

**SWYDDFA'R ARWEINYDD
OFFICE OF THE LEADER**



County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

Fy Nghyf / My Ref: CM30628
Dyddiad / Date: 2nd April 2015

Annwyl / Dear Leader,

I am sure you have seen the Chancellor's comments regarding the City Deal in his recent Budget Speech. This is undoubtedly fantastic news for South East Wales and paves the way for us to open discussions about the size and scope of a City Deal. The announcement also means that we no longer need to submit an expression of interest ahead of the General Election. There is, however, a need to maintain momentum in the process, specifically to make sure that any proposal is considered as part of the next Government's Spending Review.

In respect of this I have taken a report to today's Cabinet meeting that outlines that the City Deal process is one that is led in partnership. Crucially the experience from elsewhere is that the biggest City Deals are led by consortia of local authorities. I think that the period ahead of the General Election gives us an opportunity to get a better understanding of how a City Deal could be developed regionally, and to start thinking about the governance arrangements we would need to put in place. Would you be available over the next few weeks to meet with myself and our Chief Executive to discuss proposals and look at next steps?

As was agreed at our previous Leaders meeting on 6th March, it would also be worthwhile for all South East Wales Leaders to meet again shortly so that we can start to shape the proposal. I've spoken with Cllr Mel Nott already about this idea and he is happy for this to be put in place - if you are agreeable with this approach I will ask my office to look at finalising suitable dates.

A copy of today's Cabinet Report, which includes an overview of regional governance arrangements and an update on KPMG's work is attached for your information. If you would like to discuss this further, I will ask my office to contact yours to put a meeting in place with you and your Chief Executive.

Yn gywir,
Yours sincerely,

**CYNGHORYDD / COUNCILLOR PHIL BALE
ARWEINYDD, CYNGOR DINAS CAERDYDD
LEADER OF THE CITY OF CARDIFF COUNCIL**

ATEBWCH I / PLEASE REPLY TO:

Swyddfa'r Arweinydd, Ystafell 525, Neuadd y Sir, Glanfa'r Iwerydd, Caerdydd CF10 4UW
Ffôn (029) 2087 2500 Ffacs (029) 2087 2599

Office of the Leader, Room 525, County Hall, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff CF10 4UW
Tel (029) 2087 2500 Fax (029) 2087 2599

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