

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION SHEET

Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020)



Date of Meeting: 2 October 2024

Attendance:

Councillors: Julie Fallon - Chair (Conwy County Borough Council), Dafydd Roberts (Anglesey County Council), Diane King (Denbighshire County Council), Mared Eastwood (Flintshire County Council), Phil Wynn (Wrexham County Borough Council) and Beca Brown (Cyngor Gwynedd).

Co-opted non-voting Members: Manon Williams (Primary Schools' Representative), and Noel Fitzgerald (Special Schools' Representative).

Non-voting Officers: Marc Berw Hughes (Anglesey County Council), and Dr Lowri Brown (Conwy County Borough Council)

GwE Officers: Rhys Williams (GwE Head of Service - Professional Learning), Euros Davies (GwE Head of Service - School Improvement), and Bethan Roberts (Performance Management Manager).

Host Authority Officers:

Ffion Madog (Statutory Finance Officer - Gwynedd), Hywyn Lewis Jones (Education and Economy Accountant - Gwynedd) Sion Huws (Propriety and Elections Manager - Gwynedd), Dafydd Ifans (Transitional Period Project Manager) and Lowri Haf Evans (Democracy Services Officer).

Others Invited:

Siwan Glyn (Audit Cymru)

Apologies: Claire Homard (Flintshire County Council), Gwern ap Rhisiart (Cyngor Gwynedd), and Dewi Morgan (Cyngor Gwynedd).

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SUBJECT: Item 3: URGENT MATTERS: ELECTING A VICE-CHAIRPERSON

DECISION:

To elect Councillor Phil Wynn as Vice-Chairperson.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The need to appoint a vice-chair following recent changes in Joint Committee membership.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS GRANTED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION

N/A

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SUBJECT: Item 5: GwE LEADERSHIP - TRANSITIONAL PERIOD

DECISION:

To accept and approve the content of the report.

That an urgent meeting needs to be called between the Transition Board, Joint Committee and Project Manager to discuss GwE's current position.

To thank GwE former Managing Director, Assistant Director and Senior Secondary Lead for their work and support with the Joint Committee.

To thank staff that have already left GwE for their commitment to the Service.

To thank Cyngor Gwynedd Officers for supporting this challenging transitional period.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The need to update Joint Committee members on GwE leadership arrangements until the end of the transitional period.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS GRANTED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION

Statutory Officers consulted for their views, which had been included in the report.

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SUBJECT: Item 6: GwE JOINT COMMITTEE - DETAILED AUDIT PLAN 2024

DECISION:

To accept and approve the Detailed Audit Plan 2024 by Audit Wales

REASONS FOR DECISION

Statutory obligation for Joint Committee financial statements to be subjected to an annual audit to ensure that public money is spent appropriately. The Joint Committee must ensure arrangements to get value for money.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS GRANTED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION

Statutory Officers consulted for their views, which were included in the report.

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**SUBJECT: Item 7: JOINT COMMITTEE FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31 MARCH 2024**

DECISION:

To accept and note GwE's Statement of Accounts (subject to audit) for 2023/24.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 states that a joint committee of two or more (local) authorities is a local government body, and Section 13 of the Act requires such bodies to maintain accounts subject to audit by an external auditor approved by the Auditor General for Wales.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS GRANTED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION

Statutory Officers consulted for their views, which were included in the report.

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SUBJECT: Item 8: GOVERNANCE STATEMENT FOR GwE JOINT COMMITTEE

DECISION:

To accept and approve the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 sets fixed requirements on public bodies that operate partnership management arrangements through formal joint committees.

Section 5 requires the Joint Committee to review and approve a statement of internal control. The Annual Governance Statement has been provided to meet this requirement. The document has been produced to offer a framework for the Joint Committee's operation.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS GRANTED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION

Statutory Officers consulted for their views, which were included in the report.

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SUBJECT: Item 9: GwE BUDGET 2024/25: REVIEW TO END OF AUGUST 2024

DECISION:

To accept and approve the report.

That the Joint Committee need an additional report with a further level of details to understand the full picture e.g, staff costs, restructuring costs

REASONS FOR DECISION

Members of the Joint Committee need to be updated on the latest financial review of the GwE Budget for the 2024/2025 financial year.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS GRANTED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION

Statutory Officers consulted for their views, which were included in the report.

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SUBJECT: Item 10: GwE RISK REGISTER

DECISION:

To accept and approve the risk register subject to identifying all risks as being HIGH risks (rather than MODERATE).

Reason: given the lack of timescale and information, it is too early in the process to predict differently.

Ensure that information regarding specific plans and transition processes is communicated regularly (monthly) to the Joint Committee.

REASONS FOR DECISION

GwE's Risk Register is a working document and is regularly reviewed. It is presented to the Joint Committee annually, and also when new risks are identified of which the Joint Committee needs to be aware.

All risks have been reviewed and updated. Risks have been reviewed in the context of the proposed changes to the middle tier of the education system in Wales and the transitional period of the regional service to the Local Authorities.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS GRANTED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO DECISION

Statutory Officers consulted for their views, which were included in the report.
