

Friday, 12 February 2016

**2020 PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the 2020 Partnership Joint Committee held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Coleford on Friday, 12 February 2016 at 10.00 am.

**Present**

**Chairman**                      Councillor Patrick Molyneux

**Vice Chairman**              Councillor Lynden Stowe

Councillors Colin Dingwall, Wendy Flynn, Christopher Hancock,  
Brian Robinson and Jon Walklett

**Officers**

David Neudegg, Managing Director

Claire Hughes, Monitoring Officer

Julie Jones, Clerk to 2020 Partnership Joint Committee

Tony Bees, Clerk to 2020 Partnership Joint Committee

**1. CHAIRMAN OF THE 2020 PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE**

The committee elected Cllr Patrick Molyneux as its chairman for the remainder of the civic year 2015/16.

**2. VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE 2020 PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE**

The committee elected Cllr Lyndon Stowe as its vice chairman for the remainder of the civic year 2015/16.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Sir Barry Norton.

**4. URGENT BUSINESS**

The chairman identified no items of urgent business.

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

The chairman explained that because Joint Committee members had no specific areas of responsibility (portfolios) the committee might not be able to answer ad-hoc questions because it would need to agree a joint response. Within the protocol the committee could take supplementary questions, which might require written answers when agreed by the committee members.

**7. MEMBER QUESTIONS**

There were no member questions and the chairman confirmed that the same arrangements as for public questions would apply.

8. **2020 PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE - CONSTITUTION, SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS, AND THE INTER AUTHORITY AGREEMENT**

Upon invitation the Managing Director explained that the Member Governance Board (MGB) had considered the issue around substitutes for the committee, agreeing that there should be maximum flexibility to substitute up to the beginning of the meeting. He had received legal advice that any councillor from a given authority may act as a substitute.

Answering questions he confirmed that all points raised regarding the scheme of delegations would be considered and proposed amendments brought back to a formal committee meeting.

After the decision had been made he thanked officers and councillors for their hard work over the previous months in preparing the reports to be able to reach agreement, which was a massive achievement.

The chairman added the committee's thanks to officers across all four partner authorities for getting the programme to this point.

**RESOLVED –**

*a) To approve the Constitution for the Joint Committee.*

*b) To approve the Scheme of Delegations for the Joint Committee.*

9. **PARTNERSHIP PURPOSE AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

Upon invitation the Managing Director commented that a year previously he had outlined the need for formal adoption of a report setting the partnership's strategic objectives and procedures. The document in the report was the result of much engagement and consultation with staff. He recognised that the strategic objectives probably would not stay the same, but if agreed by the committee, would help officers to bring forward policies that reflected those objectives.

In discussion committee members made the following points.

The report contained significant detail. It was important that mid-year staff knew what to expect and that opportunities were made clear.

The chairman believed that the objectives were important as a firm basis for councillors and staff to get it right for the four communities.

**RESOLVED -** *to note the report and its intended use by the Partnership Commissioning Group.*

## 10. APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

Upon invitation the Managing Director reported that the 2020 group managers had been appointed, as listed below. Four had undergone a full recruitment process and the Group Manager for GO Shared Services had been slotted in because the role already existed. The appointments represented a key milestone in developing services, but there would not be any changes until group managers had engaged with staff and worked up plans. The exception was the joint public protection service, which was further along in the restructure process.

Group Manager for Revenues and Welfare Support – John Dearing  
Group Manager for Environmental and Regulatory Services – Bill Oddy  
Group Manager for Land, Legal & Property – Bhavna Patel  
Group Manager for Customer and Business Support – Phil Martin  
Group Manager for Go Shared Services – Jenny Poole

On behalf of Cllr Sir Barry Norton, the Managing Director raised the matter of senior job titles. The committee agreed that the title 'Group Manager' would not be changed unless formally agreed by the committee.

The chairman welcomed the named officers to their new roles, suggesting that as part of the communications process, elected members across the four councils needed to get to know the group managers.

***RESOLVED*** - to note the appointment of officers to the shared services structures.

## 11. SCHEDULE OF MEETING DATES

The chairman announced that the 1 April meeting might be required. He reminded the meeting that the committee would take place at each authority in rotation and that by law the committee members had to be in the same place in order to make decisions.

The Managing Director confirmed that in December the Department for Local Government had acknowledged the partnership's letter querying the law, but had written nothing since. He added that the partnership's arrangement was unique and that officers would follow up the matter.

Answering a question, the Monitoring Officer advised that any decision made outside of a physical meeting was at risk of challenge.

The chairman commented that the committee could continue its background work using video conferenced meetings, as it had done previously.

Answering questions the Managing director said that officers were putting together a forward plan to contain the committee's work programme and that the 1 April meeting would contain items seeking guidance rather than decisions on training and commissioning services, some indication of company models, initial HR work and constitutional issues. He emphasised that a further formal meeting would be needed to make any decisions.

**The meeting ended at 10.30 am**

Minutes prepared by Tony Bees

Phone: 01594 812623 Email: Julie.Jones@fdean.gov.uk