



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021/22

SPECIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 16th JULY 2021

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS**

**CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEES – CONSULTATION ON DRAFT GENERAL
REGULATIONS**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Members feedback on the consultation initiated by Welsh Government on the next set of general regulations – **the Corporate Joint Committee (General) (No.2)(Wales) Regulations 2021**

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members: -

- 2.1 Consider and provide their feedback on the consultation which considers the next set of general regulations- **the Corporate Joint Committee (General) (No.2)(Wales) Regulations 2021.**
- 2.2 Authorise the Service Director Democratic Services & Communications, in consultation with the Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, to convey the comments and responses of committee members to the WG prior to the consultation closing.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. As part of the phased approach to putting in place the legislative framework within which Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) will operate, the Minister for Finance and Local Government is launching a consultation on the next set of general regulations.
- 3.2 Members therefore have the opportunity, through the consultation, to provide any feedback they have in relation to the next set of general regulations in

advance of the closing date for response which is **Monday 6 September 2021**.

4. **BACKGROUND**

4.1 The eight-week technical consultation on the draft general regulations builds on the comprehensive consultation undertaken in October 2020 which sought views on the general approach to the development of the legislative framework for CJsCs.

4.2 Members will recall that they contributed to the earlier consultation on the draft Regulations, which were published on Monday 12th October. They were issued for consultation (with a closing date of 4th January). Members had the opportunity, through the consultation, to provide their feedback in relation to the draft regulations and CJC's more generally.

4.3 Members are asked to contribute to the next stage of the approach which is the development of the wider CJC legislative framework and application of specific elements of that framework.

The regulations being consulted on will provide for:

- the roles of certain 'executive officers' to support the work of the CJC
- some general provisions in relation to the staff of a CJC
- discharge of functions of a CJC by other persons (sub-committees, staff etc)
- regulation of meetings and proceedings of a CJC
- a small number of miscellaneous and consequential amendments that were necessary both to primary and secondary legislation (including the regulations which established CJsCs) as a result of putting in the legislative framework around CJsCs.

4.4 To assist Members the draft regulations and consultation paper can be accessed via the Welsh Government website: <https://gov.wales/corporate-joint-committees-general-no2-wales-regulations-2021>

4.5 It is proposed that a third stage, which will be consulted on in Autumn 2021, will put in place further legislation for the operation of the CJsCs and their functions including scrutiny and governance and further provision on staffing.

4.6 A fourth stage will then address any remaining provisions which a CJC might need, but which are unlikely to be needed at the point at which they begin to deliver their functions. A further consultation will be undertaken on this stage in Spring 2022.

4.7 The Minister for Finance and Local Government is also launching a consultation on the **draft statutory guidance for the Establishment of CJsCs**, which will run for 12 weeks. The draft statutory guidance document

sets out the core principles and values underpinning the operation of CJs. The guidance also highlights issues members will wish to consider when putting in place the constitutional and operational arrangements for their CJC.

- 4.8 As the closing date for this consultation is the **Monday 4 October 2021** it is proposed that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee consider this consultation at its meeting on the **21st September 2021**. The draft guidance and consultation paper can be accessed via the Welsh Government website: <https://gov.wales/corporate-joint-committees-draft-statutory-guidance>

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no equality or diversity implications aligned directly to this report.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.

- 8.1 Welsh Government say that developing the CJC mechanism for local government regional collaboration meets the sustainable development principle and five ways of working and they have also considered how a regional approach can maximise our contribution to the well-being goals. In doing so they say CJs put in place a new framework to enable local government to make their contribution to the goals more effectively.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in line with its Terms of Reference, has been afforded the opportunity to respond to the consultation which represents the next stage of the approach to the development of the wider CJC legislative framework and application of specific elements of that framework.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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