



To: Chairs of Strategic Partnerships,

24 March 2021

Dear Chairs

Firstly, I want to thank those of you who were able to join the meeting with myself and Ministerial colleagues earlier this week to discuss how the role of PSBs can develop. It was insightful and valuable. I only wish we had met sooner and see real value in Ministers meeting with the chairs of strategic partnerships on a regular basis going forward.

During that meeting, the complexity of the partnership landscape and the Review of Strategic Partnerships was raised. As you noted, the challenge is to rationalise meetings where possible whilst allowing sufficient focus on local and specific issues. The review made several recommendations aimed at Welsh Government and partnerships to rationalise and simplify the partnership landscape. A key outcome was that the best solution for simplifying partnerships is what works best locally based on local priorities and existing relationships.

Having reviewed the recommendations, I want to confirm that all partnerships have the flexibility to review their own arrangements and alignments and to put in place the arrangement that make most sense in local circumstances. Such arrangements may be formal or informal, and flexibilities include sharing of resources between boards, joint meetings, shared outcomes or even some form of merger. The only constraint is that partnerships must continue to meet existing requirements.

I know that a number of local areas have already looked at how the partnerships in their area work together. I would be happy to provide a resource to facilitate discussions between any partnerships wishing to review how they can simplify partnership working. My officials will be happy to help and can be contacted at [LGPartnerships@gov.wales](mailto:LGPartnerships@gov.wales).

The review also recommended that partnerships committed to, and invested in, board development. A key finding from the report was that relationships were more powerful than structures in supporting collaborative cultures.

Also noted in the review was that citizens' understanding of the partnerships and their impact was limited. It recommended that all partnerships make available online basic information outlining your terms of reference, your vision, your membership, progress and how citizens or communities can get involved. Many of you will already do this. These should be kept under review to ensure they remain up-to-date.

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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.

I strongly encourage you to consider the recommendations set out in the review in detail and share your plans for how you intend to take them forward with other partnerships. My officials would be happy to help support this.

The remainder of the recommendations fall to the Welsh Government for consideration, I have asked my officials keep you updated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol  
Minister for Housing and Local Government