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Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref ChEx/VD/aem
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/10351/21

Karen Jones
Chief Executive
Neath Port Talbot Council

v.dale@npt.gov.uk

5 October 2021

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your letter. I am grateful to you for raising this issue with me on behalf of the Swansea Bay region.

I am aware of the pressures that partners are facing and I understand the need for resources to be diverted in the short term. Whilst there is no provision in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 for delaying the date the assessment has to be published by, I want to be supportive and pragmatic under the current circumstances.

At this stage, given the assessments are not due to be published until May next year and as you say good progress has already been made, I would like to keep the situation under review. I suggest that we re-assess the situation in the New Year when the implications for the preparation of the assessments is clearer. In the meantime, I have asked my officials to keep in close contact with the PSB coordinators in Swansea Bay to offer support and guidance.

It is worth being clear that a delay in publication could still be open to challenge from others, although we understand that the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales is also taking a pragmatic approach in current circumstances.

I hope this provides appropriate assurance to you and the other Board members.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
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Minister for Finance and Local Government

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.