

SWANSEA BAY CITY REGION JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

31ST JANUARY 2019

SCRUTINY OF DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING THE UK AND WELSH GOVERNMENTS' DECISION TO COMMISSION AN INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF CITY DEAL ARRANGEMENTS

RECOMMENDATIONS/KEY DECISIONS

1. That the Joint Scrutiny Committee scrutinises developments that led to the UK and Welsh governments' decision to commission an independent review of City Deal arrangements and subsequent events.
2. That the Joint Scrutiny Committee determines any action/recommendations arising from the scrutiny of developments that led to the UK and Welsh governments' decision to commission an independent review of City Deal arrangements and subsequent events.

REASONS

To discharge the terms of reference set for the Swansea Bay City Region Joint Scrutiny Committee.

SUMMARY

Leaders of the four local authorities within the Swansea Bay City Region received a letter signed by the Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP Secretary for State for Wales and Ken Skates AM Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport Welsh Government prior to Christmas setting out their intention to conduct a rapid and focused independent review of City Deal arrangements to provide both governments with the assurances necessary to begin releasing public funds for the City Deal programme.

A number of other reviews/investigations have also been announced which touch on the City Deal programme to a greater or lesser extent: Swansea University's internal investigations following the suspension of high profile

individuals; a review of due diligence in the City Deal initiated by the Joint Committee; a Wales Audit Office review of matters related to the Llanelli Life Science and Well-being Village project; and a legal review initiated by Carmarthenshire County Council to provide external expert legal assurance that all due legal processes had been followed in relation to the Llanelli Life Science and Well-being Village.

On 12th December 2018, in his capacity as Chair of the Joint Scrutiny Committee, Councillor A Woolcock wrote to the Chair of the Joint Committee, Councillor R Stewart registering the Joint Scrutiny Committee's interest in these developments and seeking information to inform the Scrutiny Committee's work under the terms of the Joint Working Agreement. On 20th December 2018, Councillor Woolcock wrote to all joint scrutiny committee members advising that it was his intention to call an extraordinary meeting of the Scrutiny Committee in January when the committee could have an opportunity to receive information directly from the Chair of the Joint Committee, Cllr R Stewart and the Lead Chief Executive, Mr Mark James and inviting members of the committee to contribute to the lines of inquiry for the meeting.

Attached are background papers to support the meeting scheduled for the 31st January 2019.

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Background Papers:

- Letter from Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP and K Skates AM
- Letter dated 12th December 2018 from Cllr Woolcock to Cllr Stewart
- Letter dated 20th December 2018 from Cllr Woolcock to members of the joint scrutiny committee
- Project Progress Report provided by the Swansea Bay City Deal Programme Office
- Swansea Bay City Deal Programme Risk Register provided by the Swansea Bay City Deal Programme Office

- Swansea Bay City Deal Internal Review – Terms of Reference and Programme
- Swansea Bay City Deal Independent Review – Terms of Reference