

My Ref: T: Scrutiny/Correspondence/Cllr NH

Date: 14 December 2021

Councillor Huw Thomas  
Leader  
Cardiff Council  
County Hall  
Cardiff  
CF10 4UW



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Dear Councillor Thomas,

### **Western Gateway**

Thank you for attending the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee on 13 December 2021, along with Paul Orders, to discuss the briefing report regarding the Western Gateway partnership. This letter captures the comments and observations from Members.

Members were pleased to receive a briefing on the work of the Western Gateway partnership and note that the two workstreams of most significance to Cardiff are: the work on improving strategic rail infrastructure to boost our connectivity with the West of England and the M4 corridor to Heathrow and London; and the Severn Estuary tidal energy work. Members note that you are chairing the work on the Independent Commission to investigate the latter and that a stakeholder round table discussion is to be held in January 2022.

At the meeting, Members asked what the £190,000, made up from £10,000-each contributions from partners, would be used for and note your response that it is being used to build a base staffing resource, who will drive forward the work of the partnership and boost its profile.

Members also discussed how potential conflicts within the partnership would be managed, for example if areas put in competing bids for investment opportunities. Members note your response that the reality of this is recognised and acknowledged within the partnership, and has indeed already occurred, and that partners take the view that whichever area wins the investment, the benefits ripple out across the region via increased employment and use of local supply chains. Members also note

that the two workstreams of particular significance to Cardiff cover areas of strategic infrastructure, with national significance, and as such these bring benefits across the region.

Overall, Members are pleased to see work progressing with our Western Gateway partners and wish you well with these endeavours.

This letter does not require a response, thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Howells', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**COUNCILLOR NIGEL HOWELLS**  
**CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr Adrian Robson – Group Leader  
Cllr Rhys Taylor – Group Leader  
Cllr Emma Sandrey – Deputy Group Leader  
Cllr Keith Parry – Group Leader  
David Hugh Thomas – Chair Governance & Audit Committee  
Paul Orders  
Gareth Newell  
Rhian Jones  
Cabinet Support Office  
Tim Gordon  
Jeremy Rhys  
Chris Pyke