

MINUTES of the meeting of Marches Enterprise Joint Committee held at Craven Arms Community Centre, Newington Way, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9PS on Monday 12 December 2016 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor AW Johnson (Chairman)
Councillors: S Charmley and L Carter
Non-voting member: Mr G Wynn OBE

Officers: Gill Hamer, Caroline Reid-Smith and Katherine Kynaston

The meeting was adjourned until 10:25am.

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor S Davies and Councillor M Pate.

22. NAMED SUBSTITUTES (IF ANY)

Councillor S Charmley substituted for Councillor M Pate.
Councillor L Carter substituted for Councillor S Davies.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

24. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2016 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25. MARCHES GROWTH DEAL UPDATE

The Marches LEP Director introduced the report. She stated that the programme was two thirds of the way through the 2016/17 financial year but only one third of the way through the projected spend. Projects were being monitored carefully and encouraged to maximise spend. Project promoters were being encouraged to identify any opportunities to bring forward additional spend.

The LEP were proposing to vire funds between approved projects to assist in managing potential underspend and to avoid the possibility of unspent funds being clawed back. A specific significant virement was proposed between the Telford Growth Point and Telford Eastern Gateway.

The director noted that under the approved scheme of delegation any decisions she would make in the future would follow a recommendation from the LEP Board and consultation with the leaders of the three member authorities and the S151 Officer.

The LEP Board had considered and approved the proposal for recommendation to the Joint Committee at its meeting on 30 November 2016.

The chairman asked if virements could take place between authority areas if needed. The director confirmed that this was possible and that flexibility of this nature had been shown in the past, although not as a formal virement.

It was reported that the likelihood of clawback was unclear but that by having robust checks and balances in place and taking appropriate action where necessary the LEP would ensure that funds were not put at risk. Feedback on the governance arrangements from central government had been positive.

It was proposed that the wording of part b of the recommendation be amended to reflect the support of the joint committee for the principle of using virements as a tool to manage potential underspend.

Resolved that the joint committee:

- a) Note the update and support the LEP Director in:**
 - i. the request made to all project sponsors to bring forward expenditure on their Growth Deal projects**
 - ii. working to maximise growth deal 2016/17 expenditure and minimise underspend and potential loss of LGF to the LEP Programme; and**
- b) Agree the principle of virements and vire LGF1 grant between approved LGF1 projects being delivered (principally from Telford Growth Point to Telford Eastern Gateway Project).**

The meeting ended at 10.39 am

CHAIRMAN