

Councillor Emlyn Dole
Chair
ERW Joint Committee
C/o Leader's Office
Carmarthenshire Council
19 March 2021

Dear Emlyn

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

We have identified a number of challenges in meeting the timelines indicated to the Joint Committee on 13 November 2020. Our preferred option on 13 November 2020 was option 1 where a new regional arrangement would commence on 1 April 2021. Realistically, a new arrangement is likely to commence on 1 September 2021. In order to allow more time to fully consider alternative regional arrangements, we wish to withdraw from ERW at the end of the academic year.

The main challenges for moving towards new regional arrangements include:

- Reaching mutual understanding of Welsh Governments expectations on future regional arrangements;
- Uncertainty on the future footprint of a new consortium arrangements; and
- Understanding the complex implications of change spanning two organisations.

We have concluded that more time is required to work towards 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 for the remainder of the academic year 2020-2021.

I am also sending copies of this letter to the Leaders of Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire and Powys.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Rob Stewart
Leader of Swansea Council