

South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

11.00am-12.00pm on Monday 27 March 2023 via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Members and Chief Executives

Cllr Stephen Thomas	Leader	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Damien McCann	Interim Chief Executive	Blaenau Gwent CBC
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
Ellis Cooper	Chief Executive	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby	Leader	Monmouthshire CC
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive	Monmouthshire CC
Cllr Ann Crimmings	Cabinet Member	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 (JW)	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
Simon Gale	Director of Prosperity and Development	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Gill Brown	Group 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
Mike Brough	Senior Programme Lead – Infrastructure	Office of the CCR
Rob O'Dwyer	Head of Infrastructure	Office of the CCR
Natalie		
Andy Gilbert	Change 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
Gareth Ashman	Head of Infrastructure	UK Government

Apologies

Julian Stedman	Chair of Planning, Access & Rights of Way Committee	Brecon Beacons NPA
Catherine Mealing-Jones	Chief Executive	Brecon Beacons NPA
Cllr Sean Morgan	Leader	Caerphilly CBC
Paul Orders	Chief Executive	Cardiff Council
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
Suzanne Chesterton	Head of Governance, Policy and Communications	Office of the CCR

Recording of the meeting started at 11:02

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 30 January 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 January were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. Transition Plan - South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Statutory Sub-Committees

(1) JW introduced the item and provided an overview of the statutory sub-committees that would need to be implemented at the present stage of the transition to the SEW CJC.

(2) Leaders agreed to accept the recommendations of the report and Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order:

Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Torfaen.

Cllr Mudd was not present to vote for Newport.

(3) It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:

- (1) approved the proposal to utilise Cardiff Council's Standards & Ethics Committee to carry out the statutory function of the Standards Sub-Committee for the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee;
- (2) authorised the Interim Chief Executive to instruct officers of the CJC to make arrangements with officers at Cardiff Council to obtain the required approval and consent of the relevant officers and members to implement the proposal set out in recommendation 1;
- (3) authorised the Interim Chief Executive to instruct officers of the CJC to prepare and enter into an appropriate Service Level Agreement with Cardiff Council to cover costs associated with the additional work for Cardiff's Officers in facilitating a joint standards committee;
- (4) noted the statutory requirement to establish a Governance & Audit Sub-Committee:
 - a) authorised the Interim Chief Executive to make arrangements to establish the Governance & Audit Sub-Committee and constitute its membership;
 - b) approved the terms of reference of the proposed Governance & Audit Sub-Committee as attached at Appendix 1.

5. Update on the Transition Planning for the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee and 2022/23 Month 11 Budget Monitoring Position

- (1) KB introduced the item. She confirmed that the VAT Order had now been laid before Parliament and had been in force from February 2023; VAT could now be reclaimed as part of the work of the CJC. The Paragraph 11 s150 Government of Wales Act Order had also been laid before Parliament the previous week. KB thanked Welsh Government and Office of the Secretary of State for Wales colleagues for helping to move matters forward. KB said that the matter of transferring City Deal funding to the SEW CJC remained outstanding but CCR Chair and Vice Chairs had written to UK Government on this matter. KB highlighted the complex issues around the transition planning which included future resourcing; there were currently c14 committees for the CCR with additional committees to be set up and the work to be done in synthesising and consolidating towards a sensible governance model.
- (2) KB highlighted the decision to prepare a framework for a Child Poverty Strategy, required by the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010, in readiness should the SEW CJC not be covered by exemption if the 10 constituent local authorities discharged this via publication of their own strategies. CCR were consulting with Welsh Government and would comply and publish as appropriate.

- (3) In respect of the SEW CJC budget all matters were in order and there had been minimum expenditure. There would be a requirement at year-end to complete and submit a Small Bodies Return.

Leaders agreed to accept the recommendations of the report and Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order:

Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Torfaen.

Cllr Mudd was not present to vote for Newport.

- (4) It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:

- (1) noted the updates on Section 150 order, VAT Status, approach to the UK Government regarding the City Deal funding, the budget update and the transition activities, including the development of a Target Operating Model;
- (2) noted the 2022/23 Month 11 Budget Monitoring position and projected out-turn as set out in the report, noting that further updates will be brought back to the CJC in-line with statutory requirements and deadlines;
- (3) approved the draft Child Poverty Strategy at Appendix 6, subject to consultation with Welsh Government;
- (4) authorised the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with members, to make any changes to the Child Poverty Strategy that are required following the consultation with Welsh Government;
- (5) authorised the publication of the Child Poverty Strategy in accordance with the statutory obligations.

6. South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Well-being Objectives

- (1) KB introduced the item and confirmed that after consideration of the options, SEW CJC would adopt the objectives of the Regional Economic and Industrial Plan (REIP). The REIP had had wide regional consultation and support, aligned with the region's objectives and incurred no duplication.
- (2) Leaders suggested that as well as focusing on economic growth and social value aspects, SEW CJC should also recognise socio, political and geographical barriers and the objectives should include these elements. KB clarified that at the moment only work

would around immediate corporate duties was ongoing. The existing provisions for CCR were still in force and would apply to City Deal work; the new approach would apply from 1 April 2024 following integration of the two bodies. JW reiterated that the existing framework would continue; a new Statement could be adopted in 2024 if required.

- (3) Leaders suggested that Derek Walker, the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, should be invited to meet with the Board.
- (4) Leaders agreed to accept the recommendations of the report and Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order:

KB

Bridgend, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Torfaen.

Cllr Mudd was not present to vote for Newport.

- (5) It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:
 - (1) approved the CJC's Well-Being objectives and the draft Well-Being Statement set out at Appendix 1 and
 - (2) authorised officers to arrange for the publication of the CJC's well-being objectives and well-being statement (set out in Appendix 1), in accordance with the legal requirements.

Recording of the meeting ended at 11:27

Date of Next Meeting: 11.30am on Monday 22 May 2023 via Microsoft Teams

This document is available in Welsh / Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg