

Working Group Report to the Governance and Audit Committee.

Name of Working Group:	Governance and Audit HoWPS
Date of Meeting:	03 April 2023

Brief Details of Matters considered at the meeting:

ToR Phase 1 – completed, The Working Group Members will hold an extra meeting to review, reflect and gather thoughts for the final report

ToR

1. Arrangements underpinning the formal establishment of the HoWPS Ltd.
2. HoWPS Ltd Board establishment and oversight of the company by the Board, including financial and operational oversight, performance management and decision making.
3. The effectiveness of operational management arrangements below Board level
4. Contractual arrangements between Powys CC, Kier and HoWPS, including but not exclusively, contract specification, contract management, off-contract decision making.

Outcomes / Observations:

Assurances given:

- Lessons Learnt will be a valuable exercise that should be reflected in many aspects of Council business.
- Risk sharing was split 50/50
- The Joint Venture Board and Contract Management Forum worked hand in hand, the escalation process worked well. Performance was monitored closely.
- The Council were fast to act when HoWPS were under performing and took services back in house to rise/obtain quality standards.

Concerns:

- The overall process was slow and took almost 3 years to go live.
- Financial penalties incurred by PCC in numerous ways including: additional resource for 'Step In' procedures, TUPE staff back to the council. Also, additional financial contributions made when HoWPS were failing.
- More investigative aspects could have been carried out into Kier before the contract was awarded as several of Kier Companies were failing.

Future Actions / Items to be added to the Work Programme:

Property Design Team representative will attend on 24.05.23 to provide an overview of the service being transferred out to HoWPS.

Recommendations to the Governance and Audit Committee:

Further reflection is needed to provide recommendations for ToR Phase 1.

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