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

Report for:	ACTION
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO

For Consideration By	South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee
Report Title	Confirmation of Members and Substitute Members of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Allocation of Portfolios for 2025/26
Report of	Jayne La Grua, Strategic Directors of Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer
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Date to be Considered	2 June 2025
Implementation Date	With immediate effect
Affected Council Areas	All
Keywords / Index	Appointments, Members, Substitute Members, Portfolios

Report Summary

1. This report confirms the Membership of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) for the 2025/26 municipal year, together with each Constituent Authority's nominated Substitute Member. It also seeks approval of each Council Member's portfolio of responsibility.

Recommendations

2. The Corporate Joint Committee is asked to:

   (1) Note the Committee's Membership for the 2025/26 municipal year;

   (2) Note each Authority's nominated Substitute Member;

   (3) Approve the Member Portfolios for the municipal year; and

(4) Nominate Members to Chair and Deputy Chair the Regional Transport Sub-Committee and the Strategic Development Sub-Committee, respectively.

Reasons for Recommendations

Members and Substitute Members

3. The Committee's Membership is prescribed by Part 3 of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021. The Members of the CJC are:

(a) the 10 council members;

(b) the Brecon Beacons member; and

(c) any co-opted member.

4. In the case of each constituent council, the Leader of that Council is the Council Member of the CJC.

5. Where a Council Member is unable to act for any period, the constituent council of which they are a member may appoint a member of its executive as a Substitute Member of the CJC for that period.

6. In the case of the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, the Authority must appoint one of the following officeholders as a Member of the CJC:

(a) the chairman of the Authority,

(b) the deputy chairman of the Authority, or

(c) the chairperson of a committee with responsibility for planning matters as may be established by the Authority.

7. Where the Brecon Beacons Member is unable to act for any period, the Authority may appoint another of the officeholders mentioned in paragraph 6 above as a Substitute Member of the CJC for that period.

8. The following persons are the Members and Substitute Members of the CJC for the 2025/26 municipal year:

Council / Authority	**Member**	**Substitute**
Blaenau Gwent CBC	Cllr Steve Thomas	Cllr John Morgan
Bridgend CBC	Cllr John Spanswick	Cllr Jane Gebbie
Caerphilly CBC	Cllr Sean Morgan	Cllr James Pritchard
Cardiff Council	Cllr Huw Thomas	Cllr Sarah Merry
Merthyr Tydfil CBC	Cllr Brent Carter	Cllr David Jones
Monmouthshire CC	Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby	Cllr Paul Griffiths
Newport CC	Cllr Dimitri Batrouni	Cllr Deborah Davies

Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC	Cllr Andrew Morgan	Cllr Maureen Webber
Torfaen CBC	Cllr Anthony Hunt	Cllr Joanne Gauden
Vale of Glamorgan Council	Cllr Lis Burnett	Cllr Bronwen Brooks
Brecon Beacons NPA	Cllr Julian Stedman	Cllr Edwin Roderick

Portfolios

9. Part 3A of the CJC's Constitution makes provision for the allocation of portfolios (lead responsibilities) for particular functions. The following portfolios are proposed for the 2025/26 municipal year:

Portfolio	**Portfolio Holder**
Governance, Resources & Assurance	Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby
Research, Innovation & Investment	Cllr Anthony Hunt
Industrial Policy, Internationalisation & Core Cities	Cllr Huw Thomas
Infrastructure and Major Projects Delivery	Cllr Andrew Morgan
Climate Response	Cllr Sean Morgan
Spatial and Transport Policy	Cllr Lis Burnett
Northern Valleys x 2	Cllr Stephen Thomas Cllr Brent Carter
Building Capability – Data and Skills	Cllr Dimitri Batrouni
Economic Inclusion	Cllr John Spanswick

10. The allocation of portfolio responsibility for the 2025/26 municipal year is set out in the **Appendix** to this report

Chairs and Deputy Chairs – Sub-Committees

11. The CJC's Constitution provides that the Chair and Deputy Chair (non-voting) of both the Regional Transport Sub-Committee and of the Strategic Development Sub-Committee will be members of the CJC nominated annually.

12. During the 2024/25 municipal year, these were:

Regional Transport Sub-Committee	
Chair	Cllr Andrew Morgan
Deputy Chair	Cllr Lis Burnett

Strategic Development Sub-Committee	
Chair	Cllr Lis Burnett
Deputy Chair	Cllr Andrew Morgan

Comments of the s.151 Officer

13. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

14. The recommendations of this report have regard to the statutory requirements as to membership of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee and to the CJC's Constitution.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

15. The Equality Act 2010 (Public Authorities subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty) (Wales) Order 2021 amended Part 2 of Schedule 19 to the Equality Act 2010 to provide that Corporate Joint Committees are subject to the Public Sector Equality duty set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

16. The Equality Act 2010 (Authorities subject to a duty regarding Socio-economic Inequalities) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2021 amended section 1 of the Equality Act 2010 in order to add Corporate Joint Committees to the list of relevant authorities subject to the Socio Economic Duty.

17. The Committee must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to: (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited under the Act; (2) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not; and (3) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not.

18. The characteristics protected under the Act are:
    - age;
    - disability;
    - gender reassignment;
    - marriage and civil partnership;
    - pregnancy and maternity;
    - race;
    - religion or belief;
    - sex; and
    - sexual orientation.

19. Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:
    (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;

(b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;

(c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

20. The socio-economic duty requires public bodies to, when making decisions of a strategic nature about how to exercise its functions, have due regard to the desirability of exercising them in a way that is designed to reduce the inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage.

21. The Public Sector Equality and Socio-Economic Duties have been considered and no negative implications have been identified which would prevent approval being sought to implement the recommendations of this report.

Well-being of Future Generations

22. The Corporate Joint Committees (Amendment of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015) Regulations 2021 bring CJCs within the scope of Parts 2 and 3 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

23. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on public bodies to carry out sustainable development, meaning the process of improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action aimed at achieving the well-being goals of:

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales
- A Wales of cohesive communities
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
- A globally responsible Wales

and by acting in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

24. In order to act in accordance with the sustainable development principle, when exercising its functions, the Committee must take account of the following things:

- the importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long term needs;
- the need to take an integrated approach to achieving the well-being goals;

- the importance of involving others with an interest in achieving the well-being goals and of ensuring those persons reflect the diversity of the population of the region;
- how acting in collaboration with others could assist to meet the region's well-being objectives;
- how deploying resources to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may contribute to meeting the region's well-being objectives.

25. In developing the Recommendations of this report, regard has been had to the well-being duty arising under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act').

Welsh Language Implications

26. The Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 (Amendment) Regulations 2021 bring Corporate Joint Committees within the scope of the standards specified by the No.1 Regulations.

27. In accordance with the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, consideration has been given to the impact the recommendations made in this report may have on opportunities for people to use and promote the Welsh Language, whether the proposals treat the Welsh Language more or less favourably than the English Language, and opportunities for increasing the positive effects, or decreasing the negative effects, of the proposals on the Welsh Language. No negative impacts were identified which would prevent approval being sought to implement the recommendations of this report.

Background Papers

28. None.

Report Author: Jayne La Grua, Monitoring Officer

Meeting Date: 2 June 2025

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Portfolios

Appendix 1 – Portfolios 2025/26

Portfolio Holder(s)	Portfolio	Designations	Lead Officer(s)
Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby (Monmouthshire) shall oversee matters relating to:	**Governance, Resources & Assurance** • Corporate Plans • Resources and Funding • Statutory Policy Compliance • Assurance and Risk • CCR Group Oversight • Performance and Reporting • Organisational Communication • Organisational Development • Investor Relations • International Relations • Partnerships with National Stakeholder Bodies • Intergovernmental Relations	**Chair of the Corporate Joint Committee**	Chief Executive Strategic Director of Legal & Governance Strategic Director of Resources Strategic Director of Policy, Impact & Performance
Cllr Anthony Hunt (Torfaen) shall oversee matters relating to:	**Research, Innovation & Investment** • Research & innovation • Higher & Further Education coalition	Deputy Chair of the Corporate Joint Committee Lead for HE/FE Civic agreements	Deputy Chief Executive Strategic Director of Legal & Governance

