

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/10145/21

Councillor Saifur Rahaman
Chair of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

c.l.davies2@npt.gov.uk

1st July 2021

Dear Councillor Saifur Rahaman,

Thank you for your letter.

I am pleased to hear about the progress being made by the four authorities involved in establishing the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

I appreciate the concerns of your Scrutiny Committee. However, in relation to resourcing concerns, one of the key benefits of Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) will be the opportunity to share scarce resources and expertise across the region. CJCs will lead on those functional areas where it makes sense to work at a regional scale and where expertise can be applied to aid more effective strategic decision making.

It is intended that a CJC, in consultation with its constituent councils, will be required to agree appropriate locally determined overview and scrutiny arrangements. This will be an important part of the democratic accountability of the CJC to locally elected members. The Welsh Government will be consulting on overview and scrutiny arrangements for a CJC in due course.

I would also like to reiterate that CJCs will be led by the Leaders of the constituent principal councils and will be democratically accountable to your citizens.

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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 would like to thank you for the hard work of you and all your colleagues across local government throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and fully endorse the crucial role of local authorities in Wales' recovery. I am committed to continuing to work with you on this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

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