



**CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL**  
**RHONDDA CYNON TAF**  
**COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**A meeting of the  
CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**will be held virtually on  
THURSDAY, 27TH JULY, 2023 at 4.00 PM**

**Contact: Sarah Daniel – 07385 086 169**

Non Committee Members and Members of the public may request the facility to address the Committee at their meetings on the business listed although facilitation of this request is at the discretion of the Chair. It is kindly asked that such notification is made by Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2023 on the contact details listed above, including stipulating whether the address will be in Welsh or English.

**LIST OF ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest: and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they must notify the Chairman when they leave.

**3. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

To elect a Chairperson for the 2023-24 Municipal year

**4. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

To Elect a Vice Chairperson for the 2023-24 Municipal Year

**5. MINUTES**

To receive for approval the minutes of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

(Pages 5 - 10)

**6. DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME**

To consider and approve a Work Programme for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the 2023-24 Municipal Year

(Pages 11 - 16)

**7. CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE - PROPOSED SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

To consider the report of the Interim Chief Executive and Monitoring officer of the CCRCD on the proposal for the Scrutiny arrangements of the Corporate Joint Committee

(Pages 17 - 26)

**8. URGENT ITEMS**

To consider any items, which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances, is of the opinion should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.



**Director of Democratic Services & Communication**

**Circulation:-**

**Councillors:** Councillors: Councillor A Whitcombe (Chair), Councillor R Bevan (Vice-Chair), Councillor M Cross, Councillor P Davies, Councillor S Garratt, Councillor P Hourahine, Councillor D Isaac, Councillor S Perkes, Councillor P Wong, Councillor N Yeowell

**Deputy Members:** Councillor C Elsbury, Councillor J Aviet, Councillor O Jones, Councillor R Leadbetter, Councillor S Griffiths, Councillor L Dymock, Councillor J Turner



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Monday, 20 March 2023 at 2.00 pm.

This meeting was recorded, details of which can be accessed [here](#)

### **County Borough Councillors – Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members were present:-**

Councillor A Whitcombe (Caerphilly CBC) (Chair)

Councillor R Bevan	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC (Vice Chair)
Councillor P Davies	Bridgend CBC
Councillor S Garratt	Monmouthshire CC
Councillor P Hourahine	Newport CBC
Councillor D Isaac	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Councillor P Wong	Cardiff Council
Clr J Aviet	Vale of Glamorgan
Councillor S Griffiths	Bridgend CBC
Councillor O Jones	Cardiff Council
Councillor R Leadbetter	Blaenau Gwent CBC

### **Officers in attendance**

Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication  
Ms R O'Sullivan, Skills and Talent Lead  
Ms N Sommerville, Head of Business Development & Growth  
Ms S Daniel, Principal Democratic Services Officer  
Ms J Daniel, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer

### **Apologies for absence**

Councillor M Cross	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Councillor S Perkes	Vale of Glamorgan CBC
Councillor N Yeowell	Torfaen CBC
Ms Kellie Beirne	Director Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

## **18 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chairperson welcomed Members and officers to the meeting:

### Apologies

Mr Malcom Cross – Blaenau Gwent Council  
Ms Sandra Perkes – Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Mr Nathan Yeowell – Torfaen Council  
Ms Kellie Beirne - Director of the CCR City Deal.

## **19 Declarations of Interest**

None.

## 20 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 10 February 2023.

## 21 Venture Graduates Update

The Head of Business Development & Growth began by giving Members an overview update on the Venture Graduate scheme including the background of the scheme and position statement to date.

The Skills and Talent Lead continued by providing Members with background to the report informing Members that the framework for the scheme was approved in 2020 with the launch and rebrand of the scheme taking place a year later. The Skills and Talent Lead outlined that the aim of programme is to support SME's in the Cardiff Capital Region to recruit talent and mitigate against risks of 'brain drain' from region. Members were informed that the initial target at the outset of the scheme was 500 graduates over a 5-year period. To date, Members were told that 160 jobs had been created and recruited to with this rising to 170 by end of financial year.

