

## South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

11.30am-12.30pm on Monday 30 January 2023 via Microsoft Teams

### Minutes

#### Members and Chief Executives

Cllr Stephen Thomas	Leader	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Damien McCann	Interim Chief Executive	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Julian Stedman	Chair of Planning, Access & Rights of Way Committee	Brecon Beacons NPA
Cllr Huw David OBE	Leader	Bridgend CBC
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive	Bridgend CBC
Cllr Huw Thomas	Leader	Cardiff Council
Cllr Sean Morgan	Leader	Caerphilly CBC
Christina Harrhy	Chief Executive	Caerphilly CBC
Cllr Geraint Thomas	Leader	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby	Leader	Monmouthshire CC
Paul Matthews (from 11:37)	Chief Executive	Monmouthshire CC
Cllr Jane Mudd, Vice Chair	Leader	Newport CC
Beverly Owen	Chief Executive	Newport CC
Cllr Andrew Morgan OBE	Leader	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Paul Mee	Chief Executive	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Cllr Anthony Hunt, Chair	Leader	Torfaen CBC
Stephen Vickers	Chief Executive	Torfaen CBC
Cllr Lis Burnett	Leader	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Rob Thomas	Chief Executive	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Kellie Beirne (KB)	Interim Chief Executive	SEW CJC
James Williams	Interim Monitoring Officer	SEW CJC
Christopher Lee (CL)	Interim Section 151 Officer	SEW CJC

#### Officers

Gareth Jones	Director of Planning & Place	Brecon Beacons NPA
Jon Day	Economic Policy Manager	Cardiff Council
Gill Brown	Group Accountant	Accountable Body
Lindsey Yeoman	Accountant	Accountable Body
Gareth Gates	Accountant	Accountable Body
Rhys Thomas	Chief Operating Officer	Office of the CCR
Hrjinder Singh	Head of Finance, Risk & Assurance	Office of the CCR
Nicola Somerville	Head of Inclusive Growth & Business Development	Office of the CCR
Mike Brough	Programme Lead – Infrastructure	Office of the CCR
Rob O'Dwyer	Head of Infrastructure	Office of the CCR
Colan Mehaffey	Head of Digital & Data Innovation	Office of the CCR

Suzanne Chesterton	Head of Governance, Policy and Communications	Office of the CCR
Jonathon Segarty	Corporate Governance Manager	Office of the CCR
Steven Hazleton	Marketing & Communications Lead	Office of the CCR
Liz Fitzgerald (minutes)	Business Development & Partnership Officer	Office of the CCR

### Observers

Christopher Stevens	Head of Planning & Partnership	Welsh Government
Helen Williams	South East Regional Team	Welsh Government

### Apologies

Catherine Mealing-Jones	Chief Executive	Brecon Beacons NPA
Paul Orders	Chief Executive	Cardiff Council
Ellis Cooper	Chief Executive	Merthyr Tydfil CBC

Recording of the meeting was started at 11:32

#### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Hunt opened the meeting and apologies were noted.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

#### 3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 28 November 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2022 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

#### 4. Update on the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee including

- Nomination of a Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Administrator for the SEW CJC
- The Statutory Duties Pursuant to s.6 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

##### (1) Nomination of a Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Administrator for the SEW CJC

KB introduced the item and outlined the issues around the pension fund matter; as RCT CBC already provided financial and transactional services they had been nominated as the pension provider. Over the coming months the CJC would need to demonstrate how it would comply with its statutory duties; the implementation of the Audit & Governance Committee would also be crucial at this stage.

The Statutory Duties Pursuant to s.6 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016

KB had written to Members confirming the report had now been published.

- (2) Cllr Andrew Morgan wished to confirm he was happy with the report's suggestions but noted CCR needed to be mindful to do what was appropriate for the CJC in the most cost-effective manner and should utilise any systems or processes already in place with local authorities where possible. The CJC had to work for local authorities and add value to their roles.
- (3) The motion to accept the recommendations of the report was moved by Cllr Stephen Thomas and seconded by Cllr David.
- (4) Cllr Hunt confirmed there were no objections, exceptions or abstentions and all ten Members agreed to accept the recommendations of the report.
- (5) It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:
  - (1) approved the proposal to nominate Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC as the LGPS Administrating Authority for the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee;
  - (2) noted the approach to the statutory duties of the CJC over the transition period as set out in this report;
  - (3) with regard to the statutory duties pursuant to section 6 of The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 as set out in paragraphs 24-29 of the report:
    - a. noted the publication of the section 6 biodiversity report and endorsed the same;
    - b. noted that the additional duties relating to the preparation of a Section 6 Plan and to conduct a Section 6 Review will be the subject of a further report in due course when those duties become operational.

**5. South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Annual Business Plan and Annual CJC General Budget Requirement 2023/24 and CJC Strategic Planning Budget Requirement 2023/24**

- a) Ten CCR Constituent Councils to consider Part A Recommendations
  - b) Ten CCR Constituent Councils and BBNPA to consider Part B Recommendations
- (1) KB introduced the item, confirmed that discussions had taken place with Cllr David and the RTA, and noted how much of the CJC programme was a continuation of work already begun by CCR, such as the Regional Transport Plan. CL went through the report and outlined key areas for Members.
  - (2) The motion to accept the recommendations of the report was moved by Cllr Stephen Thomas and seconded by Cllr Brocklesby. All ten members present as Ten Constituent CCR Councils approved Part A recommendations. All eleven members present as Ten CCR Constituent Councils and BBNPA approved Part B recommendations.

- (3) Cllr Hunt confirmed there were no objections, exceptions or abstentions and Members agreed to accept both the Part A and Part B recommendations of the report.
- (4) PART A  
It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (10 CCR Council Members only):
  - (1) noted and approved the integrated Annual Business Plan for 2023/24 as set out at Appendix 1;
  - (2) considered and approved the CJC's General Budget requirement and the contributions payable by the 10 CCR Constituent Councils as set out in Table 1 of the report in respect of Financial Year 2023/24, noting that these amounts would be met from the CCR General Reserve held on behalf of the councils;
  - (3) noted the CJC Capital Programme Budget position and approved for CJC treasury management activities, where required during the Building Foundations period, to be undertaken in line with the approved Treasury Management Strategy of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council;
  - (4) noted that it would receive further reports during 2023/24 to provide updates on the outstanding technical issues and any related budgetary implications.
- (5) PART B  
It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (10 CCR Council Members and BBNPA Member):
  - (5) considered and approved the CJC's Strategic Planning Budget requirement and the contributions payable by the 10 CCR Constituent Councils and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority as set out in Table 1 of the report in respect of Financial Year 2023/24;
  - (6) noted that the amounts payable by the 10 CCR constituent local authorities in respect of Recommendation (5) would be met from the CCR General Reserve held on behalf of the councils;
  - (7) noted that it would receive further reports during 2023/24 to provide updates on the outstanding technical issues and any related budgetary implications.

The meeting closed and recording was stopped at 11:46

**Date of Next Meeting:** 11.00am on Monday 27 March 2023 via Microsoft Teams