

<b>MINUTES OF THE GRANTS PANEL MEETING HELD ON 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023 VIA TEAMS</b>		
<b>PRESENT:</b>	Randal Hemingway, Head of Financial Services Caroline Powell, Principal Auditor, Internal Audit (IA) Nia Thomas, Chair of PWG, Education & Children (Revenue) Les James, Chair of PWG, Communities David Williams, Audit Lead, Audit Wales Delyth Thomas, Grants Compliance Officer (GCO)	
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	Rhian Phillips, Economic Development Area Manager Stuart Walters, Chair of PWG, Chief Executive Simon Davies, Chair of PWG, Education & Children (Capital)	
	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
1.0	<b><u>Minutes of the last meeting</u></b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes were agreed.</li> </ul>	
2.0	<b><u>Matters Arising</u></b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Director of Corporate Services to confirm the role of SASG in the allocation of funding to projects via the capital programme.</li> <li>WG have delayed standardising the formula for the allocation of funding to schools for the Education Improvement grant to 2024/25, which is part of Regional Consortia Schools Improvement grant (RCSIG).</li> </ul>	RH
3.0	<b><u>Audit Wales - Update</u></b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The audit of Housing Benefit return for 2021/22 is still outstanding. Additional testing has been undertaken and the audited return and covering letter is due to be issued shortly.</li> <li>An update on the 2022/23 audit programme was provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NDR3 (LA01) and Teachers Pension (PEN05) – audits to be undertaken by the Audit Wales Central Team</li> <li>Housing Benefits (BEN01), Pooled Budgets (HLG01) &amp; WANLESS Money Transfers (HLG03) – audits to be undertaken by the Audit Wales local team</li> </ul> </li> <li>Audit Wales index showing submission dates and audit deadlines and the Certification Instructions of grants and returns which outline the testing</li> </ul>	DW

	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	requirements to be forwarded to GCO.	
4.0	<p><b><u>Internal Audit (IA) - Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update was provided on the audits of the 2022/23 grant funded projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Pupil Development grant and Education Improvement grant (under RCSIG) are nearing completion</li> <li>○ Housing Support Grant and Children &amp; Communities grant – audit has commenced</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Review to be undertaken later in the year to establish which projects to be included in the IA audit plan for the 2023/24 grants.</li> </ul>	RH/CP/DT
5.0	<p><b><u>Grants Register 2022/23 &amp; 2023/24</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The grants register for 2022/23 to be finalised. Work to start populating the grants register for 2023/24.</li> </ul>	DT
6.0	<p><b><u>Project Working Groups</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minutes of PWG meetings were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Education &amp; Children (capital): 21/3/2023</li> <li>○ Communities: 22/3/2023</li> </ul> </li> <li>• It is noted that 2022/23 teachers' pay award has not been settled. When it is settled the costs will be processed in the 2023/24 financial year. Whether the payment of the pay award relating to 2022/23 would be eligible to be claimed in 2023/24 to be raised with WLGA.</li> </ul>	RH
7.0	<p><b><u>European Grants Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A number of projects are due to end on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. With the current programme of European funded projects is due to end in December 2023 the projects remaining from July onwards include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Workways Plus LTU - end date 31/8/2023</li> <li>○ Workways Plus STU – end date 31/8/2023</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Celtic Routes – end date 31/8/2023</li> <li>○ Economic Acceleration &amp; Regeneration through Innovation – end date 30/9/2023</li> <li>○ Communities for Work P1 – end date 31/10/2023</li> <li>○ Communities for Work P3 – end date 31/10/2023</li> <li>○ Regional Engagement Team ERDF – end date 31/10/2023</li> <li>○ Regional Engagement Team ESF – end date 31/10/2023</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An update was provided to Grants Panel on the amount of grant income outstanding to the Authority for European grant funded projects. The total amount claimed to date is approximately £25m with a total of £1.1m grant income outstanding.</li> </ul>	
8.0	<p><b><u>Successor Schemes Update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Project applications invited under the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) have been assessed and presented to the moderation panel for consideration.</li> </ul>	
9.0	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● In some instances concerns have been raised where applications for grant funding are being submitted that have implications on other departments in the Authority, that there is little or no communication regarding capacity issues or timescales required to deliver the project. Consideration also needs to be given when accepting grants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ financial benefit/resourcing</li> <li>○ is it something the Authority is already doing?</li> <li>○ reporting requirements</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Issues to be brought to the attention via the Heads of Services and Chairs of the PWGs.</p>	RH
10.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Date of next meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 at 2pm via Teams</li> </ul>	