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

Report for:	NOTING
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO

For Consideration By	South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee
Report Title	CCR at 10
Report of	Strategic Director Policy, Impact and Partnerships
Contact Details	colan.mehaffey@cardiffcapitalregion.gov.uk
Date to be Considered	16 March 2026
Implementation Date	16 March 2026
Affected Council Areas	All
Keywords / Index	Strategy and Policy, Review Commission, 10-Year Review

Recommendations

1. The Corporate Joint Committee is asked to:

   (1) Support this commission as an important review point of the last 10 years of CCR

   (2) Partake in interviews and consultations with Professor Greg Clark

Report Summary

2. The Cardiff Capital Region Growth and Competitiveness Commission (2016–17) set the original evidence-based framework for the £1.2bn City Deal, identifying priorities such as transport connectivity, skills, housing, innovation and stronger regional collaboration.

3. As 2026 marks ten years since the Commission's work, a formal review is proposed to assess progress, understand how the regional context has evolved, and identify priorities for the next decade.

4. The review will provide an accessible, evidence-led assessment of achievements to date and areas for improvement, with recommendations covering strategy, governance, priorities and optimisation.

5. The methodology includes: a data-driven performance assessment (with co-authors proposed to support the commission) a review of major reports and initiatives since 2016; up to 30 stakeholder interviews across CCR, Welsh Government and UK partners; and international benchmarking against comparable city regions. The outcome will be a set of clear, actionable recommendations for the next 10 years.

6. Deliverables include a main report with charts, maps and stakeholder insights; a series of shorter instalment reports; and a 500-word summary version. The work will be delivered in stages between November 2025 and Summer 2026, beginning with thematic and comparator reviews, followed by stakeholder engagement, data analysis, and final synthesis.

7. Key deliverables include:

- Paper 1 – What has CCR Done? (To be published April 2026)
- Paper 2 – What does CCR's delivery mean for the region? (To be published July 2026)
- Paper 3 – International comparisons and case studies (To be published July 2026)
- Paper 4 – Recommendations for 2026-2036 (To published September 2026)

8. The review will be led by Professor Greg Clark, supported by his research team for international case studies and the CCR officer team. An independent data assessment will be commissioned, and CCR will provide coordination support. Work has commenced on building the draft outlines for papers 1, 2 and 3 and the final report will be published in Summer 2026.

Reasons for Report

9. The paper is being brought to the CJC to seek agreement of the methodology and approach set out to undertake the 10-year review of progress since the 2016 Growth and Competitiveness Commission, ensuring the region has an up-to-date, evidence-based assessment of what has been achieved, what has changed, and what the strategic priorities should be for the next decade.

10. The review will provide independent analysis, stakeholder insight and international benchmarking to inform future decision-making, strengthen regional governance, and support the CJC's statutory responsibilities for economic well-being, strategic planning and transport. Overall buy-in is sought is required to proceed with the proposed methodology, timeline, and resource commitments.

11. A further in-depth briefing session with Professor Greg Clark has been sent out to all members, for 31st March (3-4pm). It is crucial that members attend and input where possible to provide Greg with further insights, ensuring the commission is a success.

Comments of the Director of Resources and Section 151 Officer

12. The “CCR at 10” Review is (over a 12 month period straddling 2 financial years) anticipated to cost £100,000. This will be mainly funded from the previously approved budget for CJC Management & Support (Chief Executive Office Contingency) and an element of treasury interest balances. Part of the cost will fall into the 2025/26 budget and part the 2026/27 budget.

Comments of the Director of Legal & Governance and Monitoring Officer

13. Regulation 14 of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 allows the CJC to do anything to facilitate or which is incidental or conducive to the exercise of its functions, such as commissioning this Review.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

14. The Corporate Joint Committee is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty and the Socio Economic Duty as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report.

Well-being of Future Generations

20. 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.

21. 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.

22. 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

23. 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.

24. No negative impacts were identified which would prevent approval being sought to implement the recommendations of this report.

Report Author: Colan Mehaffey, Strategic Director of Policy, Impact & Partnerships

Date of Meeting: 16 March 2026