Members were taken through some mitigating circumstances around the figure of jobs created being less than the target with emphasis placed on the impact of Covid-19, Brexit and the overall challenges of building a new Graduate programme for the region. The Skills and Talent Lead informed Members that despite the challenges, the programme has now been strengthened and in good position to perform for future but pointed out that the 500 jobs target would not be realistic to expect to be met.

The Skills and Talent Lead provided Members with in-depth detail of the progress of the Venture Scheme over the past 12 months which has involved realigning the Venture Graduate offer both internally and with further work being completed on the wider communications of the scheme across the region. Members were informed that the scheme is now has realigned strategic direction towards supporting CCR priority SMEs & clusters across the region in Fintech, MedTech, Cyber, Creative, Semiconductors & Net Zero businesses.

Members were also given further detail on the recruitment process adopted by the scheme following investment in the latest technology to fully automate the process providing a more agile and speedy recruitment solution to Graduates, moving away from a cohort model rigid with set dates to being able to offer year-round recruitment offering which has been well received. The Skills and Talent Lead highlighted to Members that this has led to a good stream of business referrals being received and following various events being held to promote the scheme offer there are steady business offers coming through. Members were informed that the scheme is becoming high profile throughout the region and graduate community through strengthening partnerships with Higher Education Institutes in the region.

Members were informed of a change in relation the development aspect of the scheme and detail was provided on the newly developed 'Career Accelerator Programme' (CAP) allowing graduates to choose one of two pathways available to suit their development. Members were informed of the details of the series of Masterclasses, delivered by University of South Wales focused on core

Professional & Transferable Skills. Alternatively, the second pathway available being an intensive, Open University Microcredential, offering a choice of skill areas allowing graduates a more specific form of development.

The Skills and Talent Lead finished presenting the report by informing Members that external evaluation is underway at the moment via Darogan Talent to determine the scheme's key strengths, impact and highlight past weaknesses and factors that have impacted performance to date. Members were informed that the aim is to present the findings to Cardiff Capital Region Senior Leadership Team with a view to expanding programme going forward into future.

The Chair thanked the Officers for the report and invited Members to make comments and ask questions.

A Member asked whether the schemes being run by Welsh Government Apprenticeship scheme could be seen as a competitor to the Venture Graduate Scheme.

The Skills and Talent Lead replied that they did not feel it was a competitor as there were no level 7 apprenticeships and the scheme focuses on Graduate level.

A Member noted that the Graduate opportunities set out in the report are predominantly in Cardiff and asked why the opportunities & benefits are not being realised across the wider CCR where numbers remain consistently low. They also questioned whether there was a challenge with engagement outside of Cardiff, and whether businesses are failing to recognise the value to their business and what is being done to help incentivise businesses to take on graduate positions.

The Head of Business Development and Growth replied that when the programme was set up there was the belief that there would be a reliance on Local Authority Officers to send through business referrals, therefore coming from a 'grass roots' basis operating at a level playing field across the region. They acknowledged that due to the timing of the launch of the scheme the focus on Local Authorities was on Covid recovery and support for businesses, therefore, affecting the momentum and engagement. The Head of Business Development and Growth assured Members that roadshows and engagement with businesses and Higher Education institutions takes place across the region. They emphasised to Members that they are always open to engagement and support to raise profile and opportunities.

A Member questioned how ambitious the aspiration for 500 graduate jobs was to be advertised by March '24.

The Head of Business Development and Growth acknowledged this figure was ambitious and referenced some of the barriers outlined in the report and presentation. They confirmed that there is a commitment that the scheme still aims to be ambitious, but they are realistic that this is reliant on business / sector growth to open up opportunities.

A Member asked what scope there is for the regional graduate scheme to help Local Authorities address their respective skills gaps/recruitment challenges in key areas.

