



Swansea Bay City Region Joint Committee - 13 June 2024

Audit Wales - Assurance & Risk Assessment 2023-24

Purpose:	To update on the findings of the recent Audit Wales - Assurance & Risk Assessment as at Appendix A and agree Action Plan as at Appendix B
Policy Framework:	Joint Committee Agreement Joint Committee
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Joint Committee:
1)	Receives the Audit Wales - Assurance & Risk Assessment as at Appendix A.
2)	Agrees Action Plan as at Appendix B.
Report Author:	Audit Wales
Finance Officer:	Chris Moore, Section 151 Officer, SBCE
Legal Officer:	Debbie Smith, Monitoring Officer, SBCE

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Audit Wales - Assurance & Risk Assessment (Appendix A) has been prepared for the internal use of Swansea Bay City Deal Region Joint Committee as part of work performed in accordance with section 17 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the 2004 Act). The assessment ensures that the SBCE Joint Committee have put in place proper arrangements to secure value for money in the use of their resources.
- 1.2 Audit Wales undertook this review between October 2023 and March 2024.
- 1.3 In this review, Audit Wales assessed the effectiveness of the City Deal’s existing programme (portfolio) management arrangements in supporting the effective and efficient delivery of the Swansea Bay City Deal programme (portfolio) going forward.



2. Summary

2.1 Audit Wales undertook the review by:

- Reviewing a sample of Programme (Portfolio) Board and Joint Committee documentation
- Reviewing a sample of Portfolio Management Office documentation
- Interviewing the:
 - Chair of Programme (Portfolio) Board
 - City Deal SEC151 Officer
 - Portfolio Management Office Director
 - Chair of the Economic Strategy Board
 - City Deal Deputy Monitoring Officer
- Holding Focus Groups with the:
 - Leaders of the four local authorities
 - Chief Executives of the four local authorities
 - Regeneration Directors of the four local authorities
 - Senior Managers from the two Health Board and two University City Deal partner organisations
 - Senior Responsible Officers for the projects/programmes

2.2 The review sought to answer the question: Do the Programme (Portfolio) Management arrangements support the effective and efficient delivery of the City Deal Portfolio?

2.3 Overall, the findings showed Swansea Bay City Deal's current Programme (Portfolio) Management arrangements support clear insight into the portfolio's progress. There is now an opportunity for the Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Committee to formally review those arrangements to ensure they are the right fit for future needs and reflect any changes in its operating environment.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Audit Wales have not developed any specific recommendations as a result of the findings. This report, however, sets out a series of areas which at the time of the fieldwork the City Deal Joint Committee had yet to resolve. Those areas represent areas where the Joint Committee's arrangements did not fully reflect the audit criteria.

3.2 Joint Committee are invited to respond to those areas it had yet to resolve, which are highlighted in Appendix A.

3.3 Audit Wales will then monitor progress against the Joint Committee's response as part of their assurance and risk assessment performance audit work for 2023-24, and future audit years.

4. Financial Implications

4.1 There are no Financial Implications associated with this report.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no Legal Implications associated with this report.

6. Alignment to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

6.1 The SBCD Portfolio and its constituent projects are closely aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the seven well-being goals for Wales. These alignments are outlined in a Portfolio Business Case for the SBCD, as well as in individual project business cases.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A: Audit Wales - Assurance & Risk Assessment

Appendix B: Action Plan