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

South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

10.00am on Monday 8 June 2026
via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Members	Constituent Authority
Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby	Leader, Monmouthshire County Council
Councillor Dimitri Batrouni	Leader, Newport City Council
Councillor Lis Burnett	Leader, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Councillor Brent Carter	Leader, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Councillor Ann Crimmings	Leader, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCT)
Councillor Anthony Hunt	Leader, Torfaen County Borough Council
Councillor John Morgan	Deputy Leader, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Councillor James Pritchard	Leader, Caerphilly County Borough Council
Councillor Gareth Ratcliffe	Chair of Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority
Councillor John Spanswick	Leader, Bridgend County Borough Council
Councillor Christopher Weaver	Leader, Cardiff Council
Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Officers	
Kellie Beirne	Chief Executive
Mike Brough	Strategic Director, Regional Growth and Investment
Jill Byron	Strategic Director, Legal & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Colan Mehaffey	Strategic Director of Policy, Impact and Partnerships (from item 17)
Cliona May	Democratic Services Manager
Jonathan Deacon	Democratic Services Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Cllr Stephen Thomas, Leader, Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council. He was substituted by Cllr John Morgan. Members were also advised that Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby would need to leave during the meeting and would be substituted by Cllr Paul Griffiths, Deputy Leader, Monmouthshire County Council.

2. Election of Chairperson of the Committee for 2026 – 2027

2.1 On a motion from Cllr Lis Burnett, seconded by Cllr Anthony Hunt, the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) **ELECTED** Councillor Mary Ann Brocklesby as the Chairperson for the municipal year 2026 - 2027.

3. Election of Deputy Chairpersons of the Committee for 2026 – 2027

3.1 On a motion from Cllr Anthony Hunt, seconded by Cllr Christopher Weaver, the CJC **ELECTED** Councillor Dimitri Batrouni as a Deputy Chairperson for the municipal year 2026-2027.

3.2 On a motion from Cllr Dimitri Batrouni, seconded by Cllr Lis Burnett, the CJC **ELECTED** Councillor Christopher Weaver as a Deputy Chairperson for the municipal year 2026-2027.

4. Declarations of Interests

4.1 A number of interests were declared as follows:

- Paul Matthews, Chief Executive, Monmouthshire CC, declared a personal interest in respect of Item 21 as he is a Chair of CCR Energy Ltd.
- Cllr James Pritchard (Leader, Caerphilly CBC) and Ed Edmunds (Chief Executive, Caerphilly CBC) declared in respect of Item 19 that they would be leaving the meeting for the duration of the item as funding was sought from the CJC to co-invest in the Oakdale project with Caerphilly CBC.
- Cllr Ann Crimmings (Leader, RCT) and Paul Mee (Chief Executive, RCT) declared in respect of Item 18 that they would be leaving the meeting for the duration of the item as a grant investment to RCT was sought from the CJC to support the Rock Grounds redevelopment.
- Kellie Beirne declared that she and Jill Byron would be leaving the meeting during Item 10, Pay Policy Statement 2026-27, as the report referred to the review of the CCR Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer job descriptions and salary scales.

5. Minutes

5.1 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC **APPROVED** the minutes of the meeting of the CJC held on 16 March 2026 as a true and accurate record.

6. Confirmation of Members and Substitute Members of the CJC for 2025-27

6.1 The CJC received a report confirming the Membership of the CJC for the 2026/27 municipal year, together with each Constituent Authority's nominated Substitute

Member. The report also requested CJC Members to appoint a Chair and Deputy Chair of the Regional Transport Sub-Committee and the Strategic Development Sub-Committee and sought approval for each CJC Member's area of responsibility (portfolio).

6.2 The CJC appointed Cllr Lis Burnett as Chair and Cllr Ann Crimmings as Deputy Chair of the Regional Transport Sub-Committee and Cllr Ann Crimmings as Chair and Cllr Lis Burnett as Deputy Chair of the Strategic Development Sub-Committee respectively.

6.3 The proposed areas of responsibility (portfolios) for Members were set out at the meeting and were approved by the CJC as follows:

- Governance, Resources & Assurance – Cllr Anthony Hunt
- Research, Innovation & Investment Partnerships – Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby
- Regional Policy & Promotion – Cllr Christopher Weaver
- AI Data Skills & Productivity Investment – Cllr Dimitri Batrouni
- Connectivity & Major Projects Delivery – Cllr Lis Burnett
- Energy & Power – Cllr John Spanswick
- Spatial Development – Cllr Ann Crimmings
- Northern Valleys – Cllrs Brent Carter and Stephen Thomas
- Local Growth & Economic Inclusion – Cllr James Pritchard.