The Head of Business Development and Growth informed Members that the scheme aims to work with Local Authority HR departments but outlined the challenges presented due to the difference in recruitment processes. The Officer acknowledged that some Local Authorities are open to engaging with the more agile process adopted by Venture whilst some prefer to adhere to a more traditional process.

A Member questioned the impact the scheme has in respect of graduates from each local authority and requested data to show how many graduates in successful job placements come from each of the regions.

The Head of Business Development and Growth acknowledged the information in the report is heavily centred on one location but noted that the scheme has a wide area of impact for graduates in all locations in the region. The Officer noted that the data of the graduate's postcode of origin was not contained in the report but confirmed this information was being collated and would be available to be scrutinised in the next report. The Officer emphasised to Members that the aim of the scheme is to match up the relevant job opportunities with our graduates from South Wales. Graduates may live in one area but be able to be matched to a job in a different region therefore the benefits of the scheme can ripple across the regions.

A Member referenced the inclusion / Gender balance figures set out in the report noting a high proportion of BAME and International graduates who apply but only a small percentage going on to secure jobs beyond that. The Member questioned whether any analysis was carried out as to why and queried the use of exit interviews.

The Skills and Talent Lead acknowledged there needs to be more research into this area but informed Members of the current support mechanisms in place to support candidates through the process. The Officer also informed Members that 50% of this year's graduates are International students but pointed out possible barriers to overcome including a lack of awareness / fear of businesses around working through the visa application / right to work legislation hence the partnership with Newfield Law as outlined in the report to address this.

A Member questioned whether the scheme utilised exit interviews with candidates.

The Skills and Talent Lead replied that the scheme always offers feedback alongside a request to employers for their feedback but acknowledged that work can be done to look to support graduates who have been unsuccessful which is already underway.

A Member asked what the approach is regarding start-up companies and whether further support is provided for Graduates employed by start-up companies.

The Skills and Talent Lead informed Members that the scheme is working with increasing numbers of start-up businesses and as part of the career accelerator programme Graduates and businesses have support for up to 12 months. Members were informed that during this time regular wellbeing meetings are held and if there is any risk identified then they would look to support further if required.

A Member questioned how the scheme plans to encourage more females to apply for roles to address the gender balance.

The Skills and Talent Lead acknowledged the challenge of recruiting females into STEM roles and informed Members that the current statistics for the Venture scheme are 30%. Members were informed that the scheme is looking to develop video case studies highlighting females in businesses and the wider industry and currently discussions are underway with Chwarae Teg regarding their Women into Tech programme which could form part of future skills offer. The Head of Business Development and Growth also informed Members that the scheme has recently recruited the support of a copywriter and started to look at language used in job descriptions to write with more neutral terms to take a different approach to how jobs are portrayed.

A Member referenced local businesses in their region which could benefit and questioned how the scheme can be enhanced by placing graduates into businesses on periphery of region and encourage more businesses to join the scheme.

The Skills and Talent Lead highlighted to Members that the scheme is accessing more businesses in the region although they would welcome conversations with economic leads in each unitary authority area to provide the schemes toolkit to promote with businesses. The Officer confirmed they are looking to start more active engagement with business development officers over the next year and welcomed suggestions of businesses that can be followed up and support from Local Authorities and Members.

A Member asked what support is available to graduates with a disability.

The Skills and Talent Lead confirmed that if a disability is declared by a graduate, then support is in place throughout the application process and also referenced further support that is available from Venture and the programmes of support available for employers. The Officer highlighted the positives of the accessibility of the process using online applications and interview processes.

A Member asked about the feedback process for graduates who are unsuccessful.

The Skills and Talent Lead confirmed that graduates get a response every step of the process and will be aware if they are unsuccessful along the way. They also informed Members that unsuccessful graduates are provided with further resources and support being referred to careers advisors in their university should they wish to access this. Members were also informed that as part of the employer's pledge when they sign up to the scheme, they agree to provide full feedback for graduates who may be unsuccessful at final interviews. Finally, Members were provided with information regarding the schemes talent match service which encourages graduates to register with the scheme so they can be matched to any future roles suitable to their skills and qualifications.

