

**Cardiff Capital Region
Regional Cabinet**

9.37am-10.12am on Monday, 13 December 2021
Remote Meeting using Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Present

Leaders

Cllr Nigel Daniels	Leader	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Cllr Huw David	Leader	Bridgend County Borough Council
Cllr Lisa Mytton	Councillor	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Cllr Huw Thomas (Vice- Chair)	Leader	Cardiff Council
Cllr Richard John (Vice- Chair)	Leader	Monmouthshire County Council
Cllr Jane Mudd	Leader	Newport City Council
Cllr Anthony Hunt (Chair)	Leader	Torfaen County Borough Council
Cllr Neil Moore	Leader	Vale of Glamorgan Council

Chief Executives

Michelle Morris	Managing Director	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive	Bridgend County Borough Council
David Street	Acting Chief Executive	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Paul Orders	Chief Executive	Cardiff Council
Beverly Owen	Chief Executive	Newport City Council
Chris Bradshaw	Chief Executive	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Stephen Vickers	Chief Executive	Torfaen County Borough Council
Rob Thomas	Chief Executive	Vale of Glamorgan Council

Officers

Kellie Beirne	Director	Office of the Cardiff Capital Region
Rhys Thomas	Chief Operating Officer	Office of the Cardiff Capital Region
Hrjinder Singh	Head of Finance, Risk & Assurance	Office of the Cardiff Capital Region

Rob O'Dwyer	Head of Infrastructure	Office of the Cardiff Capital Region
Suzanne Chesterton	Marketing and Communications Lead	Office of the Cardiff Capital Region
Nathan Llewellyn	Marketing & Communications Officer	Office of the Cardiff Capital Region
Liz Fitzgerald	Business Development & Partnership Officer	Office of the Cardiff Capital Region
Nicola Butler	Business Development & Partnership Officer	Office of the Cardiff Capital Region
Christopher Lee	Section 151 Officer	CCR Accountable Body
Lindsey Yeoman	Accountant	CCR Accountable Body
Gill Brown	Group Accountant	CCR Accountable Body
Gareth Gates	Accountant	CCR Accountable Body
James Williams	Solicitor	CCR Accountable Body

Observers

Sara-Jane Byrne	Audit Manager	Audit Wales
Gareth Ashman	Head Of Infrastructure	UK Government
Claire Germain	Director	Welsh Government

Apologies

Cllr Philippa Marsden	Leader	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Cllr Andrew Morgan	Leader	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Christina Harrhy	Chief Executive	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Ellis Cooper	Chief Executive	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Paul Matthews	Chief Executive	Monmouthshire County Council
Nicola Somerville	Head of Business Development and Inclusive Growth	Office of the Cardiff Capital Region
Anil Hirani	Senior Accountant	CCR Accountable Body

1 Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Hunt opened the meeting and apologies were noted.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the following amendment:

- Sara-Jane Byrne from Audit Wales had not been present.

4 Reframing the Approach to Developing the South East Wales Corporate Joint

Committee

Appendix 1 to this report is exempt from publication because it contains information of the kind described in paragraph 16 (information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings) of part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

Kellie introduced the report. Kellie said that Welsh Government had confirmed they had made the offer to consider extending the date of formal commencement of duties from 28 February 2022 to 30 June 2022. This should be taken up, given alignment with issues in report and pragmatic approach proposed, bringing all regions into line.

Cllr David joined the meeting at 09:39

Leaders discussed the item:

- Cllr Hunt noted the report set out a pragmatic way forward;
- Cllr Thomas said he agreed that the report set out a pragmatic way forward but he wished to note frustration that the region were in the position they were currently due to the issues around legislation. Cllr Thomas also noted that the 20 September 2021 Regional Cabinet report stated that the CCR saw the CJC as a vehicle to transfer further powers and autonomy to local government on a regional basis, so that they had greater tools at their disposal to drive economic growth. Cllr Thomas wished to note that Regional Cabinet retained those principles;
- Cllr Hunt said the CJC should be about devolving powers both up and down;
- Cllr John agreed with Cllr Thomas's comments; the current situation was not Regional Cabinet's original preference as a way forward but he had been impressed with the pace of progress behind the scenes. Regarding timings, the issue would need to be taken through their own councils by the end of January so there may be a need to liaise on something like a Member's seminar to ensure a full council understanding prior to a formal debate. Kellie agreed the CCR could support this.

