



## RHONDDA CYNON TAF

### RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL

Minutes of the Virtual meeting of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 7 March 2024 at 10.00 am.

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
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
Councillor Lloyd-Selby	Vale of Glamorgan
Councillor S Griffiths	Bridgend CBC
Councillor R Leadbetter	Blaenau Gwent CBC

### Officers in attendance

Ms K Beirne – CCRCD Chief Executive  
Ms J La Grua – CCRCD Monitoring Officer  
Mr C Hanagan – Service Director Democratic Services and Communications  
Ms S Daniel – Principal Democratic Services Officer

### Apologies for absence

Councillor M Cross    Blaenau Gwent CBC  
Councillor N Yeowell    Torfaen CBC

### 15    Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all Members and Officers to the meeting. He advised that apologies for absence had been received from the following Members:

Councillor M Cross – Blaenau Gwent  
Councillor N Yeowell – Torfaen

### 16    Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the code of conduct there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda

### 17    Minutes

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> December as a true and accurate record of the meeting

## South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee: Constitution Review 2024

The Monitoring Officer for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal presented the report and draft constitution to Members to provide them an opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny of the draft Constitution of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SEWCJC) prior to consideration by SEWCJC on 18 March 2024. If the arrangements are approved, Regional Cabinet will be asked to formally transfer responsibility for City Deal to the CJC with effective date of 00:01 hours on 1 April 2024

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 1<sup>st</sup> April whilst the CCRCD “lifts and shifts” to the new CJC model.

Members of the Committee 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.

A number of 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

Following consideration of the item it was **RESOLVED** to:

- (1) Review and consider the draft Constitution of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee.
- (2) Consider and determine any other matters that members may wish to scrutinise over the coming period.

## 19 Urgent Items

None

**Councillor A Whitcombe  
Chair.**