A Member felt the scheme was positive and requested to have further information regarding KPI targets to help the committee scrutinise the success of the scheme. The Member also asked for clarification regarding the main purpose of the scheme.

The Skills and Talent Lead acknowledged the request for KPI data and confirmed this can be provided as part of a future report. They also confirmed the purpose for the scheme is to both retain graduates who come to the region to study for their degree and to attract graduates who originally lived in the region to return to work there. The Head of Growth and Development also reiterated that the aim is to have an adequate talent pool to enable businesses to grow and flourish, making sure there is a talent pipeline readily available for indigenous business to grow or for inward investors to be able to access talent pool.

A Member questioned the links that the scheme has with Further Education Institutes and their potential for providing added value to the scheme.

The Skills and Talent Lead acknowledged this and informed Members that there are monthly meetings with Further Education colleges to look at how they can work more closely together to promote not only the Venture graduate offer but also recognise talent coming from the colleges.

A Member questioned how the scheme can be broadened to look at a wider range of students not solely those who have chosen to undertake a degree through university. The Member also recommended a skills strategy be developed to enhance the scheme and broaden the skills pool of South Wales.

The Head of Growth and Development acknowledged the current limitations of the scheme focusing on graduates and informed Members this is an area that has been reflected upon however due to resource, cabinet agreement and ensuring a solid offer is provided this currently is limited. The Officer acknowledged the benefits a skills strategy could add to the scheme in allowing it to broaden its offer.

Following conclusion of their discussions the Committee **RESOLVED** to note the scale up of the Venture Graduate Scheme and recommended that a skills strategy is developed.

The Chair thanked Members for their questions and for the Officers attendance.

## **22 Urgent Items**

None.

**This meeting closed at 3.10 pm**

**Councillor A Whitcombe  
Chair.**





## **CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**27 JULY 2023**

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### **DRAFT WORK PROGRAMME REPORT**

#### **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS RHONDDA CYNON TAFF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

#### **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Members of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CCRCJ JOSC) with the opportunity to consider and agree its Work Programme for the 2023 -24 municipal year

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:-

- 2.1 Consider and determine any matters that members may wish to scrutinise over this period.
- 2.2 Determine if any items that the Joint Committee considered in the last Municipal Year should be added to the 2023-24 Work Programme for future monitoring and scrutiny.
- 2.3 Agree that the Work Programme be reviewed periodically to ensure the items identified for inclusion are relevant and that any additional referrals are incorporated, particularly where items are identified for matters of pre-scrutiny throughout the calendar year.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is proposed that Members of the JOSC have the opportunity to consider its work programme and that the proposed work programme allows for an element

of flexibility and taking into account any additional consultative documents or legislative matters requiring attention.

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 An effective Work Programme will identify the issues that the JOSC wishes to focus on and scrutinise throughout the year and provide a clear rationale as to why particular issues have been selected, as well as the approach that will be adopted.
- 4.2 The Work Programme will remain flexible and will be revisited at each JOSC meeting with input from Members and officers on suggested topics for consideration.

#### **5. DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORK PROGRAMME**

- 5.1 The CCRCD JOSC plays a crucial role in holding the CCRCD Cabinet accountable and ensuring transparency and effectiveness in governance. Access to their Annual Cabinet Work Programme is important for this Committee in identifying relevant matters for the purposes of pre-scrutiny and in developing their own Work Programme for the year.
- 5.2 A Cabinet Work Programme should outline the priorities and planned policies, legislation, and projects of the CCRCD for the forthcoming year and by having access to this Work Programme, the Scrutiny Committee can identify and prioritise matters that are of significant public interest or have potential implications for the communities that form part of the Cardiff Capital Region.
- 5.3 Access to Cabinet Work Programme allows this Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee to identify relevant matters, engage early in the policy development process, plan its activities effectively, enhance transparency and accountability, and inform public debate. These factors contribute to the committee's ability to fulfil its mandate of scrutinizing government actions and promoting good governance.
- 5.4 Upon engagement with CCRCD officers, Scrutiny Officers have been unable to obtain an annual Work Programme from the CCRCD office and have instead been directed to an [Annual Planner](#) which unfortunately does not inform Members or officers of the items of scheduled business for the 2023-24 Municipal Year. Therefore, developing an effective and informative Work Programme with the inclusion of pre-scrutiny items as described above has not been possible

5.5. Attached at **Appendix A** is a list of potential items for inclusion on the JOSC Work Programme. It is proposed that the JOSC considers one item for inclusion to each meeting to allow sufficient time for possible training sessions, Work Programme planning, site visits and/or presentations from Officers at CCRCD. Members should also consider what further detail they would like potential reports to detail, including a list of potential questions they wish to be addressed, and invitees to attend the meeting to assist Members in their investigation.

## **6. Training requirements**

6.1 To assist Members in their role as a JOSC Member the Members are requested to consider any training requirements they have in relation to the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. Scrutiny Officers will develop a schedule of training for JOSC Members which will also remain flexible and brought back to each meeting for consideration and scheduling.

## **7. Future Meetings of the JOSC**

7.1 Following a short survey sent to all Members and Deputy Members of the JOSC, Members responses demonstrated a preference to continue with the JOSC meetings on a virtual basis with mornings being a clear preference. Where possible and with agreement of inclusion on the Work Programme, site visits will be undertaken where possible.

## **8 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report and no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed necessary for the purposes of this report.

## **9 CONSULTATION**

9.1 The considerations and comments of all members of the JOSC are sought in respect of the draft JOSC Work Programme and it is for Members of the JOSC to propose and agree items for consideration at this Committee

## **10 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

**11 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 11.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

**CCRCD DRAFT FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2023-24**

<b>Date/Time</b>	<b>Overarching Item</b>	<b>Information Requested/Purpose/Rationale</b>	<b>Invited/ In attendance</b>
<b>July 2022</b>	To appoint a Chair and Vice Chair to the CCRCD JOSC	To appoint a Chair and Vice Chair for the 2023-24 Municipal Year	The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications RCTCBC
	Forward Work Programme 2023-24	To develop and agree a Work Programme for the JOSC	The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications RCTCBC
	South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee – Scrutiny Arrangements	To discuss the scrutiny arrangement proposal for the CJC	The Service Director, Democratic Services & Communications RCTCBC
<b>October 2023</b>	Cabinet Member Engagement	To invite the Chair/ relevant Cabinet Member to attend to receive questions on the priorities / progress of the CCRCD	
<b>January 2024</b>			

March 2024			
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**Training Requirements: -**

To review any training requirements that Members feel are necessary throughout the Municipal Year 2023-24

**Items from 2022-23 for Members to consider including within their 2023-24 Work Programme**

- Aberthaw – Development of the site
- Venture Graduate – Development of Skills Strategy (recommendation from CCRCD JOSC)

**Other areas Members may wish to consider**

- Regional Planning Processes
- Skills and Training
- Metro Central
- Post 16 Education Landscape for Wales
- Innovation, Research and Business
- Quarterly Performance reports



## **CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**27 JULY 2023**

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### **SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE – PROPOSED SCRUTINY ARRANGMENTS**

#### **REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATIONS RHONDDA CYNON TAFF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

#### **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present Members with the draft report of the CCRC office which sets out a proposal for the future scrutiny arrangements of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:-

- 2.1 Note the contents of the report attached at appendix 1
- 2.2 Provide comments on the proposed arrangements to be fed back to the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee, prior to their consideration of the report at their meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure that Members of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee are consulted on any proposals for the Scrutiny arrangements for the CJC, prior to its consideration by the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

#### **4. Background**

- 4.1 At its meeting of the 20 September 2021, Regional Cabinet approved a report that established Governance and Delivery Option 3 'Lift and Shift' as the preferred model for CCR's transition to one integrated model of regional public investment and economic governance under the CJC. The report further set out a comprehensive Transition Plan and Transition Board model to oversee the process of evolution and a critical path for achieving key milestone dates.

