

Councillor Russel Sparks  
Chair of the Corporate Joint Committee  
Overview and Scrutiny Sub Committee

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*Date:* 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**BY EMAIL**

Dear Councillor Sparks

Thank you for your letter dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

I share your view that the South West Wales region has a strong track record of successful collaborative working – the Swansea Bay Growth Deal a case in point.

In setting up the Corporate Joint Committee for the region, we have been careful not to disrupt the effective regional mechanisms already in place but to use these arrangements as a foundation for exercising the new powers and duties.

Officers have quantified the costs that accompany the new statutory planning duties as part of the set-up phase and I can assure the Joint Scrutiny Committee that I, along with the Chairs of the other three Corporate Joint Committees are pressing Ministers to fully fund the policy.

I would also advise that Welsh Ministers have been clear that they will be allocating future investment to support economic growth on the basis of the new Corporate Joint Committee model. I am seeking clarity from Welsh Ministers as to the level of investment likely to be made available over the coming years whilst ensuring we are well positioned to draw down such investment. You will have noted from the information presented to the Joint Scrutiny Committee that arrangements made by the UK Government to replace EU funds remains unsatisfactory and that is a further factor that is frustrating the early work of all Corporate Joint Committees.

Should you find it helpful for me to engage directly with the Joint Scrutiny Committee on these points I would be very happy to attend a future meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Stewart', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**COUNCILLOR ROB STEWART  
CHAIR  
SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE**