**Heart of the South West LEP 2019-20 AGM 18 September 2020**

The following questions were raised during the AGM and answers are set out below:

**No sign of the rich cultural life of our region in the video - will this be a priority going forward?**

The short video primarily focussed on LEP investments over the last 12 months but the cultural and natural environment of our area is a key part of what makes this area distinctive both for quality of life and underpinning key industries such as the visitor economy, food & drink etc. The LEP recognised this in the 2018 Productivity Strategy and more recently in the draft Local Industrial Strategy.

**Can I have a copy of the Chair’s speech please?**

Please see link to the HotSW Chair’s speech below

**May be worth clarifying, salary reduction caused total salary bill to be £469k... it wasn't that the CEO's salary alone was reduced to £469k.**

That is correct. The LEP’s total salaries & expenses cost reduced from £522k in 18-19 to £469k in 19-20. This was due to the fact that in 18-19 there was a period of overlap between the retiring and incoming Chief Executives to ensure a smooth handover.

**Has Government provided any signals about future funding?**

Government has proposed a UK Shared Prosperity Fund as part of the replacement for funding previously delivered through the EU but more details are yet to be set.

EU funds were only one funding stream which supported economic development in the Heart of the SW area. Government has also stated its intention to publish a devolution and local recovery white paper in a few weeks and more details might be set out there.