South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee
Cyd-bwyllgor corfforaethol De-Dwyrain Cymru

South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee

11.30am-12.30pm on Monday 9 October 2023 via Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Committee Members

Cllr Anthony Hunt, Chair	Leader	Torfaen CBC
Cllr Jane Mudd, Vice Chair	Leader	Newport CC
Julian Stedman (from 11:36)	Chair of Planning Committee	Bannau Brycheiniog NPA
Cllr Helen Cunningham	Deputy Leader	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Cllr Sean Morgan	Leader	Caerphilly CBC
Cllr Geraint Thomas (from 11:34)	Leader	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby (until 11:53)	Leader	Monmouthshire CC
Cllr Maureen Webber	Deputy Leader	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Cllr Lis Burnett	Leader	Vale of Glamorgan Council

Officers in Attendance

Please note attendance of Chief Executives, core CCR Officers, Accountable Body and Observers only will be recorded

Damien McCann		Interim Chief Executive	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Christina Harrhy		Chief Executive	Caerphilly CBC
Paul Matthews		Chief Executive	Monmouthshire CC
Beverly Owen		Chief Executive	Newport CC
Paul Mee		Chief Executive	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Rob Thomas		Chief Executive	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Christopher Lee	(CL)	Acting Chief Executive / Section 151 Officer	Cardiff Council / Accountable Body
Ellis Cooper			
Gareth Gates		Accountant	Accountable Body
Siân Humphries		Monitoring Officer	Accountable Body
Kellie Beirne	(KB)	Director	Office of the CCR
Hrjinder Singh		Head of Finance, Risk & Assurance	Office of the CCR
Colan Mehaffey	(CM)	Head of Digital & Data Innovation	Office of the CCR
Liz Fitzgerald (minutes)		Business Development & Partnership Officer	Office of the CCR

Observers

Gareth Ashman	Head Of Infrastructure	UK Government

Apologies

Cllr Stephen Thomas	Leader	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Cllr Huw David OBE	Leader	Bridgend CBC
Cllr Huw Thomas	Leader	Cardiff Council
Cllr Andrew Morgan OBE	Leader	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC

Catherine Mealing-Jones	Chief Executive	Bannau Brycheiniog NPA
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive	Bridgend CBC
Paul Orders	Chief Executive	Cardiff Council
Ellis Cooper	Chief Executive	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Stephen Vickers	Chief Executive	Torfaen CBC
James Williams	Monitoring Officer	Accountable Body
Ian Allwood	Acting s151 Officer / Head of Finance	Accountable Body / Cardiff Council
Gill Brown	Group Accountant	Accountable Body
Rhys Thomas	Chief Operating Officer	Office of the CCR
Rob O'Dwyer	Head of Infrastructure	Office of the CCR

Recording of the meeting was started at 11:33

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Hunt opened the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Declarations of Interest
The Declarations of Interest process is provided in the procedural note

No declarations of interest were received.

Cllr Geraint Thomas joined the meeting at 11:34

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 11 September 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 September were agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. 2023/24 Month 04 Budget Monitoring Update and Proposed 2024/25 Budget Strategy

(1) CL introduced the item and went through the key points of the report.

Julian Stedman joined the meeting at 11:36

(2) Committee Members agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Burnett and seconded by Cllr Sean Morgan.

(3) Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Committee Members in the following order:

Bannau Brycheiniog, Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Torfaen.

Cllr Huw Thomas and Cllr David were not present to vote for Cardiff and Bridgend respectively.

(4) It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:

(1) noted the 2023/24 Month 04 Budget Monitoring position and projected out-turn position as set out in this report;

(2) approved the proposed 2024/25 Budget Strategy set-out in this report, which will allow detailed budget work to be undertaken over the autumn period along with appropriate consultation with Constituent Councils and the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Authority over this period;

(3) noted that in-line with the CJC Regulations, the proposed 2024/25 Budget will need to be considered and approved no later than the 31 January 2024.

5. 2023-24 Annual Business Plan - Quarter 1 Performance Report

(1) KB introduced the item and went through the key points of the report. Cllr Hunt thanked officers for their work and acknowledged the pressures of preparing for the transition to CJC.

(2) Committee Members agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Sean Morgan and seconded by Cllr Burnett.

(3) Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Committee Members in the following order:

Bannau Brycheiniog, Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Torfaen

Cllr Huw Thomas and Cllr David were not present to vote for Cardiff and Bridgend respectively.

It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:

(1) noted the updates in line with the integrated Annual Business Plan for 2023/24.

6. South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Transition Plan

(2) KB introduced the report and acknowledged the complexity of the matter. KB drew Leaders' attention to paragraph 11 of the report which sets out the next steps for agreeing the novation of the City Deal funding to the CJC. KB confirmed CCR had met with Welsh Government and confirmation of the novation was agreed. Cllr Hunt thanked officers for their work.

(3) Committee Members agreed to accept the recommendations of

the report as moved by Cllr Burnett and seconded by Cllr Sean Morgan.

Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Committee Members in the following order:

Bannau Brycheiniog, Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Torfaen

Cllr Huw Thomas and Cllr David were not present to vote for Cardiff and Bridgend respectively.

(4) It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:

(1) noted the transition activities laid out in the report;

(2) noted the proposed approach to the novation of the City Deal Funding Award Letter, as laid out in paragraph 13 and Appendix 2.

7. The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Interim Constitution

(1) KB introduced the item.

Cllr Brocklesby left the meeting at 11:57

(2) KB drew Leaders' attention to paragraph 5 and emphasised that the constitution was interim at this stage, with a final version to be brought to Committee in advance of the CJC becoming fully operational on 1 April 2024

(3) Committee Members agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Burnett and seconded by Cllr Sean Morgan.

(4) Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Committee Members in the following order:

Bannau Brycheiniog, Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Merthyr Tydfil, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Torfaen.

Cllr Huw Thomas, Cllr David and Cllr Brocklesby were not present to vote for Cardiff, Bridgend and Monmouthshire respectively.

(5) It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:

(1) approved the Interim Constitution and its Appendices at Appendix A to this report, to replace the Standing Orders approved on 31 January 2022;

(2) noted that Section 6 and Appendix 7 of the Interim Constitution are subject to the 10 constituent councils of the CJC approving the terms of reference of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee that will scrutinise the CJC;

(3) noted that the standards sub-committee arrangements set out within Section 4 and Appendix 4 of the Interim Constitution are subject to the conclusion of a Service Level Agreement between the CJC and Cardiff Council (to be concluded under officer delegated authority); and

(4) noted that it will receive further updates and revisions to the Interim Constitution during 2023-24 in order to allow for implementation of the preferred governance and delivery model.

8. Pay Policy 2023/24

(1) KB introduced the report in her capacity as Interim Chief Executive in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011.

(2) Committee Members agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Burnett and seconded by Cllr Sean Morgan.

(3) Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Committee Members in the following order:

Bannau Brycheiniog, Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Merthyr Tydfil, RCT and Torfaen.

Cllr Huw Thomas, Cllr David and Cllr Brocklesby were not present to vote for Cardiff, Bridgend and Monmouthshire respectively.

(4) It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:

(1) approved the attached Pay Policy Statement (2023/24) Appendix 1.

9. South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee: Regional Transport Plan & Strategic Development Plan

(1) CM introduced the report and provided some background to the matter. Welsh Government had identified 6 key milestones to be met by March 2025. Some milestones were challenging and CCR were working with Welsh Government as to how they could be managed, with support from TfW, the RTA and other local officers.

(2) Leaders discussed the item:

- there was concern around the level of detailed required by

Welsh Government;

- in terms of ensuring local authorities align their Local Plans with the guidance, this should be discussed at CJC/Member-level and not at sub-committee level to ensure transparency;
- if the CJC wished to change voting structures this would require unanimous approval;
- a separate discussion on governance would be held as soon as possible.

ACTION: KB would arrange a separate meeting. **KB**

(3) Committee Members agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Burnett and seconded by Cllr Sean Morgan.

(4) Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Committee Members in the following order:

Bannau Brycheiniog, Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen

Cllr Huw Thomas, Cllr David and Cllr Brocklesby were not present to vote for Cardiff, Bridgend and Monmouthshire respectively.

(5) It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:

(1) noted the statutory powers, associated duties and obligations in relation to spatial planning and regional transport as detailed in LG and Elections (Wales) Act 2021; and,

(2) approved the resourcing approach detailed in this report to enable CCR to achieve the first milestones of the RTP and SDP, noting the position set out in relation to the CJC's proposed 2024/25 Budget Strategy and Medium Term Financial Plan as set out in Paragraph 61.

10. Appointment of Interim Monitoring Officer

(1) KB introduced the item and provided background to the report. KB thanked James Williams, the outgoing Monitoring Officer for his work and support.

(2) Committee Members agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Burnett and seconded by Cllr Sean Morgan.

(3) Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Committee Members in the following order:

Bannau Brycheiniog, Vale of Glamorgan, Caerphilly, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen.

Cllr Huw Thomas, Cllr David and Cllr Brocklesby were not present to vote for Cardiff, Bridgend and Monmouthshire respectively.

(4) It was resolved that the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee:

(1) subject to recommendations 2 and 3 below and the conclusion of the relevant legal agreements, approved the designation of Jayne La Grua as Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer of the CJC from 11 October 2023 and as Interim Monitoring Officer of the CJC from 1 November 2023;

(2) noted that Cardiff Council will make the necessary arrangements to engage Ms La Grua on behalf of the CJC; and

(3) authorised the Interim Chief Executive, on behalf of the CJC, to conclude or amend the service level agreement with Cardiff Council in relation to this matter.

Recording of the meeting ended at 12:26

Date of Next Meeting: 9.30am on Monday 4 December 2023