

## ERW JOINT COMMITTEE

### 30 MARCH 2021

### ERW Consortium- 2021/22 Provision of Services to Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council

**PURPOSE:** To consider the letter from Councillor Rob Jones, Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council, dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS / KEY DECISIONS REQUIRED:**

To consider the request from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council:

1. to extend the current arrangements to provide Neath Port Talbot (NPT) schools with access to agreed services until 31st March 2022 (or on the dissolution of the existing consortium, if earlier) on the current terms and subject to a formal contractual agreement.
2. to establish clear lines of communication with the consortium over the next period. In particular in regard to their financial liability attached to the dissolution of the current arrangements.

**REASONS:** To ensure clarity for current ERW partners and staff in regard to provision of services for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council schools.

#### **Report Author:**

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#### **Designation:**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**  
**ERW JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**30 MARCH 2021**

**ERW Consortium- 2021/22 Provision of Services to Neath  
Port Talbot County Borough Council**

Neath Port Talbot left ERW on 31/3/20. From 1/4/20 to date, NPT schools have been receiving services from ERW including:

- Innovation & QI Schools Quality Improvement
- Engaging Non Pioneers
- Professional Learning - Pioneer Schools
- Initial Teacher Education Partnership Pilots
- Initial Teacher Education Part time & work based
- Non-pioneer Cluster funding
- Higher Education Institutions Accreditation Manager funding
- Higher Level Teaching Assistants
- National Professional Qualification for Headship programme
- Newly Qualified Teachers programme
- Emerging Leader Programmes e.g. Middle Leaders

The Joint Committee agreed on 13/11/20:

1. the proposed changes to the Legal Agreement to enable ERW to provide Neath Port Talbot schools with access to agreed services as detailed within the variation report, subject to the assurance of no costs falling on ERW (save for legal costs incurred in amending the Legal Agreement).
2. to the preparation of a separate legal agreement between ERW and NPT.

It is understood that to date, neither the Deed of Variation deed (clause 1 above), nor the preparation of a separate legal agreement (clause 2 above ) have been completed. Reminders have been sent to partner authorities regarding Clause 1.

On the 25th February 2021 a letter was received from Councillor Rob Jones, Leader of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

The letter outlined their position in regard to regional working in regard to school improvement and their focus for 2021/22. The letter refers to the

There was a request to extend the current arrangements until 31st March 2022 (or on the dissolution of the existing consortium, if earlier) on the current terms and subject to a formal contractual agreement.



In addition there was a request to establish clear lines of communication with the consortium over the next period in particular in regard to NPT's financial liability attached to the dissolution of the current arrangements.

There is also the following request- *'Officers have already asked for details of these potential costs and associated legal and HR advice, however, to date we have not received the information requested. I therefore formally request such information together with the plans that the ERW Joint Committee has approved to minimise the risk of these costs materialising.'*

I have been advised that the information requested (underlined) has now been provided.

In regard to minimising the risks of the costs the fact that NPT and other partners have left ERW could result in redundancies as the current core team was set up to service the whole region. We are not currently in a position to provide any partner with information in regard to liabilities.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES- NPT Letter**

## IMPLICATIONS

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities <b>NONE</b>	Legal <b>YES</b>	Finance <b>YES</b>	Risk Management Issues <b>YES</b>	Staffing Implications <b>YES</b>
<b>Legal</b> In regard to providing services to anyone outside the current partnership agreement needs to be entered into to clarify what is to be delivered and any associated matters.				
<b>Finance</b> The full allocations for the element of provision to be recouped ( <i>namely the national leadership programmes</i> ) and any additional costs associated with delivering and managing the programmes.				
<b>Risk Management</b> An identified risk is the capacity of the core team to provide services to others outside the current partnership agreement. Their priority should be the current partners.				
<b>Staffing Implications</b> Linked to the above risk we need to ensure we have the staff capacity to deliver for the partnership's schools and any others outside the current partnership.				

## CONSULTATIONS

NONE
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<b>Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information</b> <b>List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:</b> <b>THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW</b>		
<b>Title of Document</b>	<b>File Ref No.</b>	<b>Locations that the papers are available for public inspection</b>
N/A	N/A	N/A