

Assurance Report for ERW Joint Committee

Date of JC	Action	Progress	Responsible Officer
16/7/2018	<p>Schools Causing Concern – AGREED that the consideration of the report with the inclusion of the additional work identified on schools improvement, be deferred until the next meeting</p>	<p>Completed – scheduled for October Joint Committee</p> <p>Amendments discussed at Exec Board, included in a redraft for Joint Committee Seminar.</p> <p>Matters now included: Nature of support allocated to schools Further details on a school by school basis Entry criteria of all Schools Causing Concern</p> <p>Given the highly sensitive nature of this work, it is suggested that Joint Committee receive an overview and Directors in each Authority are to ensure that Elected Members are briefed accordingly.</p>	ERW Central Team
16/7/2018	<p>GCSE Results – a further report to be presented to the Joint Committee at the next meeting, to include changes in accountability measures, and an Executive Summary from WG, with results</p>	<p>Completed – scheduled for October Joint Committee</p> <p>Amendments suggested at Exec Board, now redrafted for Joint Committee Seminar.</p> <p>The changing accountability measures have been discussed by Welsh Government and Portfolio Holders/Leaders for Education. The reform of the</p>	ERW Central Team

		measures is ongoing, with ERW, ADEW and headteachers participation.	
16/7/2018	The Outline Report for Review and Reform of Governance Arrangements (item 9.3) be included within the ERW Review and Reform Programme	<p>Tabled for discussion by Directors on 21.9.18 and Executive Board 21.9.18</p> <p>Comments made at Exec 21.9.18, currently tabled for discussion by Chief Executives and Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Suggestion: Given the discussion needed on the scope, and structure of ERW, new governance arrangements should be developed in relation to the organisation that requires that governance. Therefore, it is suggested that Governance Arrangements be developed following a clear steer from JC.</p>	Directors
16/7/2018	<p>Correspondence to Scrutiny Councillor Group – Agreed that the draft letter of response be approved with additional references to be made that:</p> <p>i) The Review and Reform Programme was still in progress; and</p> <p>ii) that changes to the National Model were being monitored before final decisions could be taken in relation to any future ERW structures.</p>	<p>Letter sent</p> <p>Response from Scrutiny Councillor Group received – Lead Chief Exec + Chair invited to additional January meeting.</p> <p>Draft Response to be discussed as agenda item for JC 12.10.18</p>	JC Chair + Lead Chief Executive
16/7/2018	Accommodation – agreed that there was a need to renegotiate the current lease for a further period, pending progress of the ERW Review and Reform Programme and the National Model.	Current Lease extension likely to be for a 12 month rolling period, negotiations ongoing	

	<p>The Lead Chief Executive, the Managing Director and Lead Director to consider the Health and Safety Aspects</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer to consider the legal position of the lease</p> <p>That Welsh Government buildings are not to be utilised by ERW staff in the event that alternative office accommodation is required in the future</p>	<p>Additional 3 office rooms recently became available at Y Llwyfan, negotiations for their lease ongoing. Hopefully this will mitigate some Health and Safety issues and provide space for holding meetings.</p> <p>Authorities have been contacted to attempt to source DDA compliant furniture that has been recommended for some members of staff at ERW offices.</p>	<p>Lead Chief Executive</p> <p>Monitoring Officer</p>
16/7/2018	<p>Business Plan:</p> <p>To Instruct the Lead Director of Education and Managing Director to make improvements to the ERW Business Plan</p> <p>To Formulate a precis of the Plan to the Executive Board</p> <p>To forward the precis to all Members of the Joint Committee by e-mail, for agreement by 31st July 2018</p>	<p>Business Plan submitted to WG in line with 31/7 deadline.</p> <p>ERW SLT and LA Principal Challenge Advisers worked on final revised version including budgeting + low level action plans.. Tabled for circulation at 12.10.18 Joint Committee</p>	<p>Directors Group / Lead Director</p> <p>Section 151 Officer</p>

