Cyd-bwyllgor Corfforedig De-Ddwyrain Cymru | South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

09.00am on Monday 10 March 2025
via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Members	Constituent Authority
Councillor Lis Burnett	Leader, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Councillor Brent Carter	Leader, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Councillor Deb Davies	Deputy Leader, Newport City Council
Councillor Joanne Gauden	Executive Member for Economy, Skills & Regeneration, Torfaen County Borough Council
Councillor Jane Gebbie	Deputy Leader, Bridgend County Borough Council
Councillor Paul Griffiths	Deputy Leader, Monmouthshire County Council
Councillor Andrew Morgan	Leader, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Councillor Sean Morgan	Leader, Caerphilly County Borough Council
Mr Julian Stedman	Chair of Planning Committee, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (for items 1 – 6)
Councillor Stephen Thomas	Leader, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Officers	
Kellie Beirne	Chief Executive
Jayne La Grua	Strategic Director of Legal and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Colan Mehaffey	Strategic Director of Policy, Impact and Partnerships
Liam Hull	Strategic Director of Resources and S151 Officer
Hrjinder Singh	Head of Finance, Risk and Assurance and Deputy S151 Officer
Clare Cameron	Regional Transport Manager

1. Election of Chair

1.1 In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chairs of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) who were travelling to MIPIM 2025 on behalf of CCR, Members of the CJC were required to elect a Chair for the duration of the current meeting. On a motion from Cllr Stephen Thomas, seconded by Cllr Sean Morgan, the CJC **ELECTED** Cllr Lis Burnett as Chair for the current meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

2.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Dimitri Batrouni (Leader, Newport City Council), Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby (Leader, Monmouthshire County Council and Chair of the CJC), Cllr Anthony Hunt (Leader, Torfaen County Borough Council and Deputy Chair of the CJC), Cllr John Spanswick (Leader, Bridgend County Borough Council) and Cllr Huw Thomas (Leader, Cardiff Council and Deputy Chair of the CJC). Cllr Batrouni was substituted at the meeting by Cllr Deb Davies, Cllr Brocklesby was substituted by Cllr Paul Griffiths, Cllr Hunt was substituted by Cllr Joanne Gauden and Cllr John Spanswick was substituted by Cllr Jane Gebbie.

3. Declarations of Interests

3.1 Cllr Brent Carter declared a prejudicial interest prior to item 8 on the agenda, Goat Mill Road Short Form Business Case, left the meeting for the duration of this item and took no part in the discussion. This was due to it being proposed that there was a grant funding agreement between CCR and Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) as part of the Business Case.

4. Minutes

4.1 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting of the CJC held on 27 January 2025 as a true and accurate record.

5. Pay Policy Statement

5.1 The Committee received a report providing details of the South East Wales Corporate Pay Policy Statement 2025/26. Liam Hull, presenting the report, confirmed that the CJC was required to produce and publish a Pay Policy Statement for each financial year before the commencement of that year, in line with the Localism Act 2011. The Pay Policy Statement for 2025/26 therefore needed to be approved by the CJC by 31 March 2025. It provided the framework for decision making on pay, and in particular, on senior officer pay within the CJC.

5.2 Mr Hull explained that in May 2023, the CJC had agreed to replicate the pay and grading structure of Cardiff Council. The cost of living pay award was negotiated on a national basis. It was highlighted that the key changes from the Pay Policy Statement published last year related to chief officers and deputy chief officers following an organisational restructure and the pay structure being updated to reflect the cost of living pay award for 2024/25.

5.3 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC:

1) Approved the Pay Policy Statement 2025/26 included as Appendix 1; and,

2) Noted that agreement of the Pay Policy Statement 2025/26 would constitute agreement to implement the cost of living pay increases determined by the relevant negotiating body effective from 1st April each year.

6. MIPIM 2025

6.1 The Committee received a report providing an update on CCR's approach to MIPIM 2025 and to update members on the development of a multi-year plan for events and sponsorship. Colan Mehaffey, introducing the report, advised on the rationale for attending MIPIM, including that events and sponsorship were an important part of CCR's approach to communications and that MIPIM provided the opportunity to showcase projects from across the region on a global stage and seek high value investment. As an example, he mentioned that Cardiff's Central Square investment discussions had commenced at MIPIM. The message at this year's MIPIM would be that 'CCR is one of the UK's most attractive regions for sustainable growth'.

6.2 Mr Mehaffey referred to this being the first year where CCR was the lead partner and accountable body for the regional presence at MIPIM. There were a series of clear objectives and KPIs set for what CCR was seeking to achieve at the event. There were short, medium and long term goals set, as listed in the report, which would be tracked by CCR staff. It was intended there would be a future report to the CJC on performance against the objectives and achievements at MIPIM 2025.

6.3 Mr Mehaffey added that this update followed the report which had been considered by CJC in July 2024, where approval was given to allocate funds and resources to promote CCR at events up to June 2025, including MIPIM 2025.

6.4 The Chair wished the CCR Councillor/Officer representatives well in terms of achieving success at MIPIM and welcomed a future report to the CJC providing details of what is achieved at the event.

6.5 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC noted:

1) The update on MIPIM 2025; and,
2) The update on development of a multi-year plan for events and sponsorship.

Exclusion of Press and Public

The CJC **RESOLVED** that the public and press be asked to leave the meeting during discussion of the remaining items of business because exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 is likely to be made known.

NOTE: In accordance to the Standing Orders in relation to the delivery of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority was not represented during the Exempt Session.

EXEMPT SESSION

Cllr Sean Morgan mentioned that at Caerphilly CBC before every item was considered in exempt session there was a requirement to go through a public interest test. He

asked why this did not happen at the CJC meeting. Jayne La Grua advised that the reasoning for the items being exempt was set out in the CJC reports and complied with Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972. However, Legal and Democratic Services at CCR would look at Caerphilly's approach to see if there were any improvements that could be made in terms of best practice.

Action: Jayne La Grua / CCR Legal and Democratic Services.

7. Transport Grants Modernisation

7.1 Clare Cameron presented the report.

7.2 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC defer a decision to the next meeting of the CJC on 31 March.

8. Goat Mill Road – Full Business Case

Cllr Brent Carter left the meeting for the duration of this item and took no part in the discussion. He returned to the meeting for Item 9.

8.1 Kellie Beirne presented the report.

8.2 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC approved the recommendations in the report.

9. Investment & Intervention Framework

9.1 Kellie Beirne presented the report.

9.2 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC approved the recommendations in the report.

Meeting end: 10.02am

Date of Next Meeting: 31 March 2025

DRAFT