



**Report of the Convener of the Regional Working Scrutiny Inquiry Panel on
2 February 2018**

**Regional Working – Roundtable Meeting 1 with Partner
Organisations, Place Directorate**

Purpose:	A roundtable meeting has been arranged for the panel to gain the some views of the Councils regional partners about regional working as it affects Swansea
Content:	Discussion about regional working with regional partners
Councillors are being asked to:	Consider the information provided as part of the scrutiny inquiry into regional working
Lead Councillor:	Councillor Lyndon Jones, Convener of the Regional Working Scrutiny Inquiry panel
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1. Background

- 1.1 The Panel have scheduled to speak to four regional partners at a roundtable style meeting and this will relate to the Place Directorate.
- 1.2 The Panel are asked to consider this information as part of their scrutiny inquiry into regional working. All evidence gathered will form part of a findings pack which will be used to inform the Panel's conclusions and recommendations.
- 1.3 **Over the page** are the questions/issues the panel agreed via email that have been sent in to those participation in advance of the meeting.

Roundtable meeting with representatives from Partner organisations

The following organisations have been invited and they are sending:

- City Deal (Helen Morgan, Lead Authority Carmarthenshire)
- South West Wales Regional Transport (Ben George, Lead Authority Swansea)
- Carmarthen Bay Special Areas Conservation Relevant Authority Group (Judith Oakley, Lead Authority Swansea)
- Waste Partnership (Zak Shell, representative from partnership from Bridgend Council)

Questions/issues identified by the Panel for this session are as follows:

1. What do you feel have been the main benefits for Swansea and its residents of regional working in relation to your partnership?
2. What do you believe are the barriers to improving regional working for your partnership and more widely? (For example trade unions will always cite the disparity of Terms and Conditions, also different practices and cultures and different IT systems can be a major stumbling block)
3. How has your partnership overcome the barriers you have found or how do you think these might be overcome?
4. Does your partnership have scrutiny arrangements built into its governance arrangements? If no, how do you ensure decisions have a suitable amount of challenge? Are there plans to introduce a scrutiny element?
5. What do you feel are the key principles for effective joint working on a regional basis?
6. How much clarity has Welsh Government given to councils and partners?
7. To what extent would extra mandation from Welsh Government be helpful or not?
8. Are the 3rd sector and the private sector engaged in your partnership?
9. Do you think greater collaboration will ultimately save money?
10. Is there a danger of democratic decisions being taken by more “remote” collaborations and does this undermine local democracy?
11. To what extent do you feel that protectionism frustrates regional collaboration?

Plus some more issues that were received after email was sent:

1. What do partners believe are the transcending issues and how do these inform strategic/operational performance and therefore measure success?
2. How do partners overcome status inequality to ensure equity in relation to identifying and developing appropriate responses to areas of concern?
3. How do we measure confidence levels of individual partners in these processes?