of the review detailed in 3.1 above, the placing of the HotSW area in wave 2 of LIS development means an urgent need for the local authorities to contribute to the development and approval of the HotSW LIS and on a tight timescale. The timetable proposed for the development of the HotSW LIS is for the Strategy to be approved by June 2019. The lead role for the development and approval of the HotSW LIS rests with the LEP but the Joint Committee and its constituent authorities are key stakeholders in its development and approval. It is also important that the LIS is closely linked to and a natural development of the Productivity Strategy already agreed by the Joint Committee and the LEP. It is therefore proposed that the Joint Committee is well placed to contribute to the development of the HotSW LIS on behalf of the constituent authorities and working in collaboration with the LEP, hence the recommendation at 2.1(b).
- 3.3** The proposal for an update report to the constituent authorities is considered to be timely given the achievements of the Joint Committee over the first six months of its existence. This includes the approval of the Productivity Strategy and at today's meeting the first phase of the Delivery Plan. The Committee's key influencing role at Government level working alongside the LEP is also apparent following the priority afforded to the HotSW area in the LIS announcement. Although newsletters have been issued to all councils following each Joint Committee meeting, no formal update report has been issued to the councils since the Committee was established, hence the recommendation at 2.1(c).
- 3.4** At the last Joint Committee meeting, members approved the Committee's Budget and Cost Sharing Agreement for submission to the Councils for approval following consideration and sign off by all Section 151 Officers of the constituent authorities. This sign off is complete and therefore it is proposed that the Budget and Cost Sharing Agreement should be recommended for approval as part of the update report.

4. Background

4.1 Review of the role and functions of the Joint Committee

- 4.1.1** The report attached as the ANNEX to this report (paper 9a) sets out the proposed scope for the review of the role and function of the Joint Committee. This piece of work is considered necessary because of the impact of the Government's review of LEPs which will impact on the complementary roles of the Joint Committee and the LEP. The Appendix is self-explanatory.

4.1.2 The review is a significant piece of work with an expected timeline of a concluding report and recommendations to the Joint Committee in January 2019.

4.2 The role of the Joint Committee in the development and approval of the HotSW LIS

4.2.1 In advance of that review proposed under 4.1 above, the LEP has started to receive information from the Government on the development of the HotSW LIS and leading to its approval by the LEP and the Government by June 2019. This is elsewhere on your agenda for the information of the Committee. As already stated, although the lead role for the development of the LIS rests with the LEP, the Joint Committee will have a key role in its development and approval. Currently, the LIS does not feature in the list of functions agreed for the Joint Committee by the constituent authorities. It makes sense in the circumstances for the constituent authorities to be asked to formally delegate responsibility for the development and approval of the LIS to the Joint Committee on their behalf. This role will then be further detailed and refined in the wider review detailed in 4.1.1.

5. Equalities Implications

5.1 There are no equalities implications associated with the recommendations.

6. Other Implications

6.1 Legal:

The review of the role and functions of the Joint Committee will be considered in the light of the legal framework within which the Joint Committee operates.

6.2 Financial:

As stated the Budget and Cost Sharing Agreement will be recommended for approval to the constituent authorities as part of the proposed update report.

6.3 HR

No implications.

6.4 Risk

There are no specific risks associated with the report's recommendations.

6.5 Health and Well-being

No implications.

6.6 Health and Safety

No implications.

6.7 Sustainability

No implications.

6.8 Community Safety

No implications.

6.9 Privacy

No implications.

7. Background papers

7.1 None

Note: For sight of individual background papers please contact the report author.