ACTION: Kellie would prepare a standard report that Leaders could use for their Council meetings.

- Cllr Moore said it would be a good idea to invite as many as people as possible to a single event. Cllr Moore thought that the budget had to go through local authority Councils due to the budget aspect but Kellie confirmed this would not be necessary. James clarified that the CJC had the responsibility to set its own budget and that the legal implications in the report of 20 September still stood.

ACTION: The Office of the CCR would convene an online forum for all Councils to receive an update on the CJC process.

The motion to deal with the recommendations of the report was moved by Cllr Mytton and seconded by Cllr John.

Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order: Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Torfaen.

Cllr Marsden and Cllr Morgan were not present to vote for Caerphilly and Rhondda

Cynon Taf respectively.

It was resolved that the CCR Regional Cabinet:

- (1) noted the contents of this report and the realisation of risks and issues that now prevent full implementation of the chosen Governance and Delivery option to 'Lift and Shift' on the previously proposed timescale; and the revised arrangements to be reported through CCR's ten constituent local authorities, along with draft CJC Standing Orders;
- (2) approved the re-direction and re-purposing of the principles contained in the report of 20 September 2022 and agreed the implementation of the 'bare minimum' interim solution set out in the report, allowing CCR to be compliant with the CJC legislation, until such time transition via 'lift and shift' can be resurrected and in tandem with outstanding issues being resolved.
- (3) approved re-setting of the critical path in relation the tasks and activities which will need to be undertaken in the run-up to budget setting before 31 January 2022 and resolved to stand down the Transition Board in this period;
- (4) agreed to ask the Welsh Government to amend the regulations to change the date on which immediate duties commence under the Regulations from 28 February 2022 to 30 June 2022; and,
- (5) noted the work ongoing to resolve the remaining issues and the position of Welsh Government and Audit Wales in supporting this approach, as well as being mindful of the risks and issues, which require constant attention and mitigation wherever possible.

5 Towards a Regional Economic Framework (REF) for South East Wales

Kellie introduced the report as an interim position on working towards developing a REF. A new levelling up White Paper, amongst other policy developments was awaited in the new year and therefore Kellie suggested submission of a further report in the Spring.

The motion to deal with the recommendations of the report was moved by Cllr Mytton and seconded by Cllr John.

Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order: Monmouthshire, Blaenau Gwent, Newport, Merthyr Tydfil, Cardiff, Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend and Torfaen.

Cllr Marsden and Cllr Morgan were not present to vote for Caerphilly and Rhondda Cynon Taf respectively.

It was resolved that the CCR Regional Cabinet:

- (1) noted and endorsed the principles and priorities emerging through initial work on development a Regional Economic Framework and approved to receive a final version in Spring 2022.

6 Acquisition of Former Aberthaw Power Station

This report and all appendices are exempt from publication because they contain information of the kind described in paragraphs 14 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person) and 21 (public interest test) of parts 4 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information

Rhys introduced the report. The discussion noted the report and background had been presented on many occasions and as such, Members felt informed about this exciting opportunity.

The motion to deal with the recommendations of the report was moved by Cllr Mytton and seconded by Cllr David.

Cllr Hunt obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order: Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire and Torfaen.

Cllr Marsden and Cllr Morgan were not present to vote for Caerphilly and Rhondda Cynon Taf respectively.

It was resolved that the CCR Regional Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the exempt report.

Date of Next Meeting: Time Not Specified on Date Not Specified via

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