



Committee and Date

West Mercia Energy Joint
Committee

22nd March 2024

WEST MERCIA ENERGY JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023

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

10.30 am - 12.12 pm

Responsible Officer: Emily Marshall

Email: emily.marshall@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257717

Present

Councillors Hardman and Gwilym Butler

51 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lee Carter, Nathan England, Graham Biggs, Peter Stoddart, and Adam Kent.

52 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee held on 21st March 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

53 Public Questions

No public questions had been received.

54 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None declared.

55 Supplier Contracts

The Director confirmed that there were no entries to report.

56 **Statement of Accounts 2022/23 and Annual Governance Statement 2022/23**

Mr J. Walton, Treasurer (WME) presented the Statement of Accounts 2022/23 and the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 for the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee (copy attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

1. That the Letter of Representation to be signed by the Chairman and submitted by the Treasurer be noted.
2. That the finalised Statement of Accounts 2022/23 to be signed by the Chairman and the Treasurer.
3. That the Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 be noted.

57 **External Audit - Audit Findings Report 2022/23**

The Chairman welcomed External Auditor, John Fletcher, W R Partners to the meeting. John Fletcher, introduced the Audit Findings Report 2022/23 and highlighted the key areas of the report. John Fletcher, thanked Nigel Evans and the team at West Mercia Energy for their cooperation and assistance during the audit and confirmed that they had unrestricted access throughout the audit.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the audit findings report presented by WR Partners be considered and endorsed.

58 **Internal Audit - Annual Report 2022/23**

Barry Hanson, Head of Policy and Governance, Internal Audit presented the report which provided a summary of Internal Audit's work for 2022/23. It was confirmed that based on the controls evidenced across all areas examined, the Chief Audit Executives year end opinion on the Company's internal control environment was substantial.

RESOLVED:

That the performance against the Audit Plan for the year ended 31 March 2023 be endorsed.

That it be noted that the system of governance, risk management and internal control operating effectively and can be relied upon when considering the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23.

That the Chief Audit Executive's substantial year end opinion on West Mercia Energy's governance, risk management and internal control environment for 2022/23 based on the work undertaken and management responses received be endorsed.

59 Distribution of Surplus

The Treasurer presented the report which recommended the level of distribution of surplus held on 31 March 2023 to the Member Authorities.

RESOLVED:

That the retention of accumulated surplus of £1.806 million be approved.

That the distribution of accumulated surplus of £1.433 million, in accordance with the provisions of the Joint Agreement be approved.

60 Risk Management Update

Nigel Evans, Director WME, presented the report (copy attached to the signed exempt minutes), which provided an update on risk management.

RESOLVED:

That the medium and high risks presented be endorsed.

61 Exclusion of Press and Public

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.

62 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2023 be approved.

63 Update on Business Plan and Trading Performance to Date 2023/24

Nigel Evans, Director, WME presented an exempt report, providing an update on the Business Plan and Trading Performance to date 2023/24.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained within the exempt report be approved.

64 Use Cleaner Use Less Update

Nigel Evans, Director, WME presented an exempt report, providing an update on the progress of WME in developing suitable support products and services for customers as they looked to achieve their net zero targets.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained within the exempt report be approved.

65 Energy Governance, Accountability, Risk and Reporting Policy

The Director presented an exempt report for approval.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained within the exempt report be approved.

66 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place in March 2023. Date to be confirmed.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: