



DECISION RECORD
CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL JOINT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Decision record of the meeting of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 7 March 2024.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT	Councillor A Whitcombe (Chair) Councillor R Bevan (Vice Chair) Councillor P Davies Councillor S Garratt Councillor P Hourahine Councillor D Isaac Councillor P Wong Councillor Lloyd-Selby Councillor S Griffiths Councillor R Leadbetter
NON-COMMITTEE MEMBER IN ATTENDANCE	
APOLOGIES	Councillor M Cross Councillor N Yeowell

N.B- THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR NON-DECISION MAKING COMMITTEES TO VOTE.

REPORT TITLE	RECOMMENDATION	DECLARATION OF INTEREST	RESOLUTION DATE
South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee: Constitution Review 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and consider the draft Constitution of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee. 2. Consider and determine any other matters (Letter to the Cabinet appended) 	None	7 March 2024

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PUBLICATION

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APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION: ✓



7 March 2024

Re: Pre-Scrutiny of the Draft Constitution of the Corporate Joint Committee

Dear Cabinet Members

I have been instructed by the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CCRCD JOSC) to convey the comments and observations of Members in relation to the Draft Constitution of the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC)

The JOSC had the opportunity to pre-scrutinise the arrangements at its meeting on the 7th March 2024. Members undertook a constructive discussion in respect of the proposals of which is summarised below:

Committee Members welcomed the comprehensive report and acknowledged the complexity that the draft CJC Constitution is a significant document, which requires a significant amount of work and effort to produce and acknowledged that there would be a period of transition from the 1st April whilst the CCRCD “lifts and shifts” to the new CJC model. Members therefore welcomed the opportunity to support the transition process and **recommended** that the JOSC review the constitution periodically as a living, working document to ensure it remains relevant and fit for purpose.

The JOSC noted that whilst the CJC is a statutory body, established by legislation, they considered whether there needs to be a specific reference made, that any “winding up” mechanism, would require primary or secondary legislation.

Members acknowledged that the Corporate Joint Committee will continue to be known as the Cardiff Capital Region to continue to build on established reputation, however, a Member considered for the Local Authorities that sit outside of Cardiff, the name Cardiff Capital Region can have a negative reputation amongst residents, with common misconception that funds are being sent to and used only for

the benefit of Cardiff. The Committee therefore **recommended** that the reference to Cardiff **not** specifically be referenced to ensure it is reflective of its regional nature.

Members of the Committee were reassured that from April, the Corporate Joint Committee will have a published Work Programme improving transparency and accountability, but also to support the JOSC in determining items for their own Work Programme, particularly in identifying matters for pre-scrutiny. Members emphasised the importance of pre-decision scrutiny to allow for thorough evaluation of options before *key decisions* are made. Members therefore **recommended** that this is explicitly mentioned in the constitution under the role and responsibilities of the JOSC in addition to ensuring there is a clear definition between the role of the Governance and Audit Committee and the JOSC to give a good framework for Members to have a clear understanding of their role. Whilst Members acknowledged that Budget reporting for the CJC will sit within the Terms of Reference of the Governance and Audit Committee, as a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee they felt this should also be considered within their Annual Work Programme. Members therefore also **recommended** that there is greater clarity on the role of the deputy members on the JOSC.

Under Article 4.2, referring the Policy Framework, Members were reassured by the Director to hear that whilst Climate Change is not a Statutory Policy duty this is currently under discussion with Welsh Government colleagues to add this as a core statutory duty to address the current Climate crisis.

When considering the criteria for a Key Decision, Members reflected that “significant effects” account for where there is an effect on two or more Local Authority areas. Members **recommended** amending to include “or a Broad Regional Strategic Impact” as some decisions could sit within one Local Authority area but have a Broad regional impact, Aberthaw Power Station as one example.

To ensure equality and a responsibility to those Members and Officers who may have illnesses such as diabetes, Members **recommended** including a meeting break clause under the Corporate Joint Committee Procedure Rules noting that good meeting practice is a 15 minute break every 90 minutes with an adjournment after 3 hours. Members also **recommended** having reference to Welsh Government’s Race Equality Action Plan throughout the constitution

The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee were grateful for the opportunity to pre-scrutinise the draft CJC Constitution. A copy of the recording of the meeting can be found [here](#)

Yours sincerely,

Christian Hanagan
Service Director Democratic Services and Communications
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council