Minutes of a Meeting of the Local Government Reorganisation Implementation Board held 2.00 pm, Tuesday 27th September 2022

Luttrell Room, County Hall, Taunton

PRESENT

Cllr V Keitch – Lead Member for LGR and Prosperity, Somerset County Council (in the Chair)

Present

Cllr J Clark – South Somerset District Council
Cllr L Leyshon – Deputy Leader, Lead Member for Finance and Human Resources – Somerset County Council
Cllr B Revans – Leader, Somerset County Council
Cllr R Wyke – Lead Member for Development and Assets, Somerset County Council
Cllr S Wakefield (substitute) – Somerset West and Taunton
Cllr D Fothergill – Somerset County Council
Cllr F Purbrick – Somerset County Council
Cllr F Smith-Roberts – Lead Member for Communities, Somerset County Council

Other Members present – virtual

Cllr A Dingwall – Somerset County Council
Cllr A Kendall – Somerset County Council, Yeovil Town Council
Cllr T Lock – Somerset County Council, Yeovil Town Council
Cllr M Lovell – Somerset County Council, Shepton Mallet Town Council
Cllr S Osborne – Somerset County Council, Ilminster Town Council
Cllr J Roundell Greene – Somerset County Council
Cllr Bob Filmer- Somerset County Council
Cllr Mandy Chilcott- Somerset County Council
Cllr Norman Cavill- Somerset County Council
Cllr Frances Nicholson- Somerset County Council
Cllr John Hunt- Somerset County Council
Cllr Woodman-Cook- Somerset County Council
Cllr Helen Kay- Somerset County Council
Cllr Peter Clayton- Somerset County Council, Sedgemoor District Council and Burnham- on- Sea and Highbridge Town Council.
Cllr Peter Seib- Somerset County Council
Cllr Theo Butt Phillips-- Somerset County Council
Cllr Mike Stanton- Somerset County Council

Cllr Diogo Rodrigues- Somerset County Council

Cllr Lucy Trimnell-- Somerset County Council

Cllr Tony Grimes- Somerset County Council

Cllr Tessa Munt- Somerset County Council

Cllr Mike Murphy- Somerset County Council

1 Apologies

Cllr D McGinty – Leader, Sedgemoor District Council

2 Declarations of Interest – Agenda item 2

Declarations of interest – none.

3 Minutes from the last meeting – Agenda item 3

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th July 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Public Question Time (PQT) – Agenda item 4

The Chair informed the LGR Implementation Board that no public representations had been received by the submission deadline.

5 Programme Update- Agenda item 5

The Chair of the LGR Implementation Board, Cllr Val Keitch, invited the LGR Programme Director, Alyn Jones, to present the presentation.

The LGR Programme Director, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, proceeded to present the report, highlighting; the overall programme status of Amber, Product delivery and the resourcing remains a challenge. The following matters were covered:

- Programme update including the progress update
- PwC Assurance Report
- PwC Monthly
- Community Governance Review Progress Update

Director of PwC public practice Erica Ballmann and Ian Evans with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation proceeded to present the report highlighting; The

key products of the MTFP, Activity Analysis and LGR workstreams with the development of the TOM (Target Operating Model) through a series of interim states to provide the programme with a clear steer and direction in the coming months and years (beyond Vesting Day). A holistic review of these changes should take place at Programme Board level to ensure the full impact is acknowledged and interdependencies identified and mitigated against. There is an ever-increasing risk around capacity and capability of sub-workstream leads to deliver their products to meet key milestones.

The LGR Implementation Board proceeded to debate the report and invited comments from members and other members present, points raised included; Clarification in the proposed next step in regards to a clear sense of leadership and decisions and problems being solved. The ongoing issues with TOM and the Delays around tier 2 and 3. The milestone plan the board has not seen any in the last few meetings. The target operating model is still to be defined and would not be defined until the new Chief Executive started; at that point the recruitment will start for the appointments of Tier 2 and Tier 3 would this be through an open recruitment process and will the positions be filled by November Full Council meeting. If a judicial review is brought against Taunton Town Council will this stop the process.

The Director of PwC public practice acknowledge that it is a statement that is made of a programme of this size and its about having a forward plan for decision to be made and considered by the programme board. The advice is to make sure the operating model is in place as soon as possible as this will inform where resources go and type of organisation that members would like and outcomes to drive for the residents of somerset.

The Chair of the LGR Implementation Board, Cllr Val Keitch, in response to points raised, acknowledged and shared the concerns and would like a forward plan from the programme team in the future.

The LGR Programme Director responded to the points raised, the report for PwC is a retrospective look and the operating model is critical to the delivery of the authority. The programme has developed the timeline associated with the operating model and discussed with executive in order to progress and ensure the support and will be scheduled to come back to the board to deliver the business case. A forward plan does exist and reviewed weekly and will share at future meetings. Organisational change procedures and those policies are going through HR committee in October setting out the principle of those appointments. Tier 2 will be made by Christmas delays in the process of the new Chief Executive to understand his views on the structure. The matter on

Taunton Town Council will be taken away and considered of what implication of that would be and discuss with colleagues at Somerset West and Taunton District Council.

