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

South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

09.30am on Monday 15 December 2025
via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Members	Constituent Authority
Councillor Anthony Hunt	Chair of current meeting and Leader, Torfaen County Borough Council
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 Sarah Merry	Deputy Leader, Cardiff Council
Councillor Andrew Morgan	Leader, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Councillor James Pritchard (item 7 onwards)	Leader, Caerphilly County Borough Council
Steve Rayner (items 1 – 4)	Chair of Planning Committee, Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
Councillor John Spanswick	Leader, Bridgend County Borough Council
Councillor Stephen Thomas	Leader, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Officers	
Kellie Beirne	Chief Executive
Liam Hull	Strategic Director of Resources and S151 Officer
Mike Brough	Strategic Director, Regional Growth and Investment
Colan Mehaffey	Strategic Director of Policy, Impact and Partnerships
Mark Watkins	Strategic Director Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Jill Byron	Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Nicola Somerville	Head of Operations, CCR Energy (for item 6)
Gavin Powell	Head of Innovation & Clusters (for item 7)
Jonathan Deacon	Democratic Services Officer
Nicola Butler	Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby, Leader of Monmouthshire County Council and appointed Chair of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) for 2025-26, Cllr Dimitri Batrouni, Leader of Newport City Council and Cllr Huw Thomas, Leader of Cardiff Council. Cllr Batrouni was substituted by Cllr Deb Davies and Cllr Huw Thomas was substituted by Cllr Sarah Merry.

1.2 Cllr Anthony Hunt, an appointed Deputy Chair of the CJC for 2025-26, chaired the meeting in Cllr Brocklesby's absence.

2. Declarations of Interests

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

3.1 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting of the CJC held on 24 November 2025 as a true and accurate record.

4. Annual Business Plan 2025-26 Quarter 2 Performance Report

4.1 Members received a report which provided the Quarter 2 (Q2) reporting position against the 2025/26 CCR Business Plan. Liam Hull, presenting the report, referred to some of the spend for Q1 slipping back into Q4 for the previous financial year during the audit process and that there had also been some delays to the delivery of schemes into later quarters.

4.2 Mr Hull stated that he was pleased to advise that the spend had bounced back strongly in Q2 with a total spend of almost £14m. This was almost £2.5m higher than was originally forecast and was CCR's highest Q2 spend in recent years. The majority of the spend during the quarter was on infrastructure. The original £50m of the Strategic Premises Fund was now fully committed and the Fund was entering its second investment cycle.

4.3 Members were advised by Mr Hull that the team had a high level of confidence regarding the Q3 spend with much of it already committed or incurred. Overall CCR was firmly on track to at least meet the total projected spend of £52m for the financial year. The reforecast position at the end of Q2 indicated this was more likely to be in the region of £56.5m. Mr Hull added that CCR officers had met representatives of the UK and Welsh Governments, providing this financial update, and the representatives had been comfortable with the reported spend position.

4.4 Mr Hull drew Members' attention to some of the highlights during Q2. These included an investment, Apex, continuing to demonstrate excellent progress. They were in the process of scaling supply capacity to the NHS, expanding the size of their team and seeking a larger premises. In respect of the Challenge Fund, The Endoscopy Challenge was demonstrating strong progress with evidence of

significant time and cost saving potential within the NHS. There had been the grand opening of KLA's new manufacturing site at Imperial Park and a visit to Aberthaw by the local MP, Kanishka Narayan. CCR's Local Area Energy Plan, Technical Reports and Regional Energy Plan had been produced. The Full Business Case for the Cardiff Central Enhancement programme had been approved and the consultation for the public and stakeholder consultation on the draft RTP had been completed in the quarter.

4.5 Mr Hull also provided an update on the Wider Investment Fund Recycled Funds. At the end of Q2 this had stood at £21.7m. This was projected to rise to £27.5m by the end of the current financial year and £43.6m by the end of the 2027/28 financial year.

4.6 Cllr Stephen Thomas welcomed Apex's progress and expressed the wish that they are able to locate new premises and remain in Blaenau Gwent.

4.7 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC considered and approved the Quarter 2 2025-26 performance report (Appendix 1) and authorised the CJC Chief Executive to formally submit the report, including supporting information, to both UK and Welsh Governments, and other stakeholders as required.

Exclusion of Press and Public

The SEW 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

5. Investment Zone Update – Progression of Gateway 5

5.1 Mike Brough presented the report.

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

6. CCR Energy – RWE Option Land & NGET negotiations (Information Update)

6.1 Kellie Beirne presented the report.

6.2 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC noted the recommendations in the report.

7. Deeptech SPV pilot

7.1 Colan Mehaffey and Gavin Powell presented the report.

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

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8. Investment and Intervention Framework - Report of the Investment Board

8.1 Mike Brough presented the report.

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

Meeting end: 10.13am

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