	S151 Officers of all Local Authorities to be put on notice of the risk	151 Officers Notified by ERW Section 151 Officer of risks	
16/7/2018	<p>Internal Audit Assurance Opinion:</p> <p>To refer the matter to the three Lead Officers, (MD, Lead Chief Exec, Lead Director) to formulate a mitigation plan by next Joint Committee meeting;</p> <p>The Monitoring Officer to update the Legal Agreement, limited to reflect the current position, to include previous Joint Committee delegation decisions, and update of the Executive Board and Managing Director delegations (as set out in Legal Agreement).</p> <p>The ERW Legal Agreement to be added as a standing agenda item</p>	<p>Response to Internal Audit Report prepared, currently being considered by S151 Officer and Head of Internal Audit for further. Tabled for circulation only at 12.10.18</p> <p>Monitoring Officer leading on this work, following Advisory Board Meeting 24.9.18</p> <p>Legal Agreement in the process of being updated by Monitoring Officer, for the consideration of the Lead Chief Executive, Lead Director, and Section 151 Officer, then for discussion at future Joint Committees.</p>	<p>Lead Chief Exec / Lead Director / MD</p> <p>Monitoring Officer</p> <p>ERW Central Team</p>
16/7/2018	<p>Internal Audit Report:</p> <p>Agreed that the ERW Internal Audit Report 2017-18 be a standing agenda item on the Joint Committee</p>	<p>ERW Central Team liaising with Lead Chief Executive, Lead Director S151 officer and Carmarthen Democratic Services</p> <p>As mentioned above – Mitigation Plan to be circulated at 12.10.18 JC</p>	<p>ERW Central Team</p>

16/7/2018	<p>Annual Governance Statement:</p> <p>Agreed the ERW Consortium Annual Governance Statement 2017-18 Management actions be completed by Lead Officers, an action plan identifying mitigating steps be circulated to the Joint Committee Members, for approval by 31/7/18</p>	Submitted in line with 31/7/18 deadline.	Section 151 Officer
16/7/2018	<p>Financial Update 2018-19 :</p> <p>The action to be taken in the event of a Neath Port Talbot County Council not paying their share of the £250k Local Authority Contribution for 2018-19 be deferred to the next Joint Committee meeting</p> <p>That a formal letter from Welsh Government is sought to clarify the terms and conditions of the RCSIG grant</p> <p>Clarification to be sought from Welsh Government as to the offer/arrangements in respect of the £250k Welsh Government funding for the Review and Reform Programme, and with regards its requirements regarding return of any monies already spent</p>	<p>Tabled for discussion at October Joint Committee under Budget Report item.</p> <p>Letter Received, actions distributed</p> <p>Carry over assured by WG</p>	<p>Lead Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Lead Chief Executive / Lead Director / MD</p> <p>Section 151 Officer</p>

	The determination on how to replenish the ERW Reserves, either with a one-off contribution from the six Local Authorities or an increase in the existing £250k annual contribution be deferred to the next Joint Committee.	Tabled for discussion at October Joint Committee under Budget Report item	
16/7/2018	Risk Registers Agreed that further work to be carried out to complete the Risk Register, including reviewing risk scores	Completed, proposed alterations taken to Directors, comments made at Exec Board. Section 151 Officer presenting at 12.10.18 Joint Committee for circulation	ERW Central Team
16/7/2018	HR Proposals Agreed that the proposal to create the following 3 posts: - Business and Finance Manager - Head of School Performance and Leadership - Head of Support and Curriculum Be approved subject to i) the posts for Head of School Performance & Leadership and Head of Support and Curriculum be amended to state “the ability to work through the medium of Welsh is <i>Essential</i> and at a proficient level on appointment.		

	<p>ii) The Job Descriptions and Job Specifications being considered further by Directors, Section 151 Officer and the HR Group (x6 one from each LA).</p>	<p>Discussions ongoing</p> <p>Agreed for Business and Finance Manager post to go ahead to advertisement. Advert to be shared at JC.</p>	<p>Directors, Section 151 Officer, HR Group</p>
16/7/18	<p>Reviewing the SLAs and In-Kind Arrangements</p> <p>Agreed that:</p> <p>A report providing information on insurance matters be brought to the next Joint Committee</p> <p>Until then, the present SLAs and in-kind arrangements are to continue</p> <p>Expressions of interest for in-kind arrangements / statutory officers, and SLAs to be invited from all LAs from September 2018</p>	<p>Ongoing – Section 151 Officer to raise in Joint Committee the issue around current insurance evaluations and their accuracy going forward.</p> <p>Preliminary discussions initiated by Lead Chief Executive via e-mail. Further scoping and tendering work may be required in line with expressions of interest.</p>	<p>Pembs Finance / Advisory Group</p>
16/7/18	<p>Non Compliance Report:</p> <p>Agreed</p> <p>That this matter be deferred to a future Joint Committee meeting following the</p>		

	<p>endorsement of the ERW Business Plan (by Welsh Government), in the meantime;</p> <p>Officer to continue with the current funding formula for all schools;</p> <p>To instruct the Managing Director to negotiate interim arrangements with Welsh Government whilst the development work is put in place in order to access grant for schools'</p> <p>Schools to be informed by individual LA S151 Officers.</p>	<p>Grant Conditions received in revised form September 2018. 1st of October, grant as of yet not released, negotiations ongoing.</p>	
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