MINUTES OF THE GRANTS PANEL MEETING HELD ON					
6th JULY 2022 VIA TEAMS					
PRESENT: APOLOGIES:		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 Alan Howells, Chair of PWG, Environment Rhian Phillips, Economic Development Area Manager Delyth Thomas, Grants Compliance Officer (GCO) Anwen Worthy, Audit Lead, Audit Wales Helen Pugh, Head of Revenues & Financial Compliance Stuart Walters, Chair of PWG, Chief Executive Simon Davies, Chair of PWG, Education & Children (Capital) Helen Morgan, Economic Development Manager			
		SUBJECT	ACTION		
1.0	<u>Minut</u>	es of the last meeting			
	• Min	utes were agreed.			
2.0	<u>Matte</u>	rs Arising			
	Hea still reg has	e service level agreement with Hywel Dda Local alth Board (LHB) for Wanless (Money Transfers) is being redrafted. Clarification has been sought arding the status of the revised agreement. This been reported again by Audit Wales as part of 2020/21 audit.	RH		
	spe to r Gov Cor follo con	e grant conditions currently do not stipulate a ecific period on how long the Authority is required retain original documentation relating to all Welsh vernment (WG) grant funded projects. Infirmation has been received from the WLGA that owing discussions with WG, the grant terms and additions will be amended to include more specific reding in relation to the retention requirements.			
	stip awa	e exercise to review the audit requirements oulated in the terms & conditions of grants arded to Education & Children for 2021/22 is nost complete. Results to be reported to IA.	NT		
	con fun	neeting to be arranged to discuss any areas to be isidered as part of the closure of European grant ded projects. The current programme is due to d 31st December 2023.	DT		

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	 An email is due to be sent to the WG's Grant Centre of Excellence raising concerns on issues identified in relation to the WG grant claims e.g. inconsistent claim forms, format etc. 	DT
	 Following a meeting with the Records Management Officer it has been confirmed that arrangements for the retention of documentation on SharePoint, for European funded projects, are in place to meet the European retention deadlines. 	
	 A review of the closure guidance for grant funded projects to be undertaken to ensure it includes guidance on the retention of documents held electronically as well as those in paper format. 	RP
3.0	<u>Audit Wales - Update</u>	
	 The audit of Pooled Budgets is still outstanding for 2019/20 and 2020/21. There are a number of queries outstanding and Audit Wales are hoping to finalise the audit next week. 	
	 The Authority is still waiting for confirmation from Audit Wales on the audit programme for 2021/22. 	
4.0	<u>Internal Audit (IA) - Update</u>	
	 Audits on the 2021/22 projects has commenced. These include: Enable Supporting People Regional Development Coordinator Pupil Development grant Regional Consortia Improvement grant 	
	The audit arrangements for the 2022/23 Regional Consortia School Improvement grant and the Pupil Development grant are to be reviewed by the Partneriaeth Consortia and agreed with IA.	
5.0	Grants Register 2022/23	
	Work has commenced to update the register for	Chairs of

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	2022/23. A request was made for Chairs to raise in their respective PWG for updates on grants information to be forwarded to GCO.	PWGs
	• It's anticipated that there will be a reduction in the number of grants awarded in 2022/23. However the Cost of Living grants and Winter Fuel grants will continue.	
6.0	Project Working Groups	
	Minutes of PWG meetings were received:	
	 Education & Children (capital): 22/3/2022 Communities: 23/3/2022 Chief Executive: 22/3/2022 	
	The following updates were provided:	
	 a number of EU funded projects are due to be extended however the funding will be within current approved budgets noted that where there are delays in the recruitment of staff this impacts on both the ability to deliver the project delivery and project spend improvements have been noted on changes implemented within the Education & Children Services on the management of grants 	
7.0	European Grants Update	
	• A schedule of all current European grant funded projects was presented to Grants Panel. The total estimated project costs approved is £49m with grant of £32m. However it was noted that the Authority is still waiting for formal notice of additional funding for Crosshands East Gateway Plot 3 and Llandeilo Market Hall. The Food COVID Recovery Plan project submitted under the Rural Development Programme has recently been approved with a grant of £121k.	
	An update was provided to Grants Panel on the amount of grant income outstanding to the Authority for European grant funded projects. The total	

	SUBJECT	ACTION
	amount claimed to date is approximately £21.9m with a total of £2.7m grant income outstanding.	
8.0	Successor Schemes Update	
	 The Authority has received approval from UK Government to extend the eleven Community Renewal Fund projects to 31st December 2022. 	
	• UK Government launched the Shared Prosperity Fund in April 2022 with funding through to March 2025. £38m has been allocated to the area of which £32m is allocated to activity focused on 3 key pillars - communication, skills and business, with the remaining £6m focused on Adult Numeracy. Swansea Council is the accountable body who has the responsibility to distribute the funding to each local authority. The Authority has submitted its investment plan to Swansea Council who will coordinate and forward to the UK Government for approval.	
	 Progress is being made on both the Carmarthen/Pembroke Hub and Towy Valley Path, both projects are funded by grant through the Levelling Up fund. Timelines are challenging to complete delivery within the defined timescales. 	
	Additional bid to be submitted for Levelling Up funding for Llanelli town centre.	
9.0	<u>AOB</u>	
	 New subsidy rules are expected from WG. Any amendments will need to be incorporated in the Project Grants Manual. The authorisation process for amending the manual will be dependent on the extent of these changes. 	
	Copies of all Management Verification Team reports issued by WEFO on EU funded projects should be forwarded to the GCO.	All
10.0	 Date of next meeting – 1:00pm on 26th September 2022 via Teams 	