



Cllr. Rob Stewart  
Chair of the Swansea Bay City Region  
Joint Committee  
C/o City & County of Swansea  
Civic Centre  
Oystermouth Road  
Swansea  
SA1 3SN

### By e-mail

Dear Councillor Stewart

### RE: Swansea Bay City Region

I am writing to inform you of the recommendations made to the Joint Committee by the Joint Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on Friday, 1 March, 2019. The recommendations are as follows:

#### Recommendation 1

The Joint Scrutiny Committee was very concerned to learn of the considerable delays being experienced in securing agreement from the Welsh and UK governments to the full business cases of the projects that make up the City Deal. The Joint Scrutiny Committee notes that these delays mean that almost two years since the Heads of Terms were signed, no business cases have yet reached a point where they have been approved for implementation. Members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee wish to underline the importance of the City Deal to bringing about long term, sustainable improvements to the well-being of people across the region and would like to understand what action the Joint Committee, Welsh Government and the UK Government intend to take to address the causes of the delays inherent in the existing processes.

**continued overleaf...**

### Recommendation 2

In considering the status of the three regional projects contained within the Deal – Homes as Power Stations; Skills and Talent; and Digital Infrastructure – the Joint Scrutiny Committee noted that none of these projects would be delivered within the timetable initially envisaged. Accordingly, the Joint Scrutiny Committee recommends that priority should be given to bringing all three projects to a point where they can be formally initiated and that the programme plan be revised to reflect a new delivery period of five years which commences on the dates when the business cases are approved. The programme plan should also take account of the inter-dependencies between these three projects and other projects within the City Deal programme.

### Recommendation 3

The Joint Scrutiny Committee considers that there is insufficient information about financial risk across the programme and requests that the Joint Committee provides it with a detailed report on the financial assumptions and risk that attach to each of the projects and the programme as a whole.

### Recommendation 4

The Joint Scrutiny Committee noted in scrutinising the Homes as Power Stations project that there is an assumption within the emerging business case that local authorities will use their collective leverage to deliver the project benefits. The Joint Scrutiny Committee wishes to underline the importance of all four local authorities working together to achieve this, including making representations to Welsh Government to adopt measures for example, through building regulations, that would secure greater private sector engagement in the work.

**continued overleaf...**

## Recommendation 5

The Joint Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Joint Committee considers how a new approach to economic development can be developed for the period beyond the existing City Deal so that the legacy created by this programme can be sustained and further developed over the longer term.

I am sending a copy of this letter to other members of the Joint Scrutiny Committee and to the four Leaders of the constituent local authorities.

I look forward to receiving your response to the recommendations we have made in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Arwyn Woolcock', with a large initial 'A' and 'W'.

Councillor Arwyn Woolcock  
**Chair of the Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Scrutiny Committee**

**CC** Councillor Sharon Freeguard C/o Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (by e-mail)

Councillor Alun Llewelyn C/o Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (by e-mail)

Councillor Darren Price C/o Carmarthen County Council (by e-mail)

Councillor Rob James C/o Carmarthen County Council (by e-mail)

Councillor Giles Morgan C/o Carmarthen County Council  
(by e-mail)

Councillor James Adams C/o Pembrokeshire County Council  
(by e-mail)

Councillor Tony Baron C/o Pembrokeshire County Council  
(by e-mail)

Councillor Michael Evans C/o Pembrokeshire County Council  
(by e-mail)

Councillor Jan Curtice C/o City and County of Swansea  
(by e-mail)

Councillor Philip Downing C/o City and County of Swansea  
(by e-mail)

Councillor Jeff Jones C/o City and County of Swansea  
(by e-mail)

Councillor Rob Jones, Leader, C/o Neath Port Talbot County  
Borough Council (by e-mail)

Councillor Emlyn Dole, Leader, C/o Carmartheshire County Council  
(by e-mail)

Councillor David Simpson, Leader, C/o Pembrokeshire County  
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