## **5 AREAS FOR SCRUTINY CONSIDERATION**

- 5.1 The report attached at Appendix 1 sets out the statutory guidance that states the CJs will be subject to the same performance, governance and scrutiny requirements as Local Authorities. The guidance also sets out the core principles and values around how Corporate Joint Committees (CJs) should operate and the issues members will wish to consider when putting in place the constitutional and operational arrangements for their CJC. CJs will be public bodies, and an important part of the local government family.
- 5.2 The report proposes that the current Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee provides the Scrutiny arrangements for the CJC, as this current arrangement would best satisfy the Welsh Government's intention, as set out in the statutory guidance.
- 5.3 If this proposal is endorsed by the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee, the 10 constituent Local Authorities would need to formally appoint the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the CJC

## **6 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no Equality and Diversity implications arising from this report and no Equality Impact Assessment is deemed necessary for the purposes of this report.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The considerations and comments of all members of the JOSOC are sought in respect of the proposal for the scrutiny arrangements for the Corporate Joint Committee. Feedback from Members will be presented to the Corporate Joint Committee prior to its consideration of the report on the 31 July 2023

## **8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**



8.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations set out in this report.

## **9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in this report.

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## **SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**31<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

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### **SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **REPORT OF THE INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND THE INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER**

#### **AGENDA ITEM **x****

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#### **Reasons for report**

1. The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (the CJC) is required to make appropriate scrutiny arrangements. This report sets out the relevant requirements in relation to making such arrangements and seek the authority from the CJC to implement proposals.

#### **Background**

2. The Statutory Guidance issued by Welsh Government that accompanies the CJC Regulations states that the CJC's will be subject to the same performance, governance and scrutiny requirements as local authorities. However, it also states that it is expected that these arrangements should be proportionate to the scale of functions the CJC undertakes.
3. The Statutory Guidance further states that *'in considering the most effective and efficient approach to scrutiny, constituent councils and CJC's should give thought to the benefits of a joint overview and scrutiny committee made up of the constituent councils.'*

#### **Issues**

4. Regulations 8 – 10 of the Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2022 ("the Regulations") sets out the CJC's duties in relation to overview and scrutiny. There is no requirement within the Regulations for the CJC to establish its own overview and scrutiny committee. However, the regulations require the CJC to provide information to, attend meetings of and

consider any report or recommendations made by a 'relevant overview and scrutiny committee. A 'relevant overview and scrutiny committee' is defined in Regulation 8 (7)) as:

- a. an overview and scrutiny committee appointed by a constituent council under section 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2000;
  - b. a joint overview and scrutiny committee appointed under the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013 where the appointing authorities are constituent councils of the corporate joint committee;
  - c. a sub-committee of a committee described in paragraph (a) or (b).
5. The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee ("the JOSOC") was appointed by the constituent councils of the CCRCD to provide the scrutiny function for the Joint Committee. It meets up to 4 times per year and is administered by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council ("RCTCBC").
  6. The JOSOC comprises one non-executive member from each constituent council of the CCRCD, which are also the constituent authorities of the CJC.
  7. Therefore, relevant scrutiny committees for the purposes of the Regulations, are the individual scrutiny committees of each constituent councils of the CJC and if appointed, the JOSOC. It is proposed that having the JOSOC provide the scrutiny arrangements for the CJC would best satisfy Welsh Government's intention, as set out in the Statutory Guidance, because:
    - i) the Statutory Guidance provides for consideration to be given to scrutiny being carried out by a joint committee of the constituent authorities;
    - ii) the Statutory Guidance expressly states that scrutiny arrangements should be proportionate to the scale and functions of the CJC; and
    - iii) JOSOC already provides the scrutiny function of the CCRCD.
  8. Preliminary discussions have taken place between the Interim Chief Executive with officers at RCTCBC and they have indicated that they would be able to facilitate the proposal. If approved the terms of reference of the JOSOC will need to be amended to make clear the scope of its functions in relation to the CJC.