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

1) Noted the Committee's Membership for the 2026/27 municipal year;
2) Noted each Authority's nominated Substitute Member;
3) Approved the Member Areas of Responsibility (Portfolios) for the 2026/27 municipal year; and,
4) Appointed a Chair and Deputy Chair of (i) the Regional Transport Sub Committee and (ii) the Strategic Development Sub-Committee for the 2026/27 municipal year as set out in Paragraph 6.2 above.

7. Appointments to Sub-Committees and Advisory Board for 2026-27

7.1 The CJC was requested to receive nominations and make appointments to each of the sub-committees and advisory boards established for the 2026-27 municipal year. Approval was sought within the report to extend the term for the current Chair of the Investment Board, Frank Holmes and the current Chair of the Regional Growth Board, Kevin Gardiner, for one year until 01 June 2027. Authorisation was also sought for the Monitoring Officer to make appointments to any vacancies and report any such appointments to the next meeting of the CJC for information.

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

1) Received nominations and made appointments to each of the sub-committees and advisory boards established for the 2026-27 municipal year;
2) Approved the term extension for the current Chair of the Investment Board and the current Chair of the Regional Growth Board for one year until 01 June 2027; and,
3) Authorised the Monitoring Officer to make appointments to any vacancies and report any such appointments to the next meeting of the CJC for information.

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NOTE: Cllr Brocklesby left the meeting after Item 7 and was substituted by Cllr Griffiths. Cllr Batrouni chaired the meeting from Item 8 until its conclusion.

8. Programme of Meetings for 2026-27

8.1 The CJC received a report to approve the programme of ordinary meetings for the 2026/27 municipal year.

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

1) Approved the programme of ordinary meetings of the CJC for the 2026-27 municipal year set out in the report; and;
2) Approved the provisional programme of ordinary meetings of sub committees for the 2026-27 municipal year set out in the report.

9. Strategic Equality Plan, Gender Pay Gap, and Biodiversity Compliance Annual Reports

9.1 The CJC received a report seeking approval for the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report, the Gender Pay Gap Action Plan and the Biodiversity Compliance Plan Annual Report 2025-26. Kellie Beirne, presenting the report, highlighted the progress and some of the achievements in relation to the Plans. In respect of the Strategic Equality Plan, this included equality considerations having been embedded in the Regional Transport Plan, particularly in terms of affordability and accessibility. Public engagement had been undertaken on Economic Well-being and the Equality Plan. CCR had developed a new Data Dashboard with indicators capturing well-being in South East Wales and this would enable staff to more easily identify key data sets to better evidence and consider equality considerations in their work. CCR had become an accredited Real Living Wage (RLW) employer and had commissioned a study to assess the feasibility of making South East Wales a RLW Region.

9.2 In respect of the work on the Gender Pay Gap, Ms Beirne mentioned that CCR had appointed a full time permanent Head of People & Culture. Every year CCR complied with its reporting duties around the Gender Pay Gap. Workplace policies had been developed to improve inclusivity in the workforce, and a new appraisal process (Performance Appraisal and Development Review) had been introduced for all employees to support development pathways. Ms Beirne stated that there had been a significant reduction in the Gender Pay Gap (down to 33% from 46.15%) but there was much more to do in this area. CCR was still carrying a vacancy rate in the organisation of approximately 25%. Inroads had been made as the vacancy rate had been approximately 40% the previous year.

9.3 In respect of Biodiversity Compliance, the Plan aligned with all six objectives outlined in The Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales. Work being taken forward included that the new Regional Climate and Nature Strategy for CCR would be central for creating a Greener region and provide the evidence base for why thriving ecosystems and habitats would be essential to the successful delivery of its statutory powers, Economic Well-being, Regional Transport Planning and Strategic Development Planning.

9.4 Cllr Spanswick welcomed that 45% of CCR staff had undertaken carbon literacy training.

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

1) Approved the Strategic Equality Plan Annual Report;
2) Approved the Gender Pay Gap Action Plan; and,
3) Approved the Biodiversity Compliance Plan Annual Report 2025-26.

