

**Report To:** Cabinet

**Date of Meeting:** 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015

**Lead Member / Officer:** Councillor Eryl Williams / Karen Evans

**Report Author:** Karen Evans

**Title:** GwE Governance Arrangements

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**1. What is the report about?**

The proposed Governance Arrangements for GwE (Regional School Improvement Service).

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

To recommend changes to the membership of the GwE Joint Committee in response to the adoption of the National Model for Regional Joint Working.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

That members approve the amended governance arrangements for GwE.

**4. Report Details**

**Introduction**

The guidance document – National Model for Regional Working was published by the Welsh Government in February 2014. The 6 partner Councils resolved in the Spring of 2014 to:

- To approve the National Model for Regional Working in Wales in relation to School Improvement.
- To adopt the National Model for Regional Working on School Improvement and develop a business plan with the intention that the additional services listed in the Model be incorporated into the GwE regional model, in phases, subject to a satisfactory business case for each and a supporting transition plan to ensure service continuity and performance.

**5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

At its meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2014 the Joint Committee gave detailed consideration to a revised governance structure in response to the National Model. The revised structure reflected the arrangements set out

in Appendix 1 to this report. The current delegated functions of the Joint Committee are considered sufficient to address the requirements of the National Model.

Appendix 2 sets out revisions to the membership of the Joint Committee and establishment of an Advisory Board and Management Board to support the Managing Director and Senior Management Team in the management of GwE. The Advisory Board membership and functions reflect the “Executive Board” concept in the National Model but with powers of recommendation. The Management Board will have decision making powers. The apportionment and delegation of functions are set out in the Table in Appendix 3. The approach was adopted because of legal advice that there was sufficient uncertainty about delegating decisions to the Advisory Board to favour an alternative model. The model also formalises the supportive role which the Directors of Education have provided in supporting the GwE management team and provides a forum for providing input from the six authorities on more operational matters which has facilitated decision making. It can also act as an authorising body for financial decisions at an intermediate level below the Joint Committee. As a result it is recommended that they attend the Joint Committee in an officer function in future as opposed to being members of the Committee.

As part of the Joint Committee review it is suggested that Gwynedd Standing Orders are adopted in relation to quorum which would mean, in the case of the Joint Committee that three voting members would need to be present to effect a quorum. The current quorum of five elected members is considered too high and practically difficult to manage.

### **Background Documents**

National Model for Regional Working – Welsh Government Guidance 2014.

Report to GwE Joint Committee 29.9.2014 – “GwE Governance Arrangements”

Report to GwE Joint Committee 6 November 2014– “GwE Governance Arrangements”

- 6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**  
N/A
- 7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.**  
*EqIA attached.*
- 8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**  
N/A
- 9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

There are no financial implications from this proposal.

**10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

The risk of not adopting this proposal is that the LA and the region will not be compliant with the requirements of the National Model for Regional Working on School Improvement.

