

Councillor Ellen Ap Gwynn
Chair
ERW Joint Committee
C/o Leader's Office
Ceredigion Council

Dear Ellen

I am writing formally to give notice of Swansea Council's intention to withdraw from ERW with effect from 31 March 2021 under Clause 15.1 of the Joint Committee Agreement dated 16 July 2014.

We have identified a range of issues with the existing arrangements for regional school improvement work in South West and Mid Wales region.

The main concerns are:

- The sheer size and diversity of the geographical area of the ERW footprint has presented operational and organisational difficulties
- There have been several changes of political and managerial leadership and it has failed to exercise strategic and policy grip
- There have been some difficult issues with staffing and management which have damaged relationships between partners and demoralised staff

We have concluded that the above can be rectified though by working to a new footprint and model for regional school improvement.

Please be assured we will work collaboratively with all the other local authorities involved to ensure a smooth transition to a new footprint and model.

We will also continue to work to ensure that the current support given to schools across the ERW region continues this next financial year.

I am also sending copies of this letter to the Leaders of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Powys and Neath Port Talbot.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Rob Stewart
Leader of Swansea Council