

# Minutes of Finance and Resources Committee

09<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 12:00 to 13:30

Via  
Microsoft Teams

## Committee Attendees:

Amanda Ratsey	Plymouth City Council/Business Theme
Ben Bryant	Somerset County Council/Accountable Body
Carl Wyard	Torbay Development Agency
Claire Gibson	HotSW LEP
David Bird	Isca Ventures LLP/LEP Board Member
David Ralph	HotSW LEP CEO
Eifion Jones	HotSW LEP
Isaac Young	Somerset County Council/Accountable Body
Jane Dumerseque	LEP Board Member
Keri Denton	Devon County Council/People Theme
Mel Roberts	Somerset County Council/Accountable Body
Paul Hickson	Somerset County Council/Place Theme
Phill Adams	Devon County Council/People Theme
Richard Stevens	Plymouth City Bus

## Summary of actions from meeting

Meeting	Item	Action	Action by	Completed?
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## Summary of actions carried forward from previous meeting

Meeting	Item	Action	By	Completed?
07.09.21	5.2	EJ to liaise with AME to investigate spot testing on cyber vulnerabilities	EJ	COMPLETE - Penetration testing no more than checking security settings. Cyber Essential + would do slightly more but would cost £4k per annum. Querying with Gov but not needed.
05.10.21	8.1	EJ/IY/MR to look into whether Innovation Board should be included within the appendices at the end of doc.	EJ/IY/MR	It was confirmed that they were not required to be included within the appendices of the Assurance Framework. To be reviewed.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>	<b>Action by</b>
1.1	None.  Keri Denton left the meeting at 1pm.	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
2.1	Keri Denton declared interests on Careers Hub and Freeport.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes and Matters Arising 07 Sept 2021</b>	
3.1	Approved.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Outturn report month 6 plus appendices A, B and C (Commercially Confidential)</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Funding support for Freeport (Commercially Confidential)</b>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Support for net zero investment framework (Commercially Confidential)</b>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>FLOW opportunities for Heart of the South West (Commercially Confidential)</b>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Options paper on Careers Hub</b>	
8.1	<p>The paper set out the current position for the HotSW Careers Hub programme, and an initial menu of options open to the LEP and its partners around its operation and next steps for academic year 2022/23.</p> <p>As the primary sponsor of the Careers Hub and its predecessor programme, there is an ongoing expectation from DfE that LEPs (or their partners/successor bodies) will continue to support the Careers Hubs moving forward. This equated to support of £170,000 in 2021/22. With planning for the next financial year now firmly underway, a decision is needed around the LEP's preferred approach to the Hub in 22/23, with both extension or closure likely to have a financial consequence for the organisation.</p> <p>Whilst the new academic year has only just begun, the Careers Enterprise Company/DfE have indicated that they will be seeking to continue to fund and run the Careers Hub programme in academic year 2022/23 and beyond, with a grant of around £500,000 available to match. Based on previous years, this would require partners to find a further £300,000 of match funding (normally around a 2/1 ratio with the CEC) to draw down the funds available and secure the Hub's current level of provision.</p> <p>As it stands however, there is currently no allocated match for this activity within the HotSW. Given both the September – August timetable involved with the Careers Hub, and ongoing uncertainties around core funding for both the LEP and Local Authorities into 2022/23, decisions around the Careers Hub funding have been put on hold to date awaiting further information. However, with the end of the year now approaching, there is a need to consider the area's preferred approach to the Careers Hub. Looking ahead, any retention or change in approach to the Careers Hub will have a financial implication for both the LEP and its partners in FY 2022/23.</p> <p>Further details are contained within the paper.</p>	

8.2	<p>Approval was sought to consider two specific options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Option A: Extension</b> – Whilst there is no current certainty around future funding, it may be prudent to ringfence an appropriate amount of LEP funding for the Careers Hub to allow either a full or a slimdown programme to be sustained through 2022/23. Whilst it may then prove that other local partners cannot afford / decide not to fund the Hub going forward, and the LEP may to act alone, this would provide a strong basis for both CEC transition in 23/24, as well as meet the view of the business community around support for both education and career progression amongst young people.</li> <li>• <b>Option B: Early Decision to Close</b> – To allow for better management of closure, the LEP may wish to take an early decision around further funding. Whilst difficult, this would allow preparation activity to begin around closure of the programme, as well as relevant expenditure for redundancy to be agreed as part of wider financial planning. Early discussions with the CEC on other arrangements could also begin.</li> </ul> <p>No approval was given. It was recommend that DCC goes back to CEC informing them that there is no funding from the LEP and to see what changes to the scheme they want.</p>	
9.	<b>Risk Register Review (Commercially Confidential)</b>	
10.	<b>AOB</b>	
10.1	None.	

**Next Meeting:** 07 December, 09:30 to 11:00am via MS Teams