The LGR Programme Director commented that he noted the formal forward plan, rolling plan and programme plan to be presented to each meeting on the LGR Implementation Board in the future.

that the LGR implementation Board RESOLVED:

To review and note the scorecard.

To review the contents of the report

5   **Risk Update** - Agenda item 6

The Chair of the LGR Implementation Board, Cllr Val Keitch, welcomed

The LGR Risk Manager Angela Farmer introduced the report, highlighting; 19 Programme level risks two most recent agreement not reached with trade unions on pay scale and overspend on the LGR Implementation budget. The LGR Joint Scrutiny committee raised concerned about how risk was scrutinised, the overall conclusion of the committee was that three risks were to be looked at in greater depth including Risk 10 the budget cap, Risk 11 the insufficient people resources and risk 12 loss of staff.

The LGR Implementation Board proceeded to debate the report and invited comments from other members present, points raised included: the diagram in the risk register to include arrows to determine in the changes to understand if the risks are getting better or worse. Concerns about the residual score is close to the inherent score; the language used in risk 11 and 12 in terms of risk to people talking about resources delivering the program. Risk 12 wording should be around essential to service delivery. A further risk to be added JR relating to the delivery of the Taunton Town Council as part of this project.

The LGR Risk Manager responded to points raised, noting that direction of travel indicator will is going to programme board this week agreement to be added. From a risk perspective, SCC have worked together with PwC to align assurance and risk and some work to continue. In respect to the people risk the wording may be changed this presentation is also going to scrutiny and will gather their comments.

The LGR Programme Director responded to the points raised about challenge on the risk wording, a sufficient gap between program level risk and general business as usual level risks. The validation of the work in terms of change management processes need to be carried out and the work developing in the

background led by the people workstream. The need to validate and to make sure it's fit for purpose the scorecard referred to Business readiness being established to achieve. Highlighting the steps to be taken to ensure on day one of the new council is ready. The program strategy was always to develop our tranche three work in and around October.

that the LGR implementation Board RESOLVED:

To note the current programme level risks and the changes that have taken place since the last report.

To note that programme level risks have been presented to LGR Joint Scrutiny committee on the 19th of August and the overview from that committee

7   Local Community Networks: update and items for Board review - Agenda item 8

The Chair of the LGR Implementation Board, Cllr Val Keitch, invited LGR Workstream Lead for Customers and Partnerships, Jan Stafford, to present the report

LGR Workstream Lead for Customers and Partnerships, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, proceeded to present the report, highlighting on the LCN and progress to date, which included a breakdown of the consultation questions for the Committee to provide feedback. The LCN journey to date; the timetable, milestones and phasing of LCN development, implementation and delivery including the consultation of launch and support. The feedback responses from individual, partners and stakeholders. The three aspect of consultation Function including roles and responsibilities, form including development of options for LCN boundaries, participation are the barriers and the name.

The aim of the LCN's were presented of what the questions were asked as part of the consultation to gathering feedback and options from the board including boundary proposal, Proposal A, Proposal B and Proposal C.

The LGR Implementation Board proceeded to debate the report and invited comments from other members present, points raised included: Local physical space in each of the Local Communities. The parameters and community facilities are part of the mapping; the population and travel to work areas were taken into account in preparing the options a response was given via the email address provided; Town and Parish conferences start next week and would ask all to attend for an opportunity to hear more about the LCN's; the figures around population to look at urban areas differently to the rural areas;

Comments around the boundary to proposal and explaining to parishes that they are proposals not changes; MTFP positions and affordable approach due to factors national that is out of SCC control; the balancing of the budget to ensure the right communities are set up form the beginning; The savings in the budget will not be realised in the first year of unitary; the geographics in the rural areas and no public transport to keep locally to allow more attendance; Reaching out to the communities for the engagement and being proactive in creating an inclusive public meeting; hybrid meetings in the future and the LCN's being vibrant and subjects that residents can make a difference; the potential of LCN's overlapping with Town and Parish Councils and how different the responsibilities will be. Local can be misleading in the name and the board debated the different meaning in the words.

The LGR Programme Director responded to the points raised about the parameters and community facilities that the data team have a comprehensive report and will be shared with the board. Proposal B distributes the population size evenly. Testing through piloting and talking to residents and using live experiences is important to people.

The Chair of the LGR Implementation Board, Cllr Val Keitch, in response to points raised, acknowledged about engaging and including everyone and being inclusive with delivering the LCN's

RESOLVED

That following consideration of the officer report, appendices, PowerPoint presentation and discussion, the LGR Implementation Board:

8   Exclusion of Press and Public

The Chair of the LGR Implementation Board, Cllr Val Keitch, invited the LGR Board to consider passing a resolution having been duly proposed and seconded and the board resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information.

8   Confidential item New Council Branding

The SCC LGR Communications Lead Officer, Chris Palmer, gave a presentation on the branding for the New Council.

Discussion was had on the work that had been carried out on the branding and councillors thanked officers for the work.

11 AOB – agenda item 12

(The meeting ended at 4.51pm)

Chair