

**MINUTES OF THE GRANTS PANEL MEETING HELD ON
20th JANUARY 2017 IN THE RESOURCES CONFERENCE ROOM,
COUNTY HALL**

DATE: 23rd January 2017

PRESENT: Owen Bowen, Head of Financial Services
Helen Pugh, Audit & Risk Manager
Delyth Thomas, Grants Compliance Officer (GCO)
Stuart Walters, Economic Development Manager
Simon Davies, Chair of PWG, Education & Children's Services
Alan Howells, Chair of PWG, Environment
Julie Owens, Financial Audit Team Leader, Wales Audit Office (WAO)

APOLOGIES: Helen Morgan, Economic Development Manager
Les James, Chair of PWG, Community Services

	SUBJECT	ACTION
1.0	<p><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minutes were agreed. 	
2.0	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses have been received from all the chairpersons of the PWGs to the detailed report provided by WAO for the Certification of Grants & Returns 2014/15. Revised Joint Protocol for the Certification of Grant Claims and Returns agreed and presented to Audit Committee in January 2017. A report on the approval process for the award of grants to third parties is being presented for consideration to the CMT meeting on 21st March 2017. It was agreed that the Authority would not pursue WEFO for any further adjustment to the final grant payment in relation to the Property Development Fund Project as it has been paid at the approved intervention rate. An action plan following the report on the lessons learnt exercise undertaken for the Carmarthenshire Local Service Board (LSB) funded projects is to be completed as soon as possible. 	HM
3.0	<p><u>Wales Audit Office - Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An update was received from WAO on the audits of 	

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	<p>grants/returns for the financial year 2015/2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Of the 13 claims/returns subject to audit, 11 have been signed off and returned to the respective authority/funder. ○ The audit for the Families First project has been completed and the claim is ready for sign off. ○ Local Transport Grant is yet to be signed off by WAO. The Authority is waiting for a response from Welsh Government (WG) in relation to a payment made as part of the planning condition for Crosshands East. ○ The WAO report on the Certification of Grants & Returns 2015/2016 is due be drafted shortly. No major issues identified. ○ A review to be undertaken on the financial reconciliation/working papers that is presented to WAO for the Local Transport Grant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The WEFO Article 55 - Revenue generating project statement for Y Ffwrnes is due to be submitted to WAO. WAO is still waiting for guidance on the audit of the statement from WAO Central Team. ● WG and WAO are currently reviewing the output/outcomes auditing that have been undertaken on four pilot projects within other local authorities for 2015/2016. The audit of 2016/17 grants to be undertaken by WAO will still be financially based. ● WAO has been requested by Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC), as the lead Authority on ERW, to undertake transaction testing for the Pupil Deprivation Grant for 2015/2016. The Certification Instructions for the audit of the grant is due to be issued shortly. ● Arrangements to be put in place for the 2016/17 audit of grants and returns to ensure that the Corporate File Plan is fully utilised when providing information to WAO. 	<p>OB</p> <p>DT</p>

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	<p>Towy Valley Path.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Authority is still waiting for WG to invite claims in relation to the Rural Development Programme LEADER project. This issue has been referred to the WLGA. Grant income outstanding to be identified. • The Authority is also waiting for WG to invite claims in relation to the RCDF project - The Piloting Innovation & Collaboration in Rural Transport Project (LINC). Approval was received in October 2016. 	DT
8.0	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications for the new Property Development Fund for both Crosshands and Ammanford are due to be received in February 2017. Due to the deadline being set late in the financial year, it is anticipated the majority of the monies will be carried forward into 2017/2018. 	
7.0	<p>Date of next meeting – 9:30am on 12th May 2017 Resources Conference Room County Hall</p>	