



Committee and Date

West Mercia Energy Joint
Committee

24th September 2018

WEST MERCIA ENERGY JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2018

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

10.00 - 11.45 am

Responsible Officer: Emily Marshall

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Present

Councillor Adrian Hardman (Chairman)

Councillors Lee Carter, Nic Laurens (Vice-Chairman), Phillip Price and John Smith

1 Election of Chairman

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Adrian Hardman be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Robert Macey (Shropshire), David Harlow (Herefordshire) and Richard Overton (Telford and Wrekin).

3 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Nic Laurens be appointed Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

4 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee held on 25th September 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5 Public Question Time

There were no public questions or petitions received.

6 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.

7 **Supplier Contracts**

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

The Director provided an update on negotiations with e.on the meter operator agreement reporting that it had been cost effective to negotiate with e.on to secure a reduction in costs, which was in accordance with Standing Order 3.2 (3).

The Committee confirmed that they were happy to continue to receive a verbal update on Supplier Contracts rather than a written report.

RESOLVED:

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

8 **External Audit - Audit Plan 2017/2018**

Mr Richard Percival (External Auditor – Grant Thornton) presented the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee Audit Plan 2017/18 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the Audit Plan 2017/18 be endorsed.

9 **External Audit - Informing the Audit Risk Assessment 2017/2018**

Mr James McLarnon (External Auditor – Grant Thornton) presented the Informing the Audit Risk Assessment 2017/2018 for West Mercia Energy Joint Committee (copy attached to the signed minutes).

In response to questions relating to the pensions liability, the Treasurer reported that he was investigating options to show the pensions liability elsewhere within the accounts. The Joint Committee were informed that there would be a cost of approximately £5 - 10,000 and changes to the Joint Agreement required. The process involved would be to examine the options, consult the actuary and the Section 151 Officers of the owning authorities and report back to the Joint Committee and the Cabinet of each owning authority. The Joint Committee agreed that it was important to fully explore the options available and endorsed the course of action outlined by the Treasurer, with a report back to the Joint Committee in September.

The Director added that although it had not been an issue to date, there was a risk that it could affect the ability to win customers in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the External Audit Informing the Audit Risk 2017/18 be noted and the management responses contained within the report were consistent with the understanding of the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee with no further comments to make.

10 Internal Audit - Performance Reports to February 2018

C. Pilawski, Audit Services Manager introduced Internal Audit Performance Report to February 2018 (copy attached to the signed minutes). The Audit Services Manager was pleased to report that the company had a very strong control environment.

RESOLVED:

That the performance to date against the 2017/18 Audit Plan be endorsed.

11 Internal Audit - Strategic Plan 2018/2019

C. Pilawski, Audit Services Manager introduced Internal Audit Strategic Plan 2018/19 (copy attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed programme of audits for 2018/19 be endorsed.

12 Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2017/2018

The Director of West Mercia Energy presented the Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement Transparency Statement for 2017/18 (copy attached to the signed minutes) for approval.

RESOLVED:

That the West Mercia Energy Transparency Statement for 2017/18 be approved, in accordance with Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and for publication of the Statement.

13 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.

14 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2017 be approved as a correct record.

15 Annual Business Plan and Budget 2018/19 including a Review of 2017/18

The Director presented an exempt report (copy attached to the signed exempt minutes), which provided an update on the West Mercia Energy Annual Business Plan and Budget 2017/18.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained within the exempt report be approved subject to an amendment to recommendation F, to include the requirement to notify the Section 151 Officers, or their representative of each owning authority.

16 Minutes of the Flexible Energy Advisory Panel

The Director presented an exempt report (copy attached to the signed exempt minutes), which presented the minutes of the Flexible Energy Management/Advisory Panel meetings that had been held since the last meeting of the Joint Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained within the exempt report be approved.

17 Risk Management Update

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

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained within the exempt report be approved.

18 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Monday, 24th September 2018 at 10.00 a.m. in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: