



PARTNERIAETH

Minutes of the Partneriaeth Regional Scrutiny Councillor Group

Held Remotely via Zoom

Monday, 24 October 2022 at 10.00 am

Present: Councillor L R Jones (Chair) Presided

Councillor(s)

Cllr Lyndon Jones (Convener Swansea Education Performance Scrutiny Panel)

Cllr Peter Black (Chair of the Swansea Scrutiny Programme Committee)

Cllr Huw Murphy (Chair Pembrokeshire Schools and Learning Scrutiny Committee)

Cllr Pat Davies (Vice Chair Pembrokeshire Schools and Learning Scrutiny Committee)

Cllr Carys Jones (Chair Carmarthenshire Education and Children Scrutiny Committee)

Cllr Sue Allen (Vice Chair Carmarthenshire Education and Children Scrutiny Committee)

Officer(s)

Ian Altman Lead Officer Partneriaeth

Helen Morgan-Rees Director of Education (Swansea)

Michelle Roberts Scrutiny Officer (Swansea)

Michelle Evans Thomas Scrutiny Officer (Carmarthenshire)

Julie Owens Scrutiny Officer (Carmarthenshire)

Apologies for Absence

Gareth Morgans, Lead Director

1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Councillor Lyndon Jones (Swansea) was elected as Chair and Councillor Huw Murphy (Pembrokeshire) was elected as Vice Chair of the Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group for a period of two years.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Gareth Morgans, Lead Director for Partneriaeth.

3 Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

4 Role of the Partneriaeth Scrutiny Councillor Group

The supporting Scrutiny Officer briefly outlined the role and responsibilities of the Scrutiny Councillor Group, as stated in the Terms of Reference detailed in the Partneriaeth Legal Agreement.

5 Overview of the role of Partneriaeth and the Legal Agreement

Helen Morgan Rees, Director of Education Swansea, standing in for Lead Director Gareth Morgans, outlined the key points in the Partneriaeth Legal Agreement including:

Schedule 2 – Functions of the partnership

Schedule 3 to 6 – Terms of reference for each group in the partnership

Schedule 9 – Finance and funding

Schedule 10 – Annual Business Planning

Ian Altman, the Lead Officer for Partneriaeth made a PowerPoint presentation that covered the:

- functions of Partneriaeth
- staffing structures
- Business Plan 2022/23
- governance and stakeholder groups
- Local Authority priorities
- six business plan priorities
- website
- brokerage
- cluster links
- operational plans
- financial planning and tracking; and
- risk register

The following issues were raised by the Councillor Group:

- Implementation of the New Curriculum for Wales; the Councillor Group emphasised the importance of good consistent support for teachers who are transitioning to using the New Curriculum. The Group agreed that it was an exciting time but that we must support those who may be finding it particularly challenging.
- The Lead Officer said it was exciting but also challenging and that a consistent level of support across schools and clusters was key, this will include the individual support for particular schools where needed. He said it was vital that Partneriaeth adds value.
- The Group were especially pleased to hear that team work is front and centre of this new partnership and also about how that has informed the Business Plan moving forward.

6 Outline of and Feedback from Partneriaeth Joint Committee Agenda held on 7 October 2022

Helen Morgan Rees updated the Councillor Group on the outcomes of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee held on the 7 October 2022. The following was noted:

- Cllr Darren Price from Carmarthenshire was elected as the Chair of the Partneriaeth Joint Committee for a period of two years.
- Annual funding has been agreed with two areas to be reviewed:
 - review of staffing costs following the pay review; and
 - look at the amount of office space required, with the possibility of utilising already existing local authority buildings.
- Business Plan was agreed.
- Risk profile was agreed with the caveat that the narrative around the risks of the new curriculum be revised.

7 Discussing and agreeing the Scrutiny Work Programme

The Councillor Group agreed their Work Programme until June 2023 with the following additions:

1. An update on the implementation of the new curriculum and the risk register to form part of future agendas, as watching brief items.
2. A detailed look at the performance of each of the 6 Partneriaeth priorities. This is to be done in a rolling programme starting at the next meeting.
3. Individual Leads from Partneriaeth be invited to update the Group on their function/areas as linked to the key priorities update in point 2.

8 Discuss points for the letter to Chair of Partneriaeth Joint Committee arising from this meeting

The Cllr Group agreed to include their views on the implementation of the new curriculum and also team working in their letter the Chair of Partneriaeth Joint Committee.

The meeting ended at 10.55 am

Chair