



Committee and Date

West Mercia Energy Joint
Committee

26th September 2016

WEST MERCIA ENERGY JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2016

**In the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2
6ND**

10.00 - 11.05 am

Responsible Officer: Emily Marshall

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Present

Councillors Michael Wood, Price (Vice Chairman), Arnold England, Smith and Blagg (Vice-Chairman (Worcestershire))

1 Election of Chairman

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Price (Herefordshire) be elected Chairman of the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee for the ensuing year.

2 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED:

That Councillor A Blagg (Worcestershire) be appointed Vice-Chairman of the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee for the ensuing year.

3 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lee Carter (Telford & Wrekin), Steve Charmley (Shropshire) and Graham Powell (Herefordshire).

4 Named Substitutes

There were no substitutes in attendance.

5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members were reminded that they must not participate in the discussion or voting on any matter in which they had a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and should leave the room prior to the commencement of the debate.

6 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee held on 28th September 2015 be approved as a correct record.

7 Supplier Contracts

In accordance with Standing Orders, Mr N. Evans, Director of West Mercia Energy provided a update on Supplier Contracts.

The Director reported that there were no entries to make the Joint Committee aware of on this occasion.

RESOLVED:

That the update on supplier contracts by the Director of West Mercia Energy be noted.

8 External Audit - Annual audit letter 14/15

The Chairman introduced Mr Richard Percival and Mr James McLarnon of Grant Thornton to the Joint Committee. Mr Richard Percival (External Auditor – Grant Thornton) presented the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee Annual Audit Letter 2014/15 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Mr Percival explained that there was only one recommendation that had been identified during the 2014/15 Audit and this had arisen from the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 which no longer included a statutory obligation to have an external audit. Mr Percival added that he was pleased to report that Grant Thornton had been approached to continue with the external audit process to ensure a level of independent assurance.

RESOLVED:

That the External Audit Annual Audit Letter 2014/15 be endorsed.

9 External Audit - Audit Plan 2015/16

Mr Richard Percival (Grant Thornton) introduced the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee External Audit Plan 2015/16 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

Mr Nigel Evans (Director) reported that in late 2016 Shropshire Council would undertake a procurement exercise to appoint auditors from 1st April 2017 and it was expected that the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee would form part of this exercise.

The reduction in the audit fee reflected the fact that there was no longer a requirement to undertake a value for money exercise.

Mr Richard Percival proceeded to outline the key points and dates contained within the Audit Plan.

Councillor Price asked for clarification of the table on page 28 "Our Communication Plan". In response Mr Percival explained that the table showed where issues would be reported, but it was not anticipated that there would be anything to report.

RESOLVED:

That the External Audit Plan 2015/16 be endorsed.

10 External Audit - Informing the Audit Risk 2015/16

Mr Richard Percival (Grant Thornton) presented the Informing the Audit Risk 2015/16 (copy attached to the signed minutes). Mr Percival reported that there were no issues to raise and that they were happy with the management response.

RESOLVED:

That the External Audit Informing the Audit Risk 2015/16 be noted and the management responses contained within the report are consistent with the understanding of the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee with no further comments to make.

11 Internal Audit - Performance Reports To February 2016

The Audit Services Manager presented the Internal Audit Performance Report to February 2016 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the performance to date against the 2015/16 Audit Plan be endorsed.

12 Internal Audit - Audit Plan 2016/17

The Audit Services Manager presented the Internal Audit, Audit Plan 2016/17 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed programme of audits for 2016/17 be endorsed.

13 Governance Update

The Director of West Mercia Energy introduced the Governance Update report (copy attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

1. That the work conducted to date and the requirement for the existing governance documents to be updated be noted; and
2. The Director of West Mercia Energy be authorised to undertake further work, in conjunction with the Monitoring Officers of the Member Authorities, to review and revise the existing governance documents where required in order to bring any revised documents to the September 2016 Joint Committee for approval.

14 Flexible Energy Management Panel - Terms of Reference

The Director of West Mercia Energy introduced the report which outlined the updated terms of reference for the Flexible Energy Management Panel.

A Member questioned whether there should be an elected member representative on the Panel and what the arrangements were for the Advisory Panel feeding back to the Joint Committee. In response, the Director put the Advisory Committee into context and reassured the Joint Committee that the Panel was an advisory panel only and no decisions were made and that systems were in place to report any issues back to Members.

In response to the concerns expressed, the suggestion was put forward that minutes of the Flexible Energy Advisory Panel should be circulated to Joint Committee Members as soon as they were finalised, rather than being sent out with the agenda for the next Joint Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Terms of Reference detailed in paragraph 5.5 be approved; and
2. That the Flexible Energy Management Panel changes its name to the Flexible Energy Advisory Panel.

15 Exclusion of Public and Press

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(A4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they might involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

16 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2015 be approved as a correct record.

17 Trading Performance to Date 2015/16

The Director presented an exempt report (copy attached to the signed exempt minutes), which outlined the current trading performance for 2015/16 and the forecasted full year result for 2015/16.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved.

18 Business Plan and Budget 2016/17

The Director of West Mercia Energy presented an exempt report (copy attached to the signed exempt minutes), which detailed the Business Plan and Trading

Performance to date for 2016/17 together with the current predicted final result for the year.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved.

19 Minutes of the Flexible Energy Management Panel

The Director of West Mercia Energy presented an exempt report (copy attached to the signed exempt minutes), which presented the Minutes of the Flexible Energy Management Panel meetings held on 24th August and 10th November 2015.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved.

20 Risk Management Update

The Director of West Mercia Energy presented the exempt report (copy attached to the signed minutes) which provided an update on Risk Management.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved.

21 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Monday, 26th September at 10.00 a.m. in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury

Signed (Chairman)

Date: