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

Meeting of the Strategic Development Sub-Committee

11.30am on Tuesday 10 March 2026
via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Sub-Committee Members		
Name	**Position**	**Authority**
Cllr Lis Burnett (Chair)	CJC Member	Vale of Glamorgan
Cllr Andrew Morgan (Deputy Chair)	CJC Member	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Cllr Dan De'Ath	Sub-Committee Member	Cardiff Council
Cllr Neelo Farr	Sub-Committee Member	Bridgend CBC
Cllr Joanne Gauden	Sub-Committee Member	Torfaen CBC
Cllr Paul Griffiths	Sub-Committee Member	Monmouthshire CC
Cllr David Jones	Sub-Committee Member	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Cllr Mark Norris	Sub-Committee Member	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Mr Steve Rayner	Sub-Committee Member	Bannau Brycheiniog NPA
Officers		
Richard Matthams	Head of Strategic Development	Cardiff Capital Region (CCR)
Cliona May	Democratic Services Manager	CCR
Jim Bailey	Head of Planning	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Andrew Ferguson	Planning and Development Manager	Newport CC
Simon Gilbert	Head of Planning	Cardiff Council
Robert Murray	Head of Planning	Torfaen CBC
Jonathan Parsons	Planning and Strategic Transportation Manager	Bridgend CBC
Ryan Thomas	Planning Services Manager	Caerphilly CBC
Craig Watkins	Planning Services Manager	Merthyr Tydfil CBC

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Phillipa Leonard, Caerphilly CBC, Councillor James Clarke, Newport CC, and Cllr John Morgan, Blaenau Gwent CBC.

2. Declarations of Interests

2.1 There were no declarations of interests.

3. Strategic Development Plan – Visioning Workshop Report

3.1 The Strategic Development Sub-Committee received a report from the Strategic Director for Policy, Impact & Partnerships which summarised the outcomes of a non-statutory Visioning Workshop undertaken to inform the early preparation of the Cardiff Capital Region Strategic Development Plan (SDP). The report did not establish policy, determine the spatial strategy, or prejudice future decisions. All matters would be subject to statutory plan-making requirements, formal consultation, sustainability appraisal and independent examination.

3.2 The Head of Strategic Development introduced the report and explained that the workshop was independently facilitated by the Design Commission for Wales, whose expertise in placemaking and strategic thinking provided an impartial and constructive environment for discussion. Elected Members and senior officers from all ten constituent Local Planning Authorities participated to identify shared strengths, challenges and priorities, and to begin shaping a collective regional direction. It was noted that participants had expressed strong support for the SDP as a unified statutory framework through which the Region can coordinate investment, align priorities and address cross-boundary planning issues that cannot be resolved at local level. Members had emphasised the importance of long-term spatial planning grounded in sustainable development, integrated infrastructure provision and responsibility to future generations. Members had considered the Region's distinctive assets and had also identified key strategic challenges, which were outlined within the report. The workshop outputs had been synthesised into a framework of strategic issues structured around the ambitions of a Stronger, Fairer and Greener Region, aligned with the Cardiff Capital Region Economic Wellbeing Strategy.

3.3 The Head of Strategic Development concluded by outlining the recommendations to the Strategic Development Sub-Committee, which were to note the report, adopt the report as a sound and proportionate initial framework and to agree in principle to structure the emerging SDP Vision and Strategic Objectives around the ambitions of a Stronger, Fairer and Greener Region. A further meeting of the Sub-Committee would be held, where a final report would be presented for consideration, ahead of recommending approval to a future meeting of the Corporate Joint Committee.

3.4 During the discussion, the Sub-Committee thanked the officers for their report and noted that, whilst it was a fair reflection of the discussion held at the workshop, there were a few key points that needed to be strengthened. The Sub-Committee noted the following:

- There had been discussions regarding the importance of the A465, Heads of the Valleys Road, in relation to connectivity across the region and to the Valleys. This was discussed as part of the bigger conversation on connectivity and the Metro;
- The report referred to the ten local authority leaders but had not included the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority (BBNPA) representative as a key consultee, despite holding a membership on the Corporate Joint Committee and the Strategic Development Sub-Committee;
- The discussion held had focused on a strategic approach, whereas the report sounded quite localised. It was agreed that the messaging at the workshop had been clear about focusing on polycentric growth and the opportunity to share the benefits across the region. It was requested for this to be considered when moving from the visioning stage to drafting the strategy.

3.5 In response to the report amendment requests, the Head of Strategic Development thanked the Sub-Committee and agreed to them in full. He noted that an addendum would be provided to cover the points above and circulated for approval from the Sub-Committee, and would be included in the full report going forward.

3.6 Further points were raised during the discussion, including the importance of defining areas on their potential, rather than on their history. The importance of the BBNPA playing a key role in the SDP was also noted, due to the large number of visitors throughout the year, from both tourists and local residents.

3.7 The Head of Strategic Development thanked the Sub-Committee for the discussion and noted that a draft document regarding the engagement around the SDP would be drafted and circulated to members for input. He also extended his thanks to the Design Commission for Wales (DCfW) and the officers for their participation.

3.8 Following the discussion, the Strategic Development Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** to:

1) Note the Visioning Workshop Report and the synthesis of workshop outputs into key strategic issues and overarching core principles to guide early SDP preparation.
2) Adopt the report as a sound and proportionate initial framework to inform the development of the SDP Vision and Strategic Objectives.
3) Agree in principle to structure the emerging SDP Vision and Strategic Objectives around the ambitions of a Stronger, Fairer and Greener Region, aligning spatial planning priorities with the Cardiff Capital Region Economic Wellbeing Strategy, subject to statutory planning requirements and national policy conformity.

4. Any Other Business

4.1 The Head of Strategic Development provided the Sub-Committee with the following updates:

- John Raine had been appointed to the Strategic Development team within Cardiff Capital Region; he previously worked in one of the local authorities;

- The ‘Call for Candidate Sites’, a formal consultation asking landowners, developers, and the public to suggest plots of land or buildings for potential future developments, would be paused until after the pre-election period;
- The Sub-Committee requested a further discussion on the Call for Candidate Sites, ahead of the consultation commencing.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 The date of the next meeting would be scheduled for early April 2026.

The meeting concluded at 1208 hours.