

Minutes of a Meeting of the HotSW Joint Committee

24th June 2022; 11:30am; Deane House, Taunton

Attendance

Voting Members: , Cllr Val Keitch (Chair), Cllr Federica Smith-Roberts, Cllr Liz Leyshon, Cllr Neil Jory, Cllr Bob Deed, Cllr Heather Shearer, Cllr Paul Arnott, Cllr Rufus Gilbert, Andrew Cooper

Officers/Local Enterprise Partnership: Phil Shears, Stephen Walford, Karl Tucker, Tracey Lee, Phil Norrey, David Ralph, Pat Flaherty, Scott Wooldridge

1. Election of Chair

Having been nominated and seconded, Cllr Val Keitch was duly elected as Chair of the Joint Committee.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Having been nominated and seconded, Cllr Neil Jory was duly appointed as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Neil Jory declared that his employment in Okehampton had business contracts associated with HotSW.

4. Minutes of the October 2021 Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in October 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

5. Membership and Meeting Dates for 2022/23

The following membership changes were made since the previous meeting:

- Cllr Bill Revans replaced Cllr David Fothergill as Leader of Somerset County Council
- Cllr Richard Bingley replaced Cllr Nick Kelly as Leader of Plymouth City Council

Scott Wooldridge, the Monitoring Officer for Somerset County Council stated that, after discussions with Devon County Council, he recommended switching the meeting cycle to two meetings per year; he therefore suggested cancelling the meeting on 30th September and moving it to 2nd December to ensure a 6-month gap between

meetings. Regarding requests to hold the meetings virtually, the Monitoring Officer reminded the Committee that the AGM in June 2023 could not be held virtually as this would prevent the committee members from voting legally within the meeting. However, informal meetings could take place online in between the formal meetings to ensure the committee members kept in touch. LEP representatives raised concerns that, as Somerset County Council would be a unitary authority in June 2023, the governance review would have to take place in the coming December. The Chair indicated her intention to hold an informal online meeting on 30th September to bring the committee members together before December.

6. HotSW Budget Outturn 2021 and Proposals for 2022/23

The Committee received the report by Scott Wooldridge, the Monitoring Officer for Somerset County Council.

The Monitoring Office outlined the report, which provided an update on the outturn of the Joint Committee's pooled budget for 2021/22 and the proposals for the 2022/23 budget. The report evaluated the Committee's allocations of funding, its arrangements for administrative support, and the proposed funding commitments for the future. Attention was drawn in particular to 4.4.1, which emphasised the Committee's reliance on its Constituent Authorities in providing the funds required.

Following consideration of the officer report and presentation the Joint Committee:

- a) received the outturn for 2021/22 and noted the residual budget available for 2022/23 (see section 4.4)**
- b) agreed to extend Somerset County Council's role as the Administering Authority until the next Annual General Meeting in June 2023 (see 4.5.4);
and**
- c) endorsed the revised draft 2021/22 Budget (see section 4.5)**

7. Any Other Business

No other business was raised.