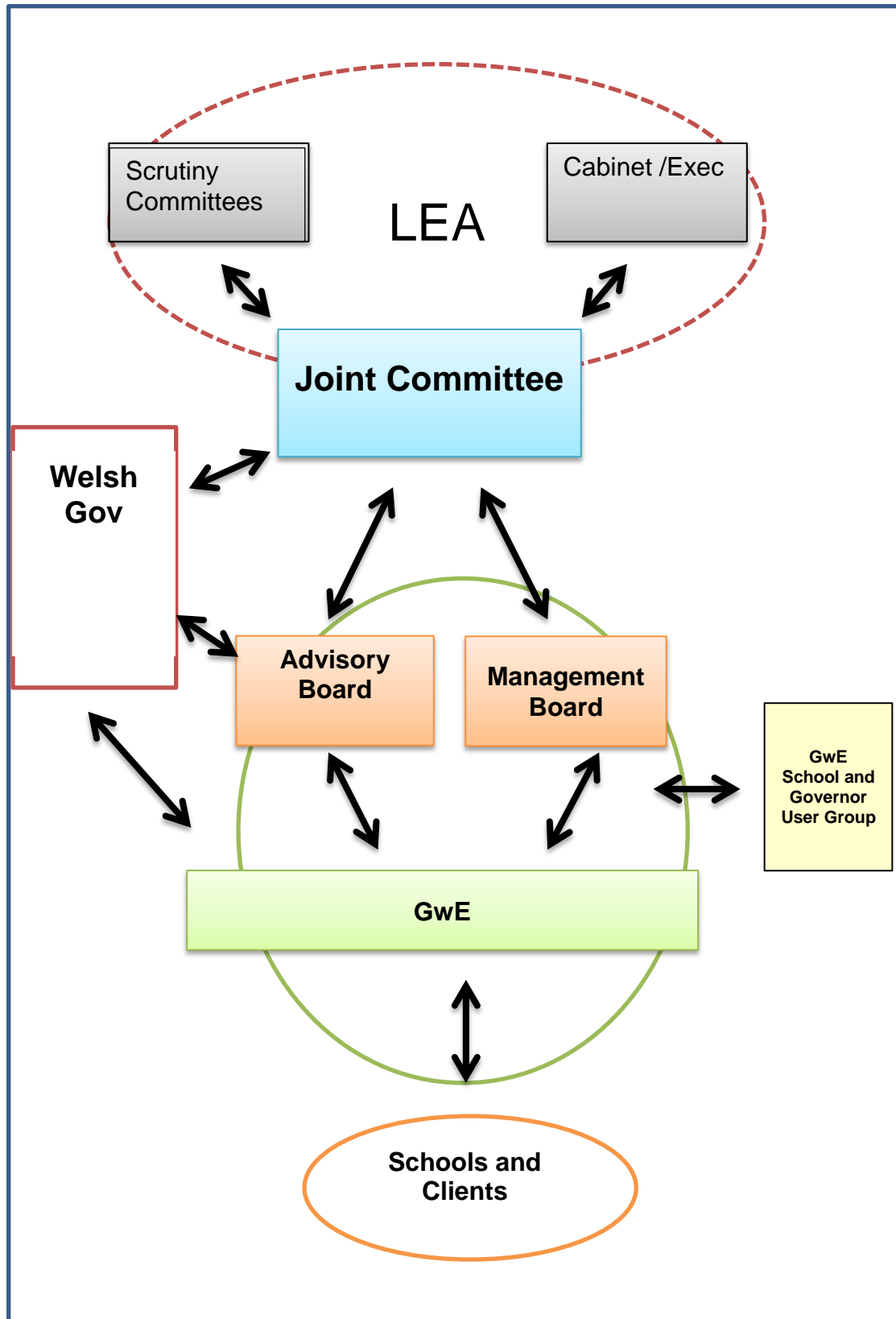
**11. Power to make the Decision**

**S101 Local Government Act 1972**

**S20 Local Government Act 2000**

**Local Government (Executive Arrangements) (Discharge of Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2002**

## Appendix 1 - Proposed Structure



**Appendix 2**

**Membership**

Joint Committee (Existing)		Joint Committee (Proposed)	Advisory Board	Management Board	
<b>Voting Members</b>	<b>Officer Members –Non Voting</b>	<b>Voting Members</b>			
6x Education Portfolio Members <i>one from each NW LA</i>	6x Statutory Chief Education Officers <i>one from each NW LA</i>	6x Education Portfolio Members <i>one from each NW LA</i>	1 x Education Portfolio Holder (Lead for Region) Lead CEoO Managing Director No more than 5 experts (Individuals to be appointed by Joint Committee) WG Nominee	6x Statutory Chief Education Officers ( <i>one from each NW LA</i> ) Managing Director Members of GwE SLT as required	
<b>Co-opted Non-voting Members</b>	<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	<b>Co-opted Non-voting Members</b>			
1x Diocese Representative <i>nominated from across the Wrexham, St Asaph and Bangor Diocese, on a rotating two year term</i>	1x Legal Representative 1x S151 Representative Other specialists as requested	1x Diocese Representative <i>nominated from across the Wrexham, St Asaph and Bangor Diocese, on a rotating two year term</i>			

1x Primary Schools Representative		1x Primary Schools Headteacher			
1x Secondary Schools Representative		1x Secondary Schools Headteacher			
1x Special Schools Representative		1x Special Schools Headteacher			
1x Governor Representative		1x Governor Representative			
		<b>Officers in Attendance (Non-voting)</b>			
		Lead Chief Exec 6x Statutory Chief Education Officers <i>(one from each NW LA)</i> 1x Legal Representative 1x S151 Representative Other specialists as required			

### Appendix 3 Functions of Advisory and Management Boards

<b>Advisory Board</b>	<b>Management Board</b>
<p>Reporting regularly to the joint committee, the Advisory Board will:</p> <p>Constructively challenge and contribute to the development of strategy to enable the organisation to achieve its goals;</p> <p>Consider and make recommendations to the joint committee in relation to the annual Business Plan;</p> <p>Monitor and review the performance of management in meeting assigned goals and objectives and monitor the reporting of performance;</p>	<p>Reporting regularly to the joint committee, the Management Board will:</p> <p>Co-construct the annual Business Plan, including the individual appendices to identify specific requirements at individual LA level;</p> <p>Monitor progress against the priorities and outcomes identified in the Business Plan on a regular basis;</p> <p>Have arrangements in place to make sure that GwE financial controls and systems are robust;</p> <p>Provide professional advice to the joint committee with regard to the appointment of the Managing Director.</p>