

**Committee and Date**

West Mercia Energy Joint
Committee

15th March 2022

WEST MERCIA ENERGY JOINT COMMITTEE**Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2021**

**In the Council Chamber, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2
6ND**

10.00 am - 12.04 pm

Responsible Officer: Emily Marshall

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

Present

Councillor

Councillors Evans, Hardman, Davies, Harvey and Gwilym Butler

104 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Adam Kent, Ed Potter and Lee Carter.

105 Minutes**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

106 Public Questions

None received.

107 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

None

Due to poor sound quality for remote attendees, there was a short adjournment whilst the meeting moved to The Wilfred Owen Room.

108 Supplier Contracts

The Director of West Mercia Energy provided an update on supplier contracts in accordance with Standing Orders, reporting that there had been one new entry into the register since the last meeting. The entry related to the meter operator agreement which had been let in accordance with clause 3.2 where it is considered that service is satisfactory with current supplier Eon.

109 External Audit - Update Re. 2020/21 Audit

The Director of West Mercia Energy reported that at the last meeting the External Auditors, W.R. Partners presented their audit finding report, at that time there was a small element of their work which was incomplete before a final audit report could be issued. The Director was pleased to report that this work had now been completed allowing them to complete their audit report.

RESOLVED

That the Independent Auditor's Report be considered and endorsed, with appropriate comment

110 Risk Management Update

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

In response to a question relating to the risks associated with loss of staff, particularly in light of the challenges faced during the pandemic, the Director of West Mercia Energy reported that the absence of staff at the September West Mercia Energy Joint Committee had highlighted this particular risk but it was agreed that this needed more thought about how to mitigate this risk. The target was to reduce the risk to a lower level.

The Committee were content that regular briefings were taking place with S151 Officers and key officer groups, to discuss areas of risk management.

Councillor Harvey stated that as things stood she was not satisfied at the level of risk recorded for risks 1 and 6, outlined in the report and requested that this be recorded in the Minutes, Councillor Harvey added that she may be satisfied as the exempt items were discussed in more detail, later in the agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the medium and high risks presented be considered and endorsed, with appropriate comment

111 Distribution of Surplus

The Treasurer presented the report which recommended that the distribution of surplus to the Member Authorities be deferred due to exceptional circumstances. (copy attached to the signed minutes).

RESOLVED:

That the Joint Committee approve the deferral of any distribution of surplus until the next Joint Committee in March.

112 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.

113 Exempt Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2021 be approved as a correct record.

114 Update on Business Plan and Trading Performance to Date 2021/22

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 Trading Performance to Date 2021/22.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved.

115 Green Energy Update

The Director of West Mercia Energy presented the exempt report (copy attached to the signed exempt minutes). The purpose of the report is to update the Joint Committee on the progress of WME in developing suitable support products and services for customers as they look to achieve their net zero targets.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved.

116 Energy Governance, Accountability, Risk and Reporting Policy

The Director presented an exempt report (copy attached to the signed exempt minutes), which presented the updated West Mercia Energy, Energy Governance, Accountability, Risk and Reporting Policy for approval.

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation contained within the exempt report be approved.

117 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the West Mercia Energy Joint Committee would take place on Tuesday, 1st March 2022.

Signed (Chairman)

Date: