



## City and County of Swansea

### Notice of Meeting

You are invited to attend a Meeting of the

## Scrutiny Inquiry Panel – Regional Working

**At:** Committee Room 4, Guildhall, Swansea

**On:** Monday, 2 October 2017

**Time:** 4.00 pm

**Convenor:** Councillor Lyndon Jones MBE

**Membership:**

Councillors: V M Evans, J A Hale, C A Holley, O G James, M H Jones, B J Rowlands, M Sykes and T M White

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### Agenda

Page No.

- 1 Apologies for Absence.
- 2 Disclosure of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.  
[www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/disclosuresofinterests)
- 3 Overview of Regional Working Report and Q&A 1 - 8  
Invited to attend:  
Cllr Rob Stewart (Leader), Phil Roberts (Chief Executive) and Sarah Caulkin (Director Resources)
- 4 Discuss and Plan Scrutiny Inquiry into Regional Working 9 - 16
  - a) Draft Terms of Reference for the Inquiry
  - b) Planning the inquiry and project plan

**Next Meeting:** 30 October 2017 at 2.00pm

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Huw Evans'.

**Huw Evans**

**Head of Democratic Services**

**Monday, 25 September 2017**

**Contact: Scrutiny - 01792 637256**

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## Scrutiny Inquiry into Regional Partnership Working

### Pre-Inquiry Planning 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2017

#### **1.0 Purpose of this Report**

- 1.1 This report aims to inform and support the Scrutiny Inquiry into Partnership Working, which starts with a pre-inquiry planning session on the 2 October 2017. Emerging questions have been included at section 6.0 to inform the planning session.
- 1.2 Analysis has been undertaken of current collaborations to inform the inquiry, which is in section 3.0 of the report.
- 1.3 Significant change is underway at Regional level following the announcements and subsequent Welsh Government meetings around Local Government Reform (LGR) in Wales. These ideas are still changing and developing however, current thinking is included in section 4.0.

#### **2.0 The Council's Previously Agreed response to the White Paper**

- 2.1 A reminder on the background and context: The previous Welsh Government's reform proposals were contained in the 'Draft Local Government (Wales) Bill' published for consultation in November 2015. There was a greater focus on mandatory mergers of local authorities in these early reform proposals, which were subsequently softened to voluntary mergers, then finally dropped in favour of greater regional frameworks. One area that has maintained support throughout - starting from the early draft Bill - includes the General Power of Competence. On the wider issue of powers for local government, according to a subsequent White Paper<sup>1</sup>, the Welsh Government would be "prepared to consider the appropriateness of further devolution of powers".

A White Paper<sup>2</sup> was issued for consultation by Mark Drakeford, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, on the 31 January 2017. This consultation exercise closed in April 2017 and sought views on:

- Regional Working
- Voluntary Mergers
- A Framework for Local Leadership
- Leading Localities
- Community Councils

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<sup>1</sup> Welsh Government's White Paper: Reforming Local Government, Power to Local People, Welsh Government, February 2015

<sup>2</sup> Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed, July 2017

- Elections and Voting

2.2 Appendix A provides a summary list of the key points agreed by Council for the consultation response. Areas that are now proposed by Welsh Government but were not fully supported by the Council in the response include the following:

- A mandatory framework for financing JGC expenditure
- Regional Land Use Planning
- Regional Building Control
- Regional licensing, specifically Taxi licensing, street trading, entertainment and sex establishments
- Management and development of Housing stock.

Areas of the Swansea response where the impact of future arrangements are still unclear include:

- Scrutiny arrangements
- Impact on capital and revenue budgets of Local Authorities
- Capital and asset ownership
- Public Services Boards.

2.3 The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government made a statement on the way forward on 18 July 2017. A further consultation document on 'Local Government Electoral Reform' was published on 18 July. On 27 June 2017, the First Minister announced that a Local Government Bill, to give effect to the Welsh Government's proposals, would be included in the legislative programme for the second year of the current National Assembly term.