Portfolio Holder(s)	Portfolio	Designations	Lead Officer(s)
	• Global research challenges • Clusters and major funding programmes (such as, Strength in Places) • Inclusive Innovation • UK Research & Innovation (UKRI) and funding council engagement • Innovation Investment Capital • Challenge Fund/InFuSe • Investment opportunities	Single Member Decisions: Challenge Fund Investment Zone governance Observer status at Regional Growth Board	
Cllr Huw Thomas (Cardiff) shall oversee matters relating to:	**Industrial Policy, Internationalisation & Core Cities** • Regional Economic Policy (including Economic and Industrial Plan) • CORE Cities representation • Regional promotion, (including international events and summits) • National and international commissions	Deputy Chair of the Corporate Joint Committee CORE Cities representative Investment Zone governance Observer status at Regional Growth Board	Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive Strategic Director of Policy, Impact & Partnerships

Portfolio Holder(s)	Portfolio	Designations	Lead Officer(s)
	(such as, UK2070) • Investment Zone • Investment Framework • Business engagement • FDI		
Cllr Andrew Morgan (Rhondda Cynon Taf) shall oversee matters relating to:	**Infrastructure and Major Projects Delivery** • Housing Viability Gap Fund • Cardiff Central Station • TfW liaison • Strategic Premises Fund • Transport Delivery • Regional Road User Charging	Chair of the Regional Transport Sub-Committee Deputy Chair of the Strategic Development Sub-Committee Single Member Decisions: Strategic Premises Fund	Chief Executive Deputy Chief Executive Strategic Director of Resources
Cllr Sean Morgan (Caerphilly) shall oversee matters relating to:	**Climate Response** • Energy Strategy & Implementation Plan • Regional and Local Area Energy Plans • Green Deal • Race 4 Zero • ECO and ECO-Flex • Energy Investment Funds • Water management		Deputy Chief Executive Strategic Director of Resources

Portfolio Holder(s)	Portfolio	Designations	Lead Officer(s)
Cllr Lis Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan) shall oversee matters relating to:	**Spatial and Transport Policy** • Strategic Development Plan • Regional Transport Plan • Alignment of transport, planning and economic wellbeing • Statutory and stakeholder engagement • Rural affairs	Chair of the Strategic Development Sub-Committee Deputy Chair of the Regional Transport Sub-Committee	Strategic Director of Policy, Impact & Partnerships Strategic Director of Legal & Governance
Cllr Stephen Thomas (Blaenau Gwent) **Cllr Brent Carter** (Merthyr Tydfil) shall oversee matters relating to:	**Northern Valleys** • Northern Valleys Initiative • Valleys Regional Park • Tech Valleys • Partnerships and engagement • NV Competitiveness Deep Dive Delivery • Town Centres • NV infrastructure and access to services	NVI Governance via Investment Board Observer status at Regional Growth Board	Deputy Chief Executive
Cllr Dimitri Batrouni (Newport) shall oversee matters relating to:	**Building Capability – Data and Skills** • Regional Skills Partnership • Venture	Regional Skills Partnership	Chief Executive Strategic Director of Policy, Impact & Partnerships

Portfolio Holder(s)	Portfolio	Designations	Lead Officer(s)
	• Assured Academies • School's liaison • Regional Data Ambition & Intelligence • Relationships with UKCI and Productivity Institute		
Cllr John Spanswick (Bridgend) shall oversee matters relating to:	**Economic Inclusion** • Shared Prosperity Fund and levelling-up • Public Value and Corporate Social Responsibility • Corporate policies: child poverty, wellbeing statement, public sector equality duty & biodiversity • Welsh Language • Responsible Investing Policy • Tourism		Strategic Director of Legal & Governance Strategic Director of Policy, Impact & Partnerships