



To:
Cllr. Emlyn Dole
Chair of the ERW Joint Committee

Please ask for: **Scrutiny**
Scrutiny Office Line: **01792 637256**
e-mail: scrutiny@swansea.gov.uk
Date: **20.07.2021**

Dear Councillor Dole

ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group – 28 June 2021

The Scrutiny Councillor Group would like to thank Gareth Morgans, Ian Altman, Greg Morgan and Tracey Meredith for attending our meeting, for presenting the information we requested and answering our questions. I am writing to you to reflect on our views from the meeting.

We had a detailed discussion with about current work of ERW, the early outline of the new partnership and also how scrutiny might be modelled in new governance structure.

We have detailed our thoughts, recommendations and issues as follows:

1. We felt strongly that the terms of the current legal agreement should be honored by all six original members of ERW, especially in so far as winding down and redundancy costs.
2. There must be a very clear and robust governance and legal structure to support and guide the new partnership. We can see that work has started on this but there is still a lot of work to be done. We felt it vital that all three constituent Councils know what the parameters and ground rules are from the outset.
3. There should be a clear Business Plan in situ ready for the start of the new partnership on 1st September.
4. We would like to see a scrutiny model similar to the current one, an informal model form part of the governance structure of the new partnership. We feel the current scrutiny model is effective, and efficient and cost effective. We would like to see a form of hybrid with informal regional scrutiny and strong local scrutiny. For this to work the functions of both will need to be clear. We would suggest that local scrutiny bodies monitor the impact of the business plan locally but that the regional scrutiny body should look at: value for money and the financial aspects of

running the partnership, strategic oversight, risk management and the business plan across the region.

5. We like to the Chair of the New Joint Committee to attend some of the regional scrutiny meetings to discuss performance of the body.
6. We would like to see the Chair of the new scrutiny body invited to attend Joint Committee meetings in at least an observer capacity. This would aid and assist in improving dialogue between the Joint Committee and Scrutiny.
7. And finally, we would like the new regional scrutiny body's involvement in decision making to be more timely. We would like to see scrutiny involvement at an earlier stage rather than when the decision is done and dusted.

Given the short time left before the end of the current partnership and resumption of the new we would welcome a prompt response to our letter before our membership changes.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr John Davies
Chair of the ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group

ERW Scrutiny Councillor Group Scrutiny Support provided by Swansea Council

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