### 3.0 Current Regional Partnerships

3.1 A review of current partnerships highlights:

- The Council is currently involved in around **one hundred partnership / collaboration areas**. The 'big three' being ERW, City Region, and Western Bay
- Excluding the major contributions to ERW, the City Region, and Western Bay, the Council also makes an **annual cash contribution of around £150,000** to partnerships
- **Swansea Council Officer time on partnerships equates to just under 600 days per year**. This excludes those posts which are specifically grant funded for regional work in order to understand Swansea Council's commitment
- **A need to understand what is working well in the current arrangements, what needs improvement and which collaborations add no value.**

3.2 The key benefits / disadvantages of partnership / collaborative working include:

- Benefits:
  - Sharing of good practice, ideas and innovation
  - Pooling of resources to enable greater capacity
  - Sharing of information and business intelligence

- In some cases joint planning and performance management of a service at a regional level
- Joint management of a major / high risk project or programme
- Receiving training and development
- Networking opportunities.
- Disadvantages:
  - Often meetings are in Llandrindod Wells, which involves significant travel for all partners. Use of new technology for some meetings would help
  - Staff time
  - Diverse groups with different priorities and drivers can make decision-making / progress slow
  - Little formal financial contribution so may operate with existing stretched resources
  - Some groups meet rarely so it is difficult to drive a meaningful agenda.

#### **4.0 Headlines of the New LGR proposals**

A meeting of the Welsh Government Local Government Reform Task and Finish Group was held w/c 11 September 2017, attended by the Chief Executive. This is made up of officials from Welsh Government and senior officers from local government, chaired by Jack Straw. The Welsh Government set out its proposals for mandatory regional working and Joint Governance Committees (JGC) emerging from the White Paper consultation process.

##### **4.1 Mandated Service Areas for Regional Working include:**

- Economic Development
- Transport
- Strategic land use planning and building control
- Social Services
- Education improvement and Additional learning Needs
- Public protection

##### **4.2 Joint Governance Committees and Accountability**

- JGCs would be responsible for the effective planning and delivery of the regional services listed above, at both regional and sub-regional level
- There would be two types of JGC: Governance and Service
- It is proposed there are three large regions: North Wales, Mid and West Wales, and South East Wales. Swansea would be part of Mid and West Wales with Powys, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Neath Port Talbot
- There will be a governance JGC for each region made up of elected Members. They will be decision-making bodies, with consistent levels of delegation from each Local Authority. New legislation will set out their duties and powers
- Existing local partnership clusters will be recognised and maintained within the new framework and will co-exist

- There are likely to be many service JGCs under these proposals on both regional and sub-regional footprints. These will oversee planning, budgeting, funding and any other specific function deemed appropriate.

#### 4.3 The Arrangement for Scrutiny

Firm proposals around scrutiny arrangements have not been discussed yet by the Task and Finish Group. However, the White Paper summary of response<sup>3</sup> highlighted the JGC approach should be coupled with a joint regional scrutiny committee. Work should not be duplicated between regional and local authority scrutiny committees and one authority should be the lead for an individual scrutiny committee.

It was also suggested that scrutiny functions should be based on good practice at regional and national level, but with the ability to deliver local accountability on key issues. Locally elected Members must have a voice and be able to hold regional bodies to account on behalf of local citizens. There was also the suggestion of public and stakeholder groups being part of the scrutiny process, in order to represent citizens and properly scrutinise decisions and direction at regional level.

#### 4.4 Challenges of Harmonisation

- The co-existence of JGCs and Public Services Board will need analysis to ensure there is consistency and alignment
- Harmonisation will be important across the different regional clusters already in place, e.g. City Region
- There is a risk that Welsh Government may introduce a new framework which is either not aligned to, or has a detrimental effect on those current partnerships which are proving highly beneficial. WLGA is urging Welsh Government to:
  - Work with Local Authorities to review current arrangements, making improvements where needed
  - Review current binding agreements between Councils, as additional legislation may be unnecessary
  - Consider regional variations and not take a 'one size fits all' approach
  - Consider regional framework agreements early in the process before everything is formalised.
- There is also a risk that regional decisions will need to be taken through each Local Authorities' decision-making process which could take time and make change slow to implement.

#### **5.0 Lessons Learned from Previous Local Government Re-organisations / Regional Partnerships and attempts at Shared Services**

- Without a guiding coalition and shared vision it has been difficult to progress conversations quickly, leading to ideas often losing momentum and fading away. The Political priorities of each organisation are often different or not closely aligned

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<sup>3</sup> White Paper – Summary of Response, Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed, July 2017

- Often other partners have been unable to commit time and resources so ideas have not progressed
- Service integration is complex and needs clear leadership, time, priority and focus which has not always been possible from all partners in the past, again leading to ideas dropping off the priority list
- Where services have come together the training and skills of staff have needed harmonisation
- Equally terms and conditions and other workforce related policies vary significantly, so harmonisation takes time
- The culture of each organisation is also very different, so harmonisation between different teams can take time and requires deliberate focus.

## **6.0 Questions**

Two questions which have been consistently raised during development of this report relate to the following two areas of partnership working, and which the inquiry might want to consider during the pre-inquiry planning meeting:

- What is working well in the existing partnerships and what needs improvement as we move forward? Which collaborations add no value?
- What would regional scrutiny look like and how will it work in the new regional arrangements? What proposals can Swansea make with regards to scrutiny at a regional, sub-regional and local level?



## **Appendix B: Summary of Swansea Council's Responses to the White Paper**

### **Operational boundaries for regional working**

Each of the models brings its own complexities. It is the view of the Council that where regional working is proposed it is undertaken across the Economic 'City Deal' region, regardless of the activity.

### **Proposed Governance Arrangements for Regional Working**

In terms of proposed governance arrangements, it is the opinion of this Council that:

- A Joint Governance Committee (JGC) would appear to be the most appropriate model for governance of regional arrangements
- Any proposals must include provision for adequate scrutiny of JGC decision making
- Financial arrangements should not include the ability for direct precept of individual Councils effectively pre-deciding democratic resource allocation.
- We would not support a mandatory framework for financing JGC expenditure
- Welsh Government should consider the implications on Regional working on the Capital as well as revenue budgets of LA's.

The Council is of the opinion that delegation of these powers on a regional basis should only be undertaken where the scale and impact of the proposals is best delivered at a regional level – it should not, for example, include lower level activities such as the management and development of managed workshops to support local business within a specific locality.

It is also of the opinion that there is no justification for extending regional working beyond the current agreed City deal region.

Whilst the Council recognises the potential benefits of regional transport planning inevitably it imparts a level of complexity between National transport infrastructure (e.g. electrification of main line trains), regional infrastructure and local infrastructure.

The Council also recognises the difficulty in devolving any elements of Capital expenditure on a regional basis due to the impact on individual LA's and the question of ultimate asset ownership.

In respect of Land Use Planning and Building Control whilst the Council again recognises the potential benefits from regional working it is clear that, once again, regionalisation may well introduce an added level of complexity, with planning matters potentially being decided at more than five levels from National Government down to Community level.

The Council is not convinced that Building Control needs to be provided on a regional basis.

The Council recognises the fact that Regional working in line with the Swansea Bay City deal region does not conform with Health boundaries but that is closely tied up with significant decision to be made regarding regional working for Bridgend County Borough Council.

The Council acknowledges the potential for the ongoing regional agenda for Education Improvement and ALN services

This Council does not believe that matters relating to licensing, specifically relating to Taxi licensing, street trading, entertainment and sex establishments should be undertaken other than on an individual LA basis.

The Council understands the potential for regional collaboration on Housing Policy matters but believes strongly that for those LA's who retain Housing stock then matters relating to the management and development of LA Housing stock should remain a local issue.

It is clear that the statutory reporting requirements of LA's, the legal framework in which they operate, the existence of different pay and grading models and differing terms and conditions are such that this Council would not support the transfer of support requirements to the NHS shared services arrangement.

The Council would support further exploration of regional support services but at recognition of the potential significant transition risk both financially and operationally that could arise from the adoption of consistent systems and processes and would seek assistance in mitigating those costs.

### **Other Issues Highlighted**

The Council is of the opinion that wherever possible the footprint of the PSB's should follow that suggested for regional collaboration.

The Council recognises this possibility but considers that it is unlikely that there will be support for such mergers at the current time.

This Council would not support a return to the Committee system and believes there should be one model of operation across all LA's in Wales.

This Council does not support at this time the concept of regional statutory officers which would have to be carefully considered in the light of current statutory obligations, potential conflict of interest and workload constraints.

Most of these issues are a matter for political level debate and response but the Council would urge the Welsh Government to take forward changes to the elections and voting arrangements with caution as it is crucial that the electorate maintain full confidence in the democratic process.



There is a proposal in the white paper to phase out Returning Officer Fees for Welsh Elections. The Chief Executive has a pecuniary interest in this matter and, as the main author of this report, offers no views on the matter (and he will be declaring an interest at the Council meeting).

## Report of the Convener

### PLANNING THE REGIONAL WORKING SCRUTINY INQUIRY

2 October 2017

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Purpose</b>                          | This report proposes a plan for the Regional Working Scrutiny Inquiry  |
| <b>Content</b>                          | The report sets out proposals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intended impact and contribution of the inquiry</li> <li>• The key inquiry question</li> <li>• Lines of inquiry</li> <li>• Evidence gathering</li> </ul> |
| <b>Councillors are being asked to</b>   | Consider the proposals in the report and agree a plan for the inquiry.   |
| <b>Lead Councillor</b>                  | Councillor Lyndon Jones (Convener)   |
| <b>Lead Cabinet Member / Officer(s)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Rob Stewart, Leader and Cabinet Member for Economy and Strategy</li> <li>• Phil Roberts, Chief Executive</li> <li>• Sarah Caulkin, Director - Resources</li> </ul>               |
| <b>Report Author</b>                    | Michelle Roberts, Scrutiny Officer<br>01792 637256<br><a href="mailto:michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk">michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk</a>   |

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 It has been proposed that a scrutiny inquiry should be held into Regional Working and this was agreed by the Scrutiny Programme Committee in July. The committee suggested that the primary focus for the inquiry to be Swansea Council's involvement in regional working (working together across local authority boundaries).

1.2 The purpose of this report is to set out a draft plan for the inquiry.

#### 2. Intended Impact and Contribution

2.1 This inquiry intends to support the work of the council by:

- Drawing together some general principles for development
- Offering proposals for improvement in the long, medium and short term
- Providing a councillor perspective on how well the aspect is working
- Evidenced proposals that will lead to regional working being more effective and ultimately services to residents improved
- Consideration of the conclusions and recommendations from regional and national reports and an assessment of the implications for Swansea
- Increased councillor understanding about regional working and how it contributes to the work of the Council in Swansea

- Pointing to good practice examples and sharing views of different people involved in this aspect

### 3. Key Question

- 3.1 The key question for this piece of work will therefore be to consider ***'How the Council, with its partners, can develop and improve regional working for the benefit of Swansea and its residents?'***

### 4. Lines of Inquiry

- 4.1 The following lines of inquiry flow from the key question and reflect the discussion in the pre inquiry working group.
- The Swansea Picture:** What is the regional picture as it affects Swansea currently? What are the proposals for the future? Where do we want to be?
  - Financial Picture:** what are we financially contributing too currently? How is it envisaged to change in future?
  - Regional Partners:** The current relationship between Swansea and regional partners? The barriers to improving this?
  - Impact:** What has been the impact for Swansea and its residents of regional working so far?
  - Scrutiny:** What Scrutiny mechanisms have been built into regional partnership governance arrangement?
  - Legislation and Directives:** What are the influences on regional working by national and local directives/policy/legislation?
  - Good practice:** Are there good examples of effective practice in regional working and how are we/partners using this to improve?
- 4.2 These lines of inquiry will form the basis for evidence gathering and for questioning strategies in panel meetings.

### 5. Evidence Gathering

- 5.1 Evidence gathering should typically involve panel members having conversations with those close to a particular topic. In seeking evidence councillors should be looking to hear a range of different perspectives and from those people they would not normally speak to.
- 5.2 In thinking about what evidence to collect councillors should consider questions:
- *Who would you like to submit evidence in writing? (Written submissions)*
  - *Who do you want to invite in to speak to the Panel at a meeting, where you will be able to ask questions? (Panel meetings)*
- 5.3 The following two sections consider each question in the context of this inquiry.

## 6. Invitations to Provide Written Submissions

6.1 Written submissions will be invited in two ways:

- **Call for Evidence:** This will be published on the council website and advertised to public partners and staff. A press release will also be produced. A draft call for Evidence can be found at **APPENDIX A**.
- **Email:** To all Cabinet Members, Directors and Heads of Service. Plus Desk based research with other Councils in UK looking at good practice examples.

## 7. Invitations to attend a Panel meeting

7.1 The following panel meetings are proposed for evidence gathering:

| Meeting                           | Purpose  | Proposed Invitees   |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. <b>Corporate perspective</b>   | To understand corporate view and policy priorities for Swansea in regional working activities                                      | Leader/Cabinet Member for Economy and Strategy, Director Resources        |
| 2. <b>Financial Perspective</b>   | To understand the financial input being made towards regional working activities   | Leader/Head of Financial Services   |
| 3. <b>Directorate Perspective</b> | To hear from individual council directorate areas about their regional working pictures, relationships and barriers to improvement | Chief Education Officer, Chief Social Services Officer and Director Place |
| 4. <b>Regional Perspective</b>    | To understand the views of regional partners   | Partners from participating regional bodies                               |
| 5. <b>National Perspective</b>    | To understand Welsh Government views and to look at any good practice learning available   | Welsh Government and other local authorities                              |

## 8. Next Steps

8.1 Once proposals have been agreed the inquiry timetable will be circulated to panel members and the work of the inquiry can start.

8.2 It is expected that the evidence gathering or the inquiry will take place between November 2017 and March 2018. The final report of the panel can then be discussed and agreed in time to be presented to the Scrutiny Programme Committee in April 2018 prior to being presented to Cabinet.

### Report Author

Michelle Roberts, Scrutiny Officer, 01792 637256, [michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.roberts@swansea.gov.uk)

### Appendices

- A. Call for Evidence – Scrutiny Inquiry into School Governance
- B. Emerging Project Plan/Timetable of Work
- C. Informal Equality Impact Assessment for the Inquiry

## Call for Evidence: Regional Working Scrutiny Inquiry

A new scrutiny inquiry panel has started which will look at regional working. Over the next few months the Panel will be looking into many aspects of regional working and will look to answer a key question “*How the Council, with its partners, can develop and improve regional working for the benefit of Swansea and its residents?*”

### Councillors have chosen to look at this subject because:

- The Welsh Government has long seen collaboration between public services – and particularly within local government – as a means of providing more efficient and effective services
- *Collaboration has a higher profile than ever before. It is a central plank of the Wales’ public service reform agenda in order to respond to the challenges presented by the tightening public service finances. WLGA*
- Councillors have wanted to carry out this piece of work in order to build a picture and gain better understanding of progresses being made in this area.
- Councillors wanted to look at the scrutiny processes that are being developed within regional partnerships

### Lines of Inquiry

The panel will specifically focus on following questions:

- a) **The Swansea Picture:** What is the regional picture as it affects Swansea currently? What are the proposals for the future? Where do we want to be?
- b) **Financial Picture:** What are we financially contributing too currently? How is this envisaged to change in future?
- c) **Regional Partners:** The current relationship between Swansea and its regional partners? The barriers to improving this?
- d) **Impact:** What has been the impact for Swansea and its residents of regional working so far?
- e) **Scrutiny:** What Scrutiny mechanisms have been built into regional partnership governance arrangements?
- f) **Legislation and Directives:** What are the influences on regional working by national and local directives/policy/legislation?
- g) **Good practice:** Are there good examples of effective practice in regional working and how are we/partners using this to improve?

### How to provide your views...

Interested groups or individuals are encouraged to submit written evidence to the inquiry by email to [scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk). The Panel may contact you to discuss your evidence. All evidence that is submitted will usually be published as part of the inquiry, if you do not wish your evidence to be published please state clearly in your submission.

**Emerging Draft Project Plan/Timetable of work**  
**Scrutiny Inquiry into Regional Working**

| When / Where  | What / Who   |
|---|--|
| <b>Pre Inquiry Working Group</b><br>2 October 2017  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Overview/strategic picture</b> (Cabinet member and lead officers)</li> <li>• <b>The Corporate landscape</b> with regards to regional working / partnerships</li> <li>• <b>Agreeing the inquiry project plan:</b> discuss the key question, lines of inquiry, evidence gathering and work programme.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Background information to be sent to the panel throughout inquiry</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legislation and relevant directives/announcements</li> <li>• Good practice examples</li> <li>• Useful relevant information</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>Evidence gathering phase</b>   |  |
| <b>Session 1</b><br>30 Oct at 2pm<br>CR4 Guildhall  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Financial picture</b> of Swansea Councils part in regional working. (Details of what are we contributing to and how much)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Session 2</b><br>13 Nov at 2pm<br>CR4 Guildhall  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Place Directorate</b> – Consider the picture of regional working/partnerships within this Directorate</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Session 3</b><br>1 Dec at 10.30am<br>CR4 Guildhall   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Education Directorate</b> – Consider the picture of regional working/partnerships within this Directorate</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Session 4</b><br>26 Jan at 10.30am<br>CR4 Guildhall  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social Services Directorate</b> – Consider the picture of regional working/partnerships within this Directorate</li> <li>• <b>PSB Overview</b></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Session 5</b><br>Jan/Feb 2018<br>TBA   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roundtable meeting 1</b> - with representatives from regional working partnerships including Western Bay, ERW and Learning &amp; Skills Partnership ...</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Session 6</b><br>Feb 2018<br>TBA   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Roundtable meeting 2</b> - with representatives from regional working partnerships including Swansea Bay City Region, Public Protection, waste ...</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Session 7</b><br>Feb 2018 TBA  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speak to <b>Welsh Government</b> representative about current and future regional working</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Finalising Inquiry phase</b>   |  |
| <b>Session 8</b><br>Mar 2018 TBA  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start to draw together evidence and discuss emerging themes arising from the inquiry. (Start to put together final report for SPC and then Cabinet)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Session 9</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss Final report</li> </ul>   |

**Equality considerations when planning a scrutiny inquiry**

**This is being completed at the planning stage of the scrutiny inquiry into ‘Regional Working’**

The inquiry title will be ‘*How the Council, with its partners, can develop and improve regional working for the benefit of Swansea and its residents*’.

**It is found to be relevant to...**

|                                    |                                   |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Children/young people (0-18).....y | Religion or (non-)belief.....y    |
| Any other age group (18+) .....y   | Sex.....y                         |
| Disability .....y                  | Sexual orientation .....y         |
| Gender reassignment.....y          | Welsh language .....y             |
| Marriage & civil partnership.....y | Poverty/social exclusion.....y    |
| Pregnancy and maternity .....y     | Carers (inc. young carers) .....y |
| Race.....y                         | Community cohesion .....y         |

**Briefly describe the aims of the scrutiny inquiry:**

|   |
|---|
| <p><b>What are the aims?</b><br/>To develop and improve regional working as it relates to Swansea</p> |
| <p><b>Who has responsibility?</b><br/>Cabinet Member for Economy and Strategy</p>                     |
| <p><b>Who are the stakeholders?</b><br/>Other local authorities and partner organisations</p>         |

**Impact on Protected Characteristics**

**Please consider the possible impact on the different protected characteristics.**

|                              | Positive                   | Negative                 | Neutral                  | Needs further investigation |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Children/young people (0-18) | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Any other age group (18+)    | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Disability                   | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Gender reassignment          | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Marriage & civil partnership | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Pregnancy and maternity      | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Race                         | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Religion or (non-)belief     | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Sex                          | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Sexual orientation           | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Welsh language               | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Carers (inc. young carers)   | ➔ <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | x <input type="checkbox"/>  |

**Thinking about your answers above, please explain in detail why this is the case.** Regional Working ultimately affects everyone and the inquiry will be at a governance level but the inquiry panel will need to keep an eye on whether it affects those with protected characteristics as the inquiry progresses.

It was recognised at the beginning of this piece of work that different partners and local authorities have different processes and compliance levels in relation to equalities matters.

Recommendations made arising from this work will be put to Cabinet for consideration.

**What consultation and engagement will be undertaken. Please provide details below.**

Consultation and engagement is planned as part of the inquiry with other local authorities and partners organisations. This will be done through roundtable meetings.

### **Impacts:**

**Please consider how the initiative might address the following issues.**

**You could base this on service user information, data, consultation and research or professional experience (e.g. comments and complaints).**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Foster good relations between different groups</b>              | <b>Advance equality of opportunity between different groups</b> |
| <b>Elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b> | <b>Reduction of social exclusion and poverty</b>                |

**Please explain any possible impact on each of the above.**

It is envisaged that the inquiry will have a positive impact on stakeholders and the people of Swansea although this cannot be known until evidence is gathered and analysed and the piece of work is complete with recommendations made to the Cabinet Member.

### **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC):**

**Will the initiative have any impact (direct or indirect) on children and young people? If not, please briefly explain your answer and proceed to Section 6.**

Other partners and LAs may not be signed up to this.

### **Monitoring arrangements:**

**Please explain the arrangements in place (or those which will be put in place) to monitor this initiative:**

Monitoring arrangements: This inquiry is time limited and will be finalised in March 2018. It will then go to the Scrutiny Programme Committee for agreement and then onto Cabinet where decision is made on whether to take forward recommendations. Impact of this inquiry will be considered by the panel within a year of Cabinet agreeing recommendations.

This document will be published with the agenda papers for the Regional Working Scrutiny Panel on 2 October 2017.



## EIA Action Plan:

| Objective - What are we going to do and why?   | Who will be responsible for seeing it is done?                            | When will it be done by? | Outcome - How will we know we have achieved our objective?  |
|--|---|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Stakeholder engagement in scrutiny inquiry.</b><br>Make every effort to include representation in evidence gathering from all appropriate stakeholder groups  | Michelle Roberts, scrutiny officer and Cllr Lyndon Jones, Panel Convener  | March 2018               | Scrutiny panel will meet with a selection of partner organisations who are directly related to this piece of work |
| <b>Welsh Language</b><br>Ensure all communication with stakeholders is available in both English and Welsh.  | Michelle Roberts, scrutiny officer and Cllr Lyndon Jones, Panel Convener  | March 2018               | Availability and accessibility of welsh speakers to inquiry activities  |
| <b>Accessibility</b><br>Ensure all public activities of the panel are accessible to all those people who would like to participate (accessible venues, information available in alternative formats as requested). | Michelle Roberts, scrutiny officer and Cllr Lyndon Jones, Panel Convener. | March 2018               | Availability and accessibility of all to inquiry activities   |
|  |   |                          |   |