

**Committee and Date**

West Mercia Energy Joint
Committee

28th September 2021

WEST MERCIA ENERGY JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2021

VIRTUAL MEETING

10.00 a.m. – 12.52 p.m.

Responsible Officer: Emily Marshall

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

Present

Councillor Rae Evans and Peter Nutting

Councillors Robert Macey, Davies and Harvey

72 Election of Chairman

That Councillor Rae Evans be appointed Chairman for the ensuing year.

73 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carter, Hardman and Smith.

74 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

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

75 Minutes**RESOLVED:**

That the Minutes of the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee held on 29th September 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

76 Public Questions

None received.

77 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

78 Supplier Contracts

The Director of West Mercia Energy reported that there were no new entries in the Supplier Contracts Register since the last meeting.

79 External Audit - Audit Plan 2020/21

The Director introduced, John Fletcher (Partner) and Alex Riley (Audit Manager) from W R Partners. W. R. Partners had recently been appointed as External Auditors responsible for delivering the statutory audit for WME.

Members thanked John and Alex for their informative presentation and commented that they were pleased a procurement exercise had been undertaken and that a local firm had been appointed.

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft audit plan for 2020/21 as presented by WR Partners attached at Appendix 1 be approved.
2. That the commissioning of WR Partners to undertake the audit in accordance with the audit plan be approved.

80 Internal Audit - Performance Reports to March 2021

Ceri Pilawski, Head of Internal Audit presented the report, which outlined the Internal Audit Performance reports to March 2021.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee consider and endorse, with appropriate comment, the performance to date against the 2020/21 Audit Plan as set out in this report.

81 Internal Audit - Strategic Plan 2021/22

Ceri Pilawski, Head of Internal Audit presented the report, which outlined the Internal Audit Strategic Plan 2021/22.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed programme of audits for 2021/22 be endorsed.

82 Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement - 2020-21

The Director of West Mercia Energy presented the Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement Transparency Statement for 2020/21 for approval.

In response to a question relating to whether there had been any issues during the current year with suppliers and monitoring to ensure they were compliant. In response the Director reported that the company had quite a restricted supplier base and suppliers such as Total Gas and Power and smaller suppliers were covered by the procurement process. The rest of the supplier base was with the member authorities and covered by detailed Service Level Agreements that were in place. They were larger companies and organisations who were all required to comply with their own statements.

RESOLVED:

1. That the draft WME Transparency Statement for 2020/21 be approved.
2. That authority be delegated to the Director to finalise the WME Transparency Statement and publish it in accordance with section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

83 Risk Management Update

The Director presented a report which provided a review of the WME Risk Management Strategy.

RESOLVED:

1. That the WME Risk Management Strategy attached at Appendix A be approved;
2. That the position as set out in the report be noted.

84 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.

85 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

86 Annual Business Plan and Budget 2021/22 Including a Review of 2020/21

The Director presented an exempt report, presenting the current trading performance for 2020/21, the forecasted full year result for 2020/21 and WME Annual Business Plan and Budget for 2021/22 for approval.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained within the exempt report be approved.

87 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 28th September 2021 at 10.00 a.m. in the Shrewsbury Room, Shirehall, Shrewsbury.

Signed (Chairman)

Date:

