

South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

11.30am-12.30pm on Monday 31 July 2023 via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Committee Members

Julian Stedman	Chair of Planning Committee	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
Cllr Stephen Thomas	Leader	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Cllr Huw David OBE	Leader	Bridgend CBC
Cllr Sean Morgan	Leader	Caerphilly CBC
Cllr Geraint Thomas	Leader	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby, Acting Chair	Leader	Monmouthshire CC
Cllr Andrew Morgan OBE	Leader	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Cllr Joanne Gauden	Cabinet Member	Torfaen CBC
Cllr Lis Burnett	Leader	Vale of Glamorgan Council

Officers in Attendance

Christina HARRY	Chief Executive	Caerphilly CBC
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive	Monmouthshire CC
Beverly Owen	Chief Executive	Newport CC
Paul Mee	Chief Executive	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Rob Thomas (from 11:36)	Chief Executive	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Rhys Thomas (RT)	Acting Interim Chief Executive	SEW CJC
Mike Brough (MB)	Senior Programme Manager - Special Projects	Office of the CCR
Liz Fitzgerald (minutes)	Business Development & Partnership Officer	Office of the CCR
Mary Cormack (CM)	Solicitor	Accountable Body
Gill Brown	Group Accountant	Accountable Body
Ian Allwood	Acting s151 Officer	Accountable Body

Apologies

Cllr Huw Thomas	Leader	Cardiff Council
Cllr Jane Mudd, Vice Chair	Leader	Newport CC
Cllr Anthony Hunt, Chair	Leader	Torfaen CBC
Kellie Beirne	Interim Chief Executive	SEW CJC
James Williams	Interim Monitoring Officer	SEW CJC
Christopher Lee	Interim Section 151 Officer / Acting Chief Executive	SEW CJC / Cardiff Council
Catherine Mealing-Jones	Chief Executive	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
Gareth Jones	Director of Planning & Place	Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
Damien McCann	Interim Chief Executive	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive	Bridgend CBC
Paul Orders	Chief Executive	Cardiff Council
Ellis Cooper	Chief Executive	Merthyr Tydfil CBC

Recording of the meeting was started at 11:33

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Brocklesby 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 5 June 2023

- (1) It was noted that the date of the minutes on the published agenda was incorrect and the minutes under review were for those for the meeting of 5 June.
- (2) The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting as moved by Cllr Stephen Thomas and seconded by Cllr Burnett.

4. Scrutiny Arrangements

- (1) MC introduced the report which noted that CJC was not required to establish their own Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JOSC) but was required to either attend a regional JOSC or to attend meetings of the ten Local Authority Scrutiny Committees. A JOSC had been established for the City Deal and the report proposed the CJC use that committee to scrutinise the functions of the CJC. The JOSC had been consulted on this and were in agreement with this proposal.

Rob Thomas joined the meeting at 11:36

- (2) The Committee discussed the following points:
 - a) the BBNPA had not been part of CCR scrutiny in the past and would not want to be involved in the whole scrutiny. However, the BBNPA would like to be included in matters relating to the SDP. MC confirmed that would be possible and that the BBNPA could be co-opted;
 - b) there had been some previous difficulties with the JOSC being quorate and that the transition was an opportunity to review and refresh (?)the membership.
- (3) The motion to accept the recommendations of the report was moved by Cllr Sean Morgan and seconded by Cllr Stephen Thomas.
- (4) Cllr Brocklesby obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order:

Caerphilly, Vale of Glamorgan, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau

Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend and Monmouthshire.

- Cllr Mudd was not present to vote for Newport CC.
- Cllr Huw Thomas was not present to vote for Cardiff Council.

(5) It was resolved that the SEW CJC:

- (1) endorsed the proposal that the JOSOC should be appointed as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the CJC;
- (2) authorised the Interim Monitoring Officer to approach relevant officers at RCT CBC to formally request that the JOSOC be appointed as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the CJC;
- (3) authorised the Interim Monitoring Officer to make arrangements with the constituent authorities as are necessary to progress the proposal.

5. South East Wales CJC – Statutory Sub-Committees Update

(1) MC introduced the report and drew attention to the following:

Cardiff Council's planned Cabinet the previous week had been adjourned due to technical issues and therefore the arrangements for the Standards Committee to be delivered through Cardiff's Standards & Ethics Committee had not been formalised. Provided SEW CJC Committee members were in agreement, the proposals would be submitted to the next Cardiff Council Cabinet meeting in September.

At the previous meeting of the SEW CJC, the Interim Chief Executive had been authorised to establish the Governance & Audit Committee. The report set out the proposed arrangement for recruiting eight local authority and four lay members.

(2) Members were unanimous in accepting the recommendations of the report verified by a show of hands, with no abstentions.

(3) It was resolved that the SEW CJC:

- (1) noted the progress made towards establishing the statutory sub-committees;
- (2) delegated the statutory functions of the statutory Standards Sub-Committee of the CJC to Cardiff Council's Standards & Ethics Committee and authorised the Interim Chief Executive to conclude a Service Level Agreement with Cardiff Council setting out the terms of the interim arrangements as set out in paragraph 5 of the report;
- (3) endorsed the proposed method of recruitment of elected and lay members of the Governance & Audit Sub-Committee;

- (4) noted the remuneration payable to lay members of the Governance & Audit Committee;
- (5) approved and adopted the CJC Member Code of Conduct at Appendix 1.

6. South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Transition Plan

- (1) MB introduced the report and noted that:

The CJC Chief Executive would be formally in post on 1 October and it was anticipated the current budget would be sufficient to cover the current financial year, although some balancing between CCR and CJC may be required. A paper would be brought in September on the current year's budget, budget-setting for the next financial year and the financial plan.

- (2) Regional Transport Plan (RTP) and Strategic Development Plan (SDP) work was progressing and it was hoped to align these as closely as possible. In relation to RTP and SDP the report noted that:

RTP guidance had been released c14 days ago and an implementation plan was required by Welsh Government for October - a draft would be presented at the September meeting. Some changes would also be required to the draft RTP to reflect the guidance. CCR were meeting with WLGA?? and Welsh Government later in the week for clarification. There was a new requirement in the guidance to develop a Regional Transport Delivery Plan for local authorities in collaboration with CCR.

The SDP delivery plan would be drafted by the end of the financial year and CCR would be engaging with local authority planning departments to align the SDP with Local Development Plans. There was some potential for Welsh Government funding and, if available, this would help towards costs.

- (3) The Committee discussed the following points:
 - a) in terms of the SDP, BBNPA planners had advised work was ongoing. BBNPA were required to support three regional CJCs so this presented a significant resource issue for them;
 - b) there was a view that the SDP is holding up local authorities' LDPs and that there was a risk that local councils may not secure investment funding until plans were completed. CM noted that work was ongoing to sequence LDPs across the region. Discussions between Caerphilly CBC, Monmouthshire CC and Welsh Government around alignment were also ongoing. The September report would outline how this issue was being addressed.
- (4) The motion to accept the recommendations of the report was moved by moved Cllr Sean Morgan and seconded by Cllr David.
- (5) Members were unanimous in accepting the recommendations of

the report verified by a show of hands, with no abstentions.

- (6) It was resolved that the SEW CJC:
 - (1) noted the transition activities laid out in the report;
 - (2) noted the proposed approach to the development of the RTP and SDP laid out in the report.

Formal election of a Chair for the meeting was ratified at the end of the meeting, as moved by Cllr Sean Morgan and seconded by Cllr David.

Recording of the meeting ended at 12:04

Date of Next Meeting: 11.30am on Monday 11 September 2023