



CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

DINAS A SIR ABERTAWE

To/
**Councillor Jennifer Raynor,
Cabinet Member for Education**

BY EMAIL

**CC. Alan Thomas, Chair of the
Audit Committee**

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SG/2014-15/1

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*Date
Dyddiad:*

19 March 2015

Summary: This is a letter from the School Governance Pre Inquiry Scrutiny Working Group to the Cabinet Member for Education following the meeting of the Group on the 18 February 2015. It is about a proposed in depth inquiry into school governance.

Dear Councillor Raynor,

Re: School Governance Pre Inquiry Working Group - 18 February

Thank you for attending the School Governance Pre Inquiry Working Group on the 18th February 2015. I am also grateful for the report presented by Kathryn Thomas from the Education Department. Both of your contributions were extremely useful for us as a working group.

I am writing to let you know that we intend to proceed with an in depth inquiry into this topic and will be sharing terms of reference with the Scrutiny Programme Committee shortly. In developing these terms of reference we will be taking account of some of the points that you made at the meeting. Specifically:

- The need to consider the recommendations of 'The future delivery of education services in Wales' Review undertaken by Robert Hill Consulting 2013
- That there is a shortage of governors
- There is confusion about the general role of the governor and also confusion about the differences between different types (parent, LA etc)

Scrutiny / Craffu

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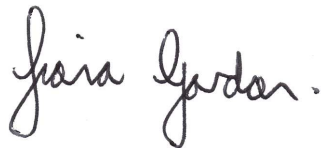
- That some governor panels are too 'cosy' – the same people have been doing the same thing for years and may not be challenging enough
- Skills analysis should be looked at to ensure that panels have the skills they need as a group
- Closer integration between challenge advisors and governing bodies could be valuable
- The important role of audit in identifying areas of weakness

You will recall at the meeting we discussed the need to ensure that the Autumn Core Visits with challenge advisors should include more than the chair and vice chair of governors. This is a point that the School Performance Panel has previously raised with you and I understand that this advice will be given to schools. This is a positive step.

I would welcome any further comments you may have on the content of this letter however **a formal response is not required.**

Please also note that I have copied this letter to Alan Thomas, Chair of the Audit Committee both for awareness and to ensure that we avoid any duplication in this work.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR FIONA GORDON

Convenor, School Governance Pre Inquiry Scrutiny Working Group

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