

Overview and Scrutiny – Outside Organisation Update from the Council's appointed representatives

Councillor Richard Keeling
Organisation: South West Councils

The Council's representatives are invited to report on any meetings of the appointed outside organisation, the role the organisation(s) they represent plays in promoting and aligning with the Council's priorities, policies and strategies, their impact and results, and advising on partnership discussions which are open and in the public domain. Feedback is scheduled across a full year cycle once per annum for most organisations and twice where meetings are more frequent (greater than 5).

Purpose of the Organisation:	South West Councils give a voice and brings together Leaders and Chief Executives. South West Councils is a politically led, cross-party organisation working by consensus for the benefit of its member organisations and the South West. The membership comprises all 29 South West Local Authorities plus a range of Associate Members including Police, Fire and Rescue Services, National Parks, Town and Parish Councils, Housing Associations, Schools, Charities and others.
Attendance requirements/ meetings attended:	Most meetings are by teams with further meeting as requested by the Chair. The AGM is usually in person.
Feedback:	<p>Please find below Agenda and Minutes of the AGM.</p> <p>SOUTH WEST COUNCILS: VOICE OF THE SOUTH WEST 10th October Somerset Cricket Club AGENDA Item Paper 1. Welcome: Cllr Bill Revans, Chair SW Councils and Leader Somerset Council 2. A Word From Our Sponsors: Cllr Richard Kemp CBE, LGA Peer & Andrew Robinson, Chief Executive CCLA 3. Overview and Introduction to Meeting Cllr Bill Revans Paper 3 4. Introduction to the 4 Workstreams Dave Perry, Chair SW Chief Executives & Chief Executive South</p>

	<p>Gloucestershire</p> <p>Question to address for every workstream: “Having considered the scope of this theme, do you think there is anything missing or any areas which would significantly strengthen the work of this theme?”</p> <p>5. Workstream: Housing Gareth Edmundson, Chief Executive Cheltenham Borough Council Additional question to consider: “What would you need support with to significantly increase housing delivery and what are your pressure points?” Paper 5</p> <p>6. Workstream: Health and Prevention Dave Perry Paper 6</p> <p>1 Additional questions to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “In developing a prevention framework for the SW, are there any specific outcomes you would like reflected as priorities from a local government perspective for the South West in the final product?” • “What do you consider the key outcomes should be in a strong neighbourhood health model?” • “What do you see as the critical elements of a strong integrated care system going forward from a local government perspective and what role should our Directors of Public Health play in this?” <p>7. Workstream: Finance including SEND Jo Walker, Chief Executive Gloucestershire County Council and Ann James, Lead Director DCS’ South West Additional question to consider: “What are the top two issues creating financial concern over the coming three years (e.g. demand pressures, funding concerns etc)?” Paper 7</p> <p>8. Workstream: Economy and Development Duncan Sharkey, Chief Executive Somerset Council Additional questions to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Do we understand what sectors and what sites are going to drive economic growth in your council area over the next 10-20 years?” • “What from that list will the market sort out on its own, and which will require public sector investment?” • “Do we know what locations, infrastructure and skills are needed for the ‘jobs of the future?’” <p>Paper 8</p> <p>9. Perspective from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Stephen Peacock, Chief Executive</p> <p>10. Facilitated Discussion on Future SW Collaboration and Advocacy</p>
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	<p>Graham Farrant, former Chief Executive and Deputy Chair of SW Chief Executives</p> <p>2</p> <p>11 Closing remarks: Cllr Bill Revans</p>
<p>Examples of where the brief above has been followed:</p>	<p>Voice of the South West – Thank You and Next Steps I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all those who attended the Voice of the South West event on 10 October. I was delighted that all bar two of our twenty-nine councils were represented, particularly as it was only set up recently, and I appreciate how difficult it can be given our busy diaries. To those who were unable to join us, thank you for your ongoing support and contributions to our shared regional agenda please do get in contact with me or Bryony if you would like a more detailed update on our discussions. Leaders will be having a further debate at SW Councils on 14th November and I hope to see many of you there where I hope we will be joined by Chief Executive workstream leads. It would be helpful as part of our discussion at the meeting to discuss how we ensure that Leaders are steering and sufficiently involved in the work as it develops. There was a strong consensus that our region is not being heard in the national debate and is being left behind on funding, and the meeting gave us the opportunity to explore how we can strengthen our collective voice and influence national policy. That was not to say that we didn't have a robust debate, the Chief Executives' prior work enabled some ideas to be floated and some resonated better with us than others. Your input and engagement were invaluable, and I am pleased to share with you the press release and notes from the day. The notes are not intended as a formal record but as an aide memoire of some of the main points which were recorded, I hope they capture some of the energy and ambition that defined our discussions. We focused on four strategic workstreams—Housing, Health and Prevention, Finance, and Economy and Development—each reflecting the region's most pressing challenges and opportunities. The presentations and discussions generated insights, which will now inform the next phase of our work. Dennett House 11 Middle Street Taunton Somerset TA1 1SH Tel: 01823 270101 Voice of the South West The event also highlighted the importance of collaboration—not just among councils, but with wider partners including health bodies, education, and the voluntary sector. As well as our own collaborative efforts for which there was strong support, we must continue to build these relationships to ensure our region is not just heard but respected and reflected in future developments and funding decisions. It was very helpful to be joined by the Chief Executive of the West of England Combined Mayoral Authority and his presentation is attached. I am meeting the Mayor in December when I hope we can continue building a strong collaborative</p>

	relationship. Thank you once again for your time, insight, and commitment. Together, we are building a stronger, fairer future for the South West.
Additional information relevant to Overview & Scrutiny including the value that TDC brings to this organisation and/or why this organisation needs TDC:	I do share South West Council Newsletter with all Councillors.
Does the Council incur an annual fee to enable the Council to have a representative on this organisation. How much is the fee and does it represent value for money for the Council.	All the South West Councils are represented on this forum and if we were not on this council we would lose our voice.