South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Cyd-bwyllgor corfforaethol De-Dwyrain Cymru

Report for:	ACTION
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO

For Consideration By	Corporate Joint Committee
Report Title	Appointments Sub-Committee: Appointment of Director of Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Report of	Kellie Beirne, Chief Executive Officer
Contact Details	Kellie.beirne@cardiffcapitalregion.gov.uk
Date to be Considered	26 January 2026
Implementation Date	With immediate effect
Affected Council Areas	All
Keywords / Index	Senior Executive Team, Legal & Governance, Monitoring Officer

Report Summary

1. The report seeks the South-East Wales Corporate Joint Committee's ratification of the appointment of the Director Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer), following recommendation made by the Appointments Sub-Committee on 16 January 2026.

Recommendations

2. **Corporate Joint Committee is asked to:**

2.1. Approve the recommendation of the Appointments Sub-Committee, to appoint Jill Byron as Strategic Director of Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer.

Reasons for Recommendations

Background

3. The meeting of the South-East Wales Corporate Joint Committee on 4 December 2023, agreed the Executive Team structure proposed by the Chief Executive. This included the statutory Monitoring Officer role within the responsibilities of the Strategic Director of Legal & Governance.

4. Sinc the establishment of the CJC as a public body, interim arrangements have been put in place for the Strategic Director of Legal & Governance role, due to several failed attempts to recruit to the role on a permanent basis.

5. A further recruitment campaign was undertaken in November 2025, and following the process of external advert and shortlisting, a comprehensive Assessment Centre was held, supported by the Chief Executive, Strategic Director of Resources, Head of People & Culture and external Psychometric expertise.

6. The Assessment Centre concluded that Jill Byron was the preferred candidate with an additional candidate also taken through to the final stage interview with the Appointments Sub-Committee. Both candidates were subsequently invited to final interview with the Appointments Sub-Committee on Friday 16 January 2026.

7. Due to changes in circumstances, the additional candidate decided not to continue their involvement in the process and did not therefore proceed to the final stage.

8. The Appointments Sub-Committee met on 16 January and following an interview, recommended the appointment of Jill Byron to the role of statutory Monitoring Officer and Director of Legal & Governance.

9. The current interim role undertaken by Mark Watkins, will cease on 31 January and it is proposed Jill Byron, will take up the role, subject to acceptance of all terms and conditions to be agreed with the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, on 1 February 2026.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

10. The processes set out in this report have been conducted with regard to Corporate HR and Finance policies and procedures and in line with the Terms of Reference of the Appointments Sub-Committee and Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

Comments of the Strategic Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer

11. The role referred to within this report is a statutory role that is part of the CJC establishment and, as such, has the necessary budget provision.

12. Current interim arrangements for this role bring a budgetary pressure to the organisation because of the premium associated with interim roles. This pressure will be alleviated by the permanent appointment recommended in this paper.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

13. Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 (as amended by Regulation 7 of the Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2021) places a duty on the CJC to appoint a Monitoring Officer.

14. The Monitoring Officer is a statutory Chief Officer post and, pursuant to the CJC's Employment Procedure Rules and Scheme of Delegation, their appointment is a matter reserved to the CJC following the recommendation of the Appointments Sub-Committee.

Staffing Implications

15. The staffing implications set out in this report are self-evident.

Equality, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

16. There are no implications directly associated with this report, save to say, the process of recruitment was undertaken in accordance with HR policy and procedure and with the aim of attracting a diverse pool of eligible candidates.

Sustainability and Climate Considerations

17. There are no implications directly associated with this report. However, ensuring the right team is in place to lead the CJC operations and talent on and off-payroll is about ensuring the capability and capacity exists to deliver on significant objectives, such as the CCR's adopted Energy Plan.

Risk Management

18. The appointment of an able and committed Senior Executive Team is required to:

- ensure the requisite senior leadership capacity is in place to lead, develop and deliver on the CJC agenda;
- ensure capacity is in place in respect of statutory officer positions: Chief Executive Officer, s151 Officer and Monitoring Officer;
- safeguard the reputational interests of CCR by promoting high standards and ensuring openness, probity and accountability.

Consultation

19. The Senior Executive Team structure for CCR was approved at the meeting of the SEWCJC on 4 December 2023. In line with the Constitution, the final stage of the recruitment process involved an interview with the Appointments Panel, who recommend the appointment of Jill Byron to the role.

Welsh Language Implications

20. Due regard has been had to Welsh language Implications in the conducting the full recruitment process.

Well-being of Future Generations

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

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26 January 2026

Background Papers

Appointments Sub-Committee Report of 16 January 2026.