10. Pay Policy Statement 2026-27

10.1 The report was presented by Mike Brough. In addition to advising that approval was sought from Members for the Pay Policy Statement and that the CJC was requested to implement the cost of living pay increases determined annually by the relevant negotiating body as set out in the Statement, Mr Brough explained the request to delegate authority to the Appointments Sub-Committee to resume the review of the CJC CEO role job description and salary and commence a review of statutory office role job descriptions and salary. The review of the CJC CEO role job description and salary had commenced in Autumn 2024 and had then been paused later that year. It was deemed appropriate to undertake the review of the statutory office role job descriptions and salary (S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer) at the same time as resuming the CJC CEO role job description and salary due to difficulties in appointing to the S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer roles. The current S151 Officer permanent role recruitment had been put on hold due to being unable to secure a suitable candidate. The feedback received had been that the salary offered for the role had not been competitive. Mr Brough added it had been necessary to apply a Market Supplement as part of the process to appoint a permanent Monitoring Officer.

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

1) Approved the Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 included as Appendix 1 of the report;
2) Implemented the cost of living pay increases determined annually by the relevant negotiating body as set out in the Pay Policy Statement 2026/27 with effect from 1 April 2026; and,
3) Delegated authority to the Appointments Sub-Committee to resume the review of the CJC CEO role job description and salary and commence a review of statutory office role job descriptions and salary in accordance with paragraphs 12 and 13 of the report.

NOTE: Kellie Beirne and Jill Byron left the meeting whilst the matter was being considered and took no part in the discussion prior to the decision being taken.

11. Annual Report of Complaints, Concerns and Requests for Information

11.1 Members received a report which provided an update on Complaints, Concerns and Requests for Information received by the CJC during the 2025/26 municipal year. Jill Byron, presenting the report, mentioned the lack of complaints and few requests for information. Many of the FOI requests were intended for the Constituent Councils. There was the potential for the engagement from the public to increase in these areas as they became more aware of the Regional Transport Plan and Strategic Development Plan work.

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11.2 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC noted the following:

1) No Corporate Complaints or Ombudsman Complaints were received by the CJC during 2025/26;
2) No Complaints under the Members' Code of Conduct were received by / reported to the CJC during 2025/26;
3) No confidential 'Whistleblowing' Reports were received by the CJC during 2025/26;
4) No Welsh Language Complaints were received by the CJC during 2025/26;
5) No data protection breaches were reported by / to the CJC during 2025/26;
6) The CJC received one data subject access request during 2025/26.; and,
7) The CJC received 14 requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act and/or Environmental Information Regulations during 2025/26.

12. Annual Business Plan 2025-26 Quarter 3 Performance Report

12.1 Members received a report which provided the Quarter 3 (Q3) reporting position against the 2025/26 CCR Annual Business Plan. Kellie Beirne, presenting the report, referred to significant matters during the Quarter. Q3 expenditure totalled £25.4m, which was £6.9m above forecast. The year end spend was now due to be £63.7m for 2025-2026. The majority of the spend had been in infrastructure / the Strategic Premises Fund, including in relation to the John Street and Uskmouth projects. A notable investment was in KLA which was beneficial not only to Newport but all of South East Wales. Whisper was a success story with the Cymru Broadcast Centre going from strength to strength in terms of broadcasting activity and the financing for its facility had been fully repaid to CCR.

12.2 Ms Beirne mentioned areas being progressed which included the Child Poverty Strategy, the Economic Well-Being Dashboard and the Strategic Development Plan vision. Other milestones achieved included the CJC approving the Local Area Energy Plan governance, monitoring & evaluation framework and the submission of the Strategic Development Programme Delivery Agreement and Regional Transport Plan to the Welsh Government. There was also the strategic partnership approach with UKRI. CCR had been called to give evidence to UK Treasury as part of the business case for the LIPF programme. In terms of policy work and thought leadership, there had been 29 events held during 2026.

12.3 Ms Beirne also provided an update on the Wider Investment Fund Recycled Funds, the return on investment of CCR's interventions. They were projected to total £27.6 million by the end of 2025/26, increasing by a further £16.5 million by the end of 2027/28. These were held as usable reserves in CCR's Balance Sheet and were available to fund CCR related expenditure in future years.

