

HotSW Joint Committee

Somerset County Council, on behalf of all of the councils in the HotSW Joint Committee¹, is proposing the establishment of interim scrutiny arrangements for the HotSW LEP. This is to meet the requirements of the Government following the publication of the Mary Ney report, Review of Local Enterprise Partnership Governance & Transparency, commissioned by the Government and published in October 2017. The conclusions of the Mary Ney report are now being used by the Government to drive further improvements in LEP accountability.

The interim scrutiny arrangements being proposed have been agreed in principle by the councils and will enable the LEP to meet the requirement in its *assurance statement* to have a scrutiny plan in place by the 28th February 2018.

The proposed scrutiny plan is very much an interim solution pending the receipt of the anticipated legislation for LEPs expected during 2018 and a review of the compliance of the interim solution with any new statutory requirements or guidance at that time.

The interim proposal is based on the 4 top tier authorities (as listed in the table below) establishing a joint scrutiny committee, delegating relevant scrutiny functions (in respect of the LEP and the HotSW Joint Committee only) and appointing members to it. Once established the district councils will be invited to appoint members as co-optees. The intention is that political proportionality requirements will be applied to the membership of the new committee. On this basis the joint scrutiny committee will be established through decisions at the following Council meetings:

Plymouth City Council	26 March 2018
Torbay Council	14 May 2018
Somerset County Council	16 May 2018
Devon County Council	24 May 2018

The proposed membership will comprise

- 3 members from each of the county councils (to reflect their status as the two administering authorities for the LEP) – Devon and Somerset County Councils
- 1 member each from the two unitary authorities – Plymouth City and Torbay Councils
- 2 co-opted members representing the Devon district councils
- 1 co-opted member representing the Somerset district councils.

It is suggested that the functions of the committee under these interim arrangements will focus on:

- the development and delivery of the LEP's Strategic Economic Plans, and subsequently the HotSW Productivity Strategy
- growth deals and other funding of LEP projects in terms of their delivery, value for money etc.

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As we move forward with the HotSW Joint Committee and the HotSW Productivity Strategy replaces the Strategic Economic Plan, it is intended that the joint scrutiny committee will serve the joint purpose of scrutinising both the LEP and the HotSW Joint Committee.

¹ The HotSW Joint Committee is a Joint Committee of the local authorities listed below that comprise the HotSW area and established under Sections 101 to 103 of the Local Government Act 1972 and all other enabling legislation to undertake the functions listed on the [Somerset County Council website](#).

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