

**Cardiff Capital Region
Regional Cabinet Meeting**

9.30am–11.30am on Monday 31 July 2023
Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Leaders

Cllr Stephen Thomas	Leader	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Cllr Huw David OBE	Leader	Bridgend CBC
Cllr Sean Morgan	Leader	Caerphilly CBC
Cllr Geraint Thomas	Leader	Merthyr Tydfil CBC
Cllr Mary Ann Brocklesby, Vice Chair	Leader	Monmouthshire CC
Cllr Andrew Morgan OBE (from 09:37)	Leader	Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
Cllr Joanne Gauden	Cabinet Member	Torfaen CBC
Cllr Lis Burnett	Leader	Vale of Glamorgan Council

Officers in Attendance

Christina Harrhy	Chief Executive	Caerphilly CBC
Ellis Cooper	Chief Executive	Merthyr Tydfil 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
Ian Allwood	(IA) Acting s151 Officer / Head of Finance	Accountable Body / Cardiff Council
Gill Brown	Group Accountant	Accountable Body
Gareth Gates	Accountant	Accountable Body
Mary Cormack	Solicitor	Accountable Body
Rhys Thomas	(RT) Acting 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
Gavin Powell	Head of Innovation & Clusters	Office of the CCR
Liz Fitzgerald (minutes)	Business Development & Partnership Officer	Office of the CCR

Observers

Gareth Ashman (from 09:41)	Head of Infrastructure	UK Government
Claire Jenkins	Special Adviser	Welsh Government

Apologies

Cllr Huw Thomas, Vice Chair	Leader	Cardiff Council
Cllr Jane Mudd, Vice Chair	Leader	Newport CC

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Cllr Anthony Hunt, Chair	Leader	Torfaen CBC
Damien McCann	Interim Chief Executive	Blaenau Gwent CBC
Mark Shephard	Chief Executive	Bridgend CBC
Paul Orders	Chief Executive	Cardiff Council
Stephen Vickers	Chief Executive	Torfaen CBC
Christopher Lee	Section 151 Officer	Accountable Body
James Williams	Monitoring Officer	Accountable Body
Kellie Beirne	Director	Office of the CCR
Rob O'Dwyer	Head of Infrastructure	Office of the CCR

Recording of the meeting was started at 09:32

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Brocklesby opened the meeting and apologies were noted.

2. Declarations of Interest - Elected Members' Protocols

- (1) Cllr Sean Morgan declared a general personal interest in any matters relating to decentralised finance because he was an investor in cryptocurrencies.
- (2) In respect of Item 6 Engagement with Regional Higher & Further Education, Paul Matthews declared a general personal interest in matters relating to Cardiff University because he holds the position of Honorary Professor, and a general personal interest in matters relating to Cardiff Metropolitan University because he holds the position of Governor.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 June were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting as moved by Cllr Sean Morgan and seconded by Cllr Burnett.

4. 2022/23 Joint Committee Revenue Budget Final Outturn Position

- (1) IA introduced the report.
- (2) Leaders agreed to accept the recommendations of the report and Cllr Brocklesby obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order:

Caerphilly, Vale of Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil, Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Bridgend and Monmouthshire.

- Cllr Andrew Morgan was not present to vote for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.
- Cllr Mudd was not present to vote for Newport CC.
- Cllr Huw Thomas was not present to vote for Cardiff Council.

Cllr Andrew Morgan joined the meeting at 09:37

- (3) It was resolved that Regional Cabinet:
- (1) noted the final outturn position (subject to audit) against the approved Joint Committee Revenue Budget for the year ending 31 March 2023;
 - (2) approved the proposed treatment of the 2022/23 Joint Committee Revenue Budget underspend as set out above;
 - (3) noted the impact of the proposed capitalisation policy and treatment (subject to audit) on the 2022/23 accounts.

5. 2022/23 Annual Business Plan - Quarter 4 Performance Report

- (1) RT introduced the report and highlighted the key points, noting events that had taken place including Unleash and MIPIM. Resourcing remained a challenge but some significant progress had been made in Q4.

Gareth Ashman joined the meeting at 09:41

- (2) Leaders discussed the item:
- In terms of resourcing and fixed-term contracts, the long-term risk was high (red) although at present it was rate medium (amber). Fixed-term contracts were not appealing in the current climate but as the CCR transitioned to the CJC it was hoped to review and reflect on the resourcing situation. At present, CCR was constrained by the JWA which stated it