

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Heart of the South West (HotSW) Joint Committee,
Annual General Meeting (Virtual) 12pm on Friday 26 June 2020.**

Attendance

Members:

Cllr John Hart	Leader - Devon County Council
Cllr David Fothergill	Leader - Somerset County Council
Cllr Tudor Evans	Leader - Plymouth City Council
Cllr Steve Darling	Leader - Torbay Council
Cllr Philip Bialyk	Leader - Exeter City Council
Cllr David Worden	Leader - North Devon District Council
Cllr Judy Pearce	Leader - South Hams District Council
Cllr Ken James	Leader - Torridge District Council
Cllr Claire Hodson	Deputy Leader - Torridge District Council
Cllr Neil Jory	Leader - West Devon Borough Council
Cllr Ros Wyke	Leader - Mendip District Council
Cllr Gill Slocombe	Deputy Leader - Sedgemoor District Council
Cllr Frederica Smith - Roberts	Leader - Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Val Keitch	Leader - South Somerset District Council
Cllr Swithin Long	Cabinet Member for Economic Regeneration, Tourism and Housing, Torbay Council
Cllr Paul Arnott	Leader, East Devon District Council
Cllr Marcus Kravis	Somerset West and Taunton Council
Cllr Andrea Davis	Deputy Chairman, Exmoor National Park Authority
Cllr Liz Leyshon	Somerset County Council
Cllr Liz Brookes-Hocking	Devon/Somerset Associations of Local Councils

Officers/Local Enterprise Partnership etc:

Phil Norrey	Chief Executive - Devon County Council
Sue Rose	Policy Lead - Devon County Council
Scott Wooldridge	Monitoring Officer - Somerset County Council
Andrew Randall	Clerk to the Joint Committee - Somerset County Council
Carol James	PA to Chair of Council – Somerset County Council
Tracey Lee	Chief Executive - Plymouth City Council and Senior Responsible Officer, Heart of the South West Partnership
Alison Ward	Regional Portfolio Manager - Plymouth City Council
Steve Parrock	Chief Executive - Torbay Council
Mark Williams	Chief Executive - East Devon District Council

Karime Hassan	Chief Executive - Exeter City Council
Stephen Walford	Chief Executive - Mid Devon District Council
Ken Miles	Chief Executive - North Devon Council
Sophie Hosking	Chief Executive - South Hams and West Devon Councils
Steve Mullineaux	Deputy Chief Executive - South Hams and West Devon Councils
Phil Shears	Chief Executive - Teignbridge District Council
Pat Flaherty	Chief Executive – Somerset County Council
James Hassett	Chief Executive - Somerset West and Taunton Council
Alex Parmley	Chief Executive - South Somerset District Council
Karl Tucker	Chair - Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
David Ralph	Chief Executive - Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership
Eifion Jones	Local Enterprise Partnership
Stuart Brown	Chief Executive, Mendip District Council
Andy Bates	Chief Executive
Michael Tichford	Head of Place, North Devon Council
Stuart Houlet	Sedgemoor District Council
Steve Hearse	Strategy Manager (Resources) Torridge
Becky Miles	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)
Suzanne Bond	Cities & Local Growth, BEIS
Elizabeth Spence	BEIS

1. Apologies for absence

Benet Allen, Andrew Cooper, Ian Collinson, Alistair Dewhirst, Gordon Hook, Cara Stobbart, Pamela Woods.

2. Election of Chairman

On the motion of Cllr R Wyke, seconded by Cllr P Arnott, Cllr V Keitch was nominated for the election of Chair for the HotSW Joint Committee. Cllr Fothergill indicated that he did not intend to stand against another somerset candidate for election. Cllr Keitch was elected to the role of Chair of the Joint Committee by the majority of members whom voted.

3. Appointment of Vice-Chair

On the motion of Cllr J Evans, seconded by Cllr A Davies, Cllr T Evans was nominated again for the role of Vice-Chair for the HotSW Joint Committee. No other candidates were proposed and consequently Cllr T Evans was appointed to the role of Vice-Chair of the Committee by majority vote.

4. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest.

5. Minutes of 31 January 2020

The Minutes of the HotSW Joint Committee meeting held on 31 January 2020 were confirmed and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

6. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

7. HotSW Pipeline Submission to MHCLG

David Ralph, CEO of HotSW LEP, reported on an action from the previous HotSW meeting; LEP annual performance review has now been completed, results as detailed; delivery – good, governance – good, strategy – met. This has now triggered the core funding due to be received from the Government for the running of LEP and Capital Growth fund Programme; received 2/3 in advance, with 1/3 will be subject to a review of the projects being completed by the end of the financial year, process ongoing and will report back at the next meeting.

David Ralph reported on the Government letter received from the Secretary of State 10 June, outlining a desire to submit a programme of shovel ready projects. All Leaders informed 11 June, setting out a framework, with lead Officers from Devon, Torbay, Plymouth and Somerset bringing the project together, appraised by panel the submissions used 3 criteria:

- Delivery by 2022
- Value for money and inclusivity, which means area / sectors hardest hit by Covid 19 and demonstrating commitment to inclusive growth
- Strategic fit which is compliance with the governments criteria

The recommendations discussed by Chair of LEP and Chair of Investment panel in consultation with the Section 151 Officer from the Administering Authority, included 60 projects totalling £121M submitted. Circulation of the list of projects has been made

to all HotSW members and a summary has been published (a redacted summary due to be published). Government indication is for a response within the next few weeks.

6 Draft HotSW Covid 19 Economic Recovery Plan

Tracy Lee, CEO Plymouth City Council, commented on a draft of the recovery plan - build back better; focussing on next steps of the route map of recovery; significant impact on the economy will take time to recover; essential response phase, working closely with the local resilience forum (LRF) partners; recovery - local councils will take leading roles to develop plans to reset restart recovery; four plans for the economy recovery: Team Devon, Torbay Plymouth and Somerset, recognising that all have different issues; looking at the wider geographical footprint to include the Great South West and South West Councils, look to dovetail and build a narrative across the wide South West area for business survival and recovery.

David Ralph reported on the route map to recovery document, previously circulated; LEP response group shared analysis with HEROG; Growth Hub has worked well and is grateful for all of the support delivering the grants of £450m; Growth Hub currently not overwhelmed and is working in tandem with local recovery plans; short term challenges around jobs, underpinning productivity and building a resilient economy, main points:

- work on economy impact analysis with robust scenario planning
- develop longer term pipeline, present a solid plan to Government to enable funding.
- develop support for hardest hit sectors i.e. tourism, cultural, aerospace, Work with the hardest hit sectors.

Tracey Lee requested the below be considered for agreement from HotSW.

Asks of Government:

- 1 unlocking existing funds to support immediate investment into our area - as a series of 'quick wins'.
- 2 Committing to the delivery of nationally significant infrastructure.
- 3 Facilitating a local COVID-19 recovery fund.
- 4 Aligning national skills funding and activity with local priorities.
- 5 Greater furlough flexibilities for the hardest hit sectors.
- 6 Working to secure a SW Rural Productivity Plan and Coastal Communities Plan.
- 7 Publication of the area's Local Industrial Strategy.
- 8 Recognising the Great South West.

Additional ask -

9 Council should be allowed to retain **all business grants funding** and use with maximum flexibility for local priorities.

Proposed - Vice Chair, T Evans proposed to endorse the submission to Government detailing the 9 points and this was seconded by Cllr D Worden

Consensus received by HotSW Joint Committee.

6.1 RESOLVED: asks of Government agreed by the HotSW Joint Committee.

7. Date of Next Meeting

Noon on Friday 9 October 2020.

8. Any of Business

The Chair HotSW, Cllr V Keitch thanked all for their support in her election to the role of Chair.

Cllr D Fothergill, thanked all members for their support over the last 3 years and looked forward to continuing to work with them. In addition, showed appreciation and thanked Tracey Lee, David Ralph and all Officers for the support, congratulated all on the work achieved.

(The meeting ended at 12.53pm)

CHAIRMAN