9. The CJC cannot designate the scrutiny function to the JOSOC itself, instead the Local Authorities (Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committees) (Wales) Regulations 2013 require the constituent Councils to appoint the JOSOC as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the CJC, and when doing so, to enter into an agreement setting out the terms of reference, rules and procedures and other ancillary matters as set out in Regulation 4 of those Regulations.
10. Accordingly, if this proposal was approved, the terms of reference of the JOSOC will need to be amended to include the scrutiny function of the CJC, and this, along with the other requirements of Regulation 4, will need to be agreed by all ten constituent authorities.

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

11. To ensure that there is independent scrutiny of the exercise of the CJC's functions.
12. To obtain relevant authority from members to approach constituent authorities to progress the proposal.

### **Financial Implications**

13. The attached report seeks to request that the scope of the existing JOSOC arrangements be amended to include the requirements of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee.
14. The existing JOSOC arrangements are overseen by RCTCBC and the costs are fully met by the Cardiff Capital Regional City Deal's budget. It is not anticipated that the overall cost envelope will change as result of the recommendations set out in this report, but consideration will need to be given to whether an appropriate element of these costs should be recharged to the CJC.
15. In the current financial year (2023/24) the CJC has set aside a budget of XX (TBC) to meet the costs of its sub-committees, which is deemed to be sufficient at this time. This sum will be reviewed as part of the CJC's annual budget setting process, as the volume and complexity of the CJC's operations evolve.

### **Legal Implications**

16. The legal implications are set out in the body of the report.

### **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

17. In developing these proposals and in considering its endorsement regard should be had, amongst other matters, to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language and is globally responsible. In discharging their respective duties under the Act, each public body listed in the Act (which includes the Councils comprising the CJC) must set and publish wellbeing objectives. These objectives will show how each public body will work to achieve the vision for Wales set out in the national wellbeing goals. When exercising its functions, the CJC should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the wellbeing objectives set by each Council and in so doing achieve the national wellbeing goals. The wellbeing duty also requires the Councils to act in accordance with a 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Councils to act 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.
18. Put simply, this means that CJC must take account of the impact of their decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, they must:
- look to the long term;
  - focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems;
  - deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals;
  - work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions;
  - involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them.
19. The CJC must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above. To assist the CJC to consider the duties under the Act in respect of the decision sought, an assessment has been undertaken, which is attached at Appendix 1.

### **Equality Act 2010**

20. In considering this matter, regard should be had, amongst other matters, to the Councils' duties under the Equality Act 2010. Pursuant to these legal duties the CJC must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are:

- age;
- gender reassignment;
- sex;
- race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality;
- disability.
- pregnancy and maternity;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- sexual orientation;
- religion or belief – including lack of belief.

### **Welsh Language Measure**

21. In considering this matter, member must also have regard to the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that the CJC, subject to the agreement of the constituent authorities of the CJC:

- (1) endorses the proposal that the JOSC should be appointed as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the CJC;
- (2) authorises the Interim Monitoring Officer to approach relevant officers at RCTCBC to formally request that the JOSC be appointed as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the CJC;
- (3) authorises the Interim Monitoring Officer to make arrangements with constituent authorities as is necessary to progress the proposal.

**James Williams**  
**Interim Monitoring Officer**  
**31<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

### **Appendices**

1. WFGA Assessment

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