12.4 Cllr Hunt welcomed the report, including the investment returns from the 'Evergreen' WIF Recycled Funds which could be used to continue to support work across the region.

12.5 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC approved the Quarter 3 2025-26 performance report in 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.

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13. Local Innovation Partnership Fund (LIPF) Update and Anchor Options

13.1 Kellie Beirne presented the report. She stated that the LIPF is a £30m UKRI led programme and CCR had been one of the first regions in the UK to secure this funding. This was a testament to the investment made in innovation led growth in the region over a number of years.

13.2 Ms Beirne advised that there was good progress being made in respect of the clusters/portfolios. It was hoped that it would be possible to announce in the near future that an additional financial allocation would be received in relation to the compound semi-conductor cluster. She also explained it was proposed that because becoming a Local Anchor Institution would require a significant additional administrative function in relation to administering grants, which UKRI was well placed to do, CCR would continue to focus on its role as LIPF Lead Body responsible for formal submission of the LIPF portfolio to UKRI. This Lead Body role required about 1.5FTE pa of resource which would be fully recouped from programme costs. Ms Beirne added that CCR was best placed as a small organisation to influence the developmental work being undertaken rather than being more focused on the payments programme.

13.3 The Chair stated that it had been a real achievement to secure the funding. It was critical that the full potential of the programme was realised. Cllr Hunt commented that CCR and the Constituent Councils needed to tell the story of what was being delivered in this programme with self-confidence.

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

1) Noted the update on the development of the LIPF, paying particular attention to the Local Anchor Institution role; and,
2) Approved the proposal to allow CCR to perform a project lead role with about 1.5FTE pa (recoverable) of resource.

14. Regional Transport Sub-Committee Delegations

14.1 Approval was sought from the CJC to establish appropriate governance and decision-making delegations to enable the effective and timely delivery of the Regional Transport Delivery Plan. It was proposed that authority was delegated to the Regional Transport Sub-Committee to oversee aspects of programme management and to enable responsive decision-making relating to the reallocation of funding between schemes where required to maximise delivery within the funding period.

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

1) Delegated authority to the Regional Transport Sub-Committee to oversee the management of the Regional Transport Delivery Plan funding and programme; and,
2) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive of the Corporate Joint Committee in consultation with the Chairs of the Regional Transport Sub-Committee and the CJC, to amend the Regional Transport Delivery Plan programme to reallocate 180 funding where necessary and in accordance with the terms and conditions of that funding, to ensure maximum programme delivery within funding timescales.

15. Annual Letter to the CJC of the Work of the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee

15.1 Jill Byron presented the report. She referred to the report including a letter from the Chair of the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee to the CJC setting out a summary of the notable findings and activities of the Sub Committee during the 2025-26 municipal year. The work of the Sub-Committee was a key aspect of the assurance Members received in relation to the governance and audits at CCR / the CJC.

15.2 It was **RESOLVED** that the CJC considered and noted the draft letter from the Chair of the Governance & Audit Sub Committee to the CJC.

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

16. Investment and Intervention Framework – Including report of the Investment Board

16.1 Mike Brough presented the report.

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

17. Northern Valleys – Business Units Accelerator Programme

17.1 Mike Brough presented the report.

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

NOTE: Ellis Cooper, Chief Executive, Merthyr Tydfil CBC, made a declaration in respect of the item, left the meeting whilst the matter was being considered and took no part in the discussion prior to the decision being taken.

18. Rock Grounds – Business Justification Case

18.1 Mike Brough presented the report.

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

NOTE: Cllr Ann Crimmings and Paul Mee left the meeting whilst the matter was being considered and took no part in the discussion prior to the decision being taken.

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19. Oakdale – Business Justification Case

19.1 Mike Brough presented the report.

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

NOTE: Cllr James Pritchard and Ed Edmunds left the meeting whilst the matter was being considered and took no part in the discussion prior to the decision being taken.

20. Request to buy back shares

20.1 Mike Brough presented the report.

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

21. Aberthaw Project – Update and Progress Report: Legal Options Report

21.1 Kellie Beirne presented the report.

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

22. Any Other Business

22.1 It was agreed that the next meeting of the CJC on 13 July 2026 would be scheduled to be held in person at Caerphilly Council Chamber.

Meeting end: 11.43am

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