



City and County of Swansea

**Minutes of the Swansea Bay City
Region Joint Committee**

**Lord Mayors Reception Room -
Guildhall, Swansea**

Tuesday, 10 September 2019 at 1.30 pm

Present: Councillor Rob Stewart (Swansea Council) Presided

Councillors:

Emlyn Dole Carmarthenshire Council
Rob Jones Neath Port Talbot Council
David Simpson Pembrokeshire Council

Co-opted Non-Voting Representatives:

Edward Tomp University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Chair of Economic Strategy Board
Swansea University

Officers:

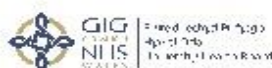
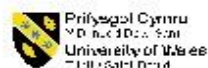
Richard Arnold Swansea City Region Finance Manager (Swansea Bay City Region)
Huw Evans Head of Democratic Services (Swansea Council)
Nicola Lewis Acting Deputy Chief Finance Officer (Pembrokeshire Council)
Tracey Meredith Joint Committee Monitoring Officer (Swansea Council)
Chris Moore Joint Committee S151 Officer (Carmarthenshire County Council)
Helen Morgan Economic Development Manager (Carmarthenshire Council)
Rhian Phillips Regional Office (Carmarthenshire Council)
Steve Phillips Chief Executive (Neath Port Talbot Council)
Phil Roberts Chief Executive (Swansea Council)
Wendy Walters Chief Executive (Carmarthenshire Council)

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor(s)

Maria Battle (Hywel Dda University Health Board), Medwin Hughes (University of Wales Trinity Saint David), Steve Wilks (Swansea University) and Emma Woollett (Swansea Bay University Health Board)

Jon Haswell (S151 Officer (Pembrokeshire County Council)) and Ian Westley (Chief Executive (Pembrokeshire Council))



13 Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

In accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea, no interests were declared.

14 Minutes.

Resolved that the Minutes of the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee meeting held on 30 July 2019 be signed and approved as a correct record.

15 Announcement(s) of the Chair.

1) Programme Director Update

The Chair stated that interest in the Programme Director post was positive and that the Monitoring Officer and Regional Office would be meeting on 16 September 2019 in order to discuss the recruitment process.

2) Next Meeting – 2.00pm on 24 September 2019

The Chair stated that the next meeting of the Swansea Bay City Region was scheduled for 2.00pm on 24 September 2019. All reports needed to be submitted to the Regional Office and Head of Democratic Services by 16 September 2019. It was hoped that the “Terms and Conditions” report would be considered at that meeting.

16 Public Questions

There were no public questions.

17 Statement of Accounts - Annual Return 2018/19.

The Swansea Bay City Region (SBCR) Section 151 Officer presented the “Statement of Accounts – Annual Return 2018-2019” where he highlighted that the accounts were for the period 29 August 2018 (the first formal Joint Committee) to the 31 March 2019. He drew the Committee’s attention to the current funding being provided from the partner contributions and identified that there was a carried forward balance as at 31 March 2019 of £99,871.

He also stated, that on the basis he expected the main City Deal grant funding from both Governments to start flowing in 2019-2020 that there would be a requirement to produce a full Statement of Accounts for this year.

Jason Garcia of the Wales Audit Office then presented his Audit report in accordance with the requirements of Section 12 and Section 14 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004. He confirmed that on the basis of their review, in their opinion, the information contained in the Annual Return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met. He did however state that the Auditor General for Wales had made the following two recommendations:

- 1) *Going forward the joint Committee will need to review the robustness of these new governance arrangements to ensure they are operating effectively;*
- 2) *An Officer Group needs to be established to agree what income, expenditure, assets and liabilities are included in future year's Committee financial statements".*

Jason Garcia (WAO) responded to questions of an audit nature whilst Chris Moore (Joint Committee Section 151 Officer) responded to questions relating to the position of the Swansea Bay City Region.

The Committee indicated that it was content with both recommendations, however it would seek to utilise an existing Group such as the SBCR Section 151 Officer Group (as per the Joint Agreement) and the Programme Board to meet the requirement of the second recommendation above.

Resolved that:

- 1) The Joint Committee approve the 2018-2019 post-audited accounts and Annual Return of the Swansea Bay City Deal, to comply with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

The meeting ended at 1.45 pm

Chair