

(NOTE: THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE AT ITS NEXT MEETING)



**ERW Joint Committee
Friday, 29th April, 2022
Virtual Meeting
2.35 - 3.05 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor Emlyn Dole [Chair], Carmarthenshire County Council

Councillor Robert Smith	Swansea City Council
Councillor Rosemarie Harris	Powys County Council
Councillor David Simpson	Pembrokeshire County Council
Dr Caroline Turner	Powys County Council
Mr Will Bramble	Pembrokeshire County Council
Mr Phil Roberts	Swansea City Council
Councillor Guy Woodham	Pembrokeshire County Council
Mr Jonathan Haswell	Pembrokeshire County Council (ERW – S151 Officer)
Mr Gareth Morgans	Carmarthenshire County Council (Lead Director)
Mr Stephen Richards-Downes	Pembrokeshire County Council (Deputy Lead Director)
Mrs Tracey Meredith	ERW/Partneriaeth Monitoring Officer (Swansea Council)
Mr Jeremy Saunders	Audit Wales
Mr Ian Altman	ERW Chief Officer
Mr Mark McLaughlin	ERW Principal Accountant
Mr Matthew Holder	Pembrokeshire County Council (ERW – Head of Internal Audit)
Mrs Sarah Edwards	Pembrokeshire County Council (ERW – Deputy S151 Officer)
Ms Ruth Lee	ERW Business Support Manager
Mr Mark Campion	ESTYN
Ms Emma Bryer	Carmarthenshire County Council (Democratic Services)
Mrs Kelly Evans	Carmarthenshire County Council (Democratic Services)
Mr Aled Eynon	Carmarthenshire County Council (Translation)



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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Glynog Davies (Carmarthenshire County Council) and Wendy Walters (Chief Executive, Carmarthenshire County Council).

2. DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTERESTS

There were no declarations of personal interests made at the meeting.

3. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE HELD ON THE 8TH JULY 2021

Minute 8 – Y Llwyfan Lease

An update was provided by the Lead Director informing the Joint Committee that the lease for Y Llwyfan was near completion of being transferred from Powys to Carmarthenshire.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the ERW Joint Committee meeting held on 8th July, 2021 be signed as a correct record.

4. AUDIT WALES 2021 AUDIT PLAN - EDUCATION THROUGH REGIONAL WORKING JOINT COMMITTEE

The Joint Committee received a report on the Audit Wales 2021 Audit Plan, outlining the work to be undertaken by Audit Wales in discharging their statutory duties,.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that: -

- **The Audit Wales 2021 Audit Plan be noted and approved**
- **The total fee of £13,000 be approved**

5. ERW CONSORTIUM HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT ANNUAL ASSURANCE OPINION 2020-21

The Joint Committee received a report on the Head of Internal Audit's annual opinion on the effectiveness of ERW's Governance, Internal Control, Risk Management and Financial Management arrangements.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the Head of Internal Audits Annual Assurance Opinion 2020-21 be noted



6. AUDIT ENQUIRIES TO THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Joint Committee received a report with the response to Audit Wales in respect of the “Audit enquiries to those charged with governance and management” for 2020-21.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the response to Audit Wales for 2020-21, as appended in report, be approved.

7. ERW STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2020-21

The Joint Committee received the ERW Statement of Accounts for 2020-21 to be approved and signed by the ERW S151 Officer and the Chair of ERW Joint Committee and considered the Audit Wales Audit of Accounts Report and Audit Opinion (ISA 260) which is appended to the report.

It was noted that the ERW Statement of Accounts report, provided specific detailed information in respect of specific elements of the ERW Statement of Accounts.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:-

- **The ERW Statement of Accounts for 2020-21 be approved**
- **The ERW Statement of Accounts for 2020-21 be signed by the ERW S151 Officer and the Chair of ERW Joint Committee**

8. ERW ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2020-21

The Joint Committee received a report on the findings from the annual review of governance arrangements for ERW for 2020-21.

It was noted that there have been a number of changes in respect of the cessation of ERW and the creation of Partneriaeth. The ERW Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 has not been updated to reflect these changes. Any outstanding actions from the ERW Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 will be included in the ERW Annual Governance Statement 2021-22, for implementation by Partneriaeth during 2022-23.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that the ERW Annual Governance Statement 2020-21 be approved.

9. ERW OUTTURN 2021-22



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The Joint Committee received the ERW Financial Outturn 2021-22. It was noted that the approval of the ERW Financial Outturn for 2021-22 will enable completion of the ERW Statement of Accounts for 2021-22, auditing of the Statement of Accounts by Audit Wales, review and approval of the Statement of Accounts by the Joint Committee and finally the cessation of ERW and distribution of any balances or recovery of costs from Local Authorities in accordance with the ERW Joint Agreement.

The following query was raised:-

- Reference was made to page 2, second paragraph of the report that was not factually correct. Powys have not left ERW, they have finished receiving the services of ERW.

In response to the query the Chair stated that this would be corrected in the report.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that:

- **The ERW financial outturn for 2021-22 be approved**
- **The ERW S151 Officer be authorised to make revisions to the ERW Financial Outturn for 2021-22, prior to completion of the Statement of Accounts for 2021-22.**

10. ANY OTHER ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT BY REASONS OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE CHAIR DECIDES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY PURSUANT TO SECTION 100(4)(B) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

There were no items of urgent business.

CHAIR

DATE

