

East Midlands Shared Services Joint Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at Ground Floor Committee Room - Loxley House, Station Street, Nottingham, NG2 3NG on 19 June 2023 from 10.32 am – 11.10 am

Nottingham City Council (NCC)

- ✓ Councillor Audra Wynter (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Pavlos Kotsonis

Leicestershire County Council (LCC)

- ✓ Councillor Lee Breckon (Vice-Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Peter Bedford

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

Susan Baum	- Finance Business Partner (LCC)
Richard Henderson	- Director of Human Resources, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (NCC)
Declan Keegan	- Director of Strategic Finance and Property (LCC)
Lucy Littlefair	- Head of East Midlands Shared Services
Shabana Kausar	- Director of Finance (NCC)
Jill Turner	- Business Development Manager, East Midlands Shared Services
Catherine Ziane-Pryor	- Governance Officer (NCC)

Call-in

Unless stated otherwise, all decisions made by the East Midlands Shared Services Joint Committee are subject to call-in. The last date for call-in is 28 June 2023. Decisions cannot be implemented until the next working day following this date.

1 Appointment of Chair

Councillor Audra Wynter is appointed Chair of the Committee for the next municipal year.

2 Appointment of Vice Chair

Councillor Lee Breckon is appointed Vice-Chair of the Committee for the next municipal year.

It was at this point that the Committee and all in attendance observed a minute's silence in recognition of the tragic attacks last week in Nottingham.

3 Apologies for Absence

None.

4 Declarations of Interests

None.

5 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

6 Future Meeting Dates

Agreed to meet in Loxley House at 10.30 am on the following dates:

18 September 2023

18 March 2024

20 November 2023

7 Revised Terms of Reference

Following the committee's request at the last meeting, to address gender references, the terms of reference have been amended, with further amendments made to a final version which is circulated with the initial publication of the minutes.

8 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the remaining items in accordance with Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, under Schedule 12A, Part 1, on the basis that, having regard to all the circumstances, the public interest in maintaining an exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

9 East Midlands Shared Services Annual Report for 2022/23.

Lucy Littlefair, Head of EMSS, presented the report which is set out to reflect achievement against the strategic priorities for 2023-25 along with the vision for the partnership and the ambition for EMSS.

Resolved to approve the recommendations as set out in the report.

This decision is not subject to call-in.

Reasons for recommendations

- As set out in the exempt report.

Other options considered in making recommendations

- As set out in the exempt report.

10 East Midlands Shared Services Financial Outturn Position 2022/2023

Susan Baum, Finance Business Partner (LCC), presented the report sets out the financial outturn position for 2022/2023.

This decision is not subject to call-in.

Reasons for recommendations

- As set out in the exempt report.

Other options considered in making recommendations

- As set out in the exempt report.

11 Exempt Minutes

The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2023 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

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East Midlands Shared Services Joint Committee

Terms of Reference

Subject to the terms of the East Midlands Shared Services Partnership Agreement, the role of the EMSS Joint Committee is to:

- (a) oversee and provide strategic direction for the development, implementation and on-going operation of EMSS;
- (b) ensure the effective delivery of the shared service functions in accordance with the terms of the agreement;
- (c) monitor the effectiveness of those arrangements and make recommendations to the Member Authorities, e.g., in the event of any changes to legislation, developments in best practice or the requirements imposed on Member Authorities;
- (d) on an annual basis, agree a three year business plan for EMSS including:
 - service delivery, service development and financial objectives;
 - performance improvement and efficiency targets;
 - staffing;
 - business continuity planning;
 - risk management;
- (e) set annual capital, revenue and staffing budgets for EMSS and (no later than 1 December in each year) submit these to the Member Authorities for approval as part of the business plan;
- (f) monitor the operational performance of EMSS on a quarterly basis;
- (g) ensure service delivery is in accordance with the key performance indicators and agreed national, regional and local priorities;
- (h) ensure effective action is taken to remedy any under-performance in the delivery of services;
- (i) monitor the financial performance of EMSS through quarterly reports and monthly updates;
- (j) determine the arrangements for support services in agreement with the Host Authority and in consultation with the Head of Shared Service;
- (k) produce an annual report to the member Authorities by no later than 30 June in each year covering the performance of EMSS in the 12-month period ending on the preceding 31 March;
- (l) co-operate with and participate in Overview and Scrutiny exercises of the Member Authorities into the activities of EMSS;
- (m) review the operation and effectiveness of the shared service arrangements at least every two years, consider ways in which the Shared Services partnership can be expanded and make recommendations to the Member Authorities as appropriate.

Rules for the conduct of meetings and proceedings of the Committee

The EMSS Joint Committee shall follow the normal arrangements that apply to the proceedings of Local Government committees, with the following additional provisions applying:

1. Annual Meeting

- 1.1. Joint Committee shall in every year hold an Annual Meeting.
- 1.2. The first meeting held after the Annual Meeting of all the Member Authorities in any year shall be the Annual Meeting.
- 1.3. The Joint Committee may in every year hold in addition to the Annual Meeting such other meetings as they may determine.

2. Membership

- 2.1. The membership of the Joint Committee to comprise four elected members, two being drawn from each Council's Executive.
- 2.2. Each Authority will have the right to appoint a substitute elected member drawn from their Executive to attend any meeting of the Joint Committee in place of an appointed elected member provided that the Secretary shall be given at least 24 hours' notice of any such appointment.

3. Appointment of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer

- 3.1. The Joint Committee shall appoint one of its Members to be Chair of the Joint Committee who shall, subject to paragraph 3.2 and, unless they resign the office or cease to be a member of the Joint Committee, continue in office for a period of 24 months or until a successor becomes entitled to act.
- 3.2. The first Chair of the Joint Committee shall be a person nominated by Nottingham City Council and shall hold office for the period up to 31 May 2013.
- 3.3. The Chair of the Joint Committee, following the initial appointment by Nottingham City Council, shall rotate between Leicestershire County Council and Nottingham City Council on a two-year cycle.
- 3.4. The Joint Committee shall appoint one of its Members to be Vice Chair of the Joint Committee who shall, subject to paragraph 3.5 and, unless they resign the office or cease to be a member of the Joint Committee, continue in office for a period of 24 months or until a successor becomes entitled to act.
- 3.5. The first Vice Chair of the Joint Committee shall be a person nominated by Leicestershire County Council and shall hold office for the period up to 31 May 2013.
- 3.6. The Vice Chair of the Joint Committee, following the initial appointment by Leicestershire County Council, shall rotate between Nottingham City Council and Leicestershire County Council on a two-year cycle.

- 3.7. The role of Secretary and Treasurer to the Joint Committee will be provided by Nottingham City Council.

4. Casual Vacancies

- 4.1. On a casual vacancy occurring in the office of Chair or Vice Chair of the Joint Committee, the vacancy shall be filled by the appointment by the Joint Committee of one of its members at the next meeting and the person so appointed shall hold office until the date upon which the person in whose place they are appointed would regularly have retired.

5. Calling of Meetings

- 5.1. The Secretary of the Joint Committee shall summon the members to such meetings as may:
- 5.1.1. have been agreed in accordance with paragraph 1.3;
 - 5.1.2. be called by the Chair of the Joint Committee or, if the office of Chair is vacant, the Vice Chair of the Joint Committee at any time;
 - 5.1.3. be requisitioned by any two members of the Joint Committee giving notice in writing signed by them to the Secretary of the Joint Committee specifying the nature of the business to be transacted; or
 - 5.1.4. be requisitioned by any Member Authority giving notice in writing to the Secretary of the Joint Committee specifying the nature of the business to be transacted and signed by the Chief Executive or proper officer of the Member Authority.
- 5.2. Unless the persons giving notice requisitioning a meeting in accordance with paragraph 5.1.3 or paragraph 5.1.4 agree otherwise, any meeting consequent upon such a requisition shall so far as practicable be held within ten working days of the date of the receipt of the requisition by the Secretary to the Joint Committee.
- 5.3. At least five clear working days before a meeting of the Joint Committee:
- 5.3.1. notice of the time and place of the intended meeting shall be published at the offices of both Leicestershire and Nottingham City; and
 - 5.3.2. a summons to attend the meeting, specifying the agenda for that meeting and signed by the Secretary to the Joint Committee shall be sent to:
 - 5.3.2.1. every member of the Joint Committee; and
 - 5.3.2.2. the proper officer of every Member Authority by sending by first class mail to the principal office address of the Member Authority or by sending an electronic copy by e-mail to any e-mail address notified to the Secretary of the Joint Committee for that purpose.
- 5.4. The Secretary will draw up the agenda in consultation with both the Chair and Vice Chair.

5.5. No business shall be transacted at a meeting requisitioned by the members of the Joint Committee other than that specified in the agenda.

6. Nominated Officers to Attend

6.1. The Head of Paid Service, the Monitoring Officer and the s151 Officer of each Member Authority or their respective nominees shall be entitled to attend every meeting of the Joint Committee in the capacity of observer.

7. Quorum

7.1. The number of Members constituting a quorum shall be one quarter of the membership of the Joint Committee, provided that in no case shall a quorum be less than three members and further provided that no item of business shall be transacted at a meeting of the Joint Committee unless at least one member from each Founding Member Authority [Nottingham City Council and Leicestershire County Council] is present and entitled to vote thereon.

8. Standing Orders

8.1. Subject to anything expressly provided herein the Standing Orders (Meeting Procedure Rules) of the Authority providing the Secretariat will apply to the Joint Committee.

9. Voting

9.1. Given the composition of the Joint Committee, decisions shall normally be taken on the basis of consensus.

10. Sub-Committees

10.1. The provisions of these Terms of Reference shall apply mutatis mutandis to meetings of subcommittees as they do to meetings of the Joint Committee.

Functions delegated to the Committee

The functions delegated to the EMSS Joint Committee are those set out in v5.6 of the EMSS Outline Business Case. Functions to be delegated in respect of HR, ICT and Finance are summarised below. Further functions regarding Property and Asset Management and Corporate Reporting are set out in v5.6 of the EMSS Outline Business Case.

1. The Shared Services relating to Human Resources are:

- Employee lifecycle
- Employee self-service
- Manager self-service
- Recruitment
- Absence management
- Payroll variable entry
- Payroll processing
- Timesheet loading
- Establishment control

- Electronic staff records

The Shared Services relating to Human Resources do not include any matter not stated within the most recently agreed outline business case as falling within EMSS and specifically the following matters, all of which are Reserved to the Councils:

- Appointment of Tier 1 officers (i.e., the Chief Executive and Corporate Directors)
- Management of disciplinary, grievance and dismissal relating to officers with statutory protection

2. The Shared Services relating to ICT are:

- Maintenance of ICT equipment required for EMSS
- Security of ICT equipment required for EMSS
- Obtaining of any necessary licences for use of ICT systems and programmes and contracts with external providers required for EMSS
- Training of staff working on ICT matters required for EMSS

The Shared Services relating to ICT do not include any matter not stated within the most recently agreed outline business case as falling within EMSS and specifically the following matters, all of which are Reserved to the Council:

- Approval of policies relating to use of ICT equipment and systems

3. The Shared Services relating to Finance are:

- Accounts payable
- Accounts receivable
- Billing
- Debt administration
- Cashiers, but not for Nottingham City Council

The Shared Services relating to Finance do not include any matter not stated within the most recently agreed outline business case as falling within EMSS and specifically the following matters, all of which are Reserved to the Council:

- Approving and adopting the Budget and policy framework and changes to this
- Approval of the Councils' corporate plan
- Approving schemes for the use of earmarked reserves or contingency provision
- Approval of virements for non-Joint Committee budgets
- Any matters that amount to the statutory duties of the Councils' Chief Finance Officers
- Approval of the Councils' annual statement of accounts
- Approval of renewal terms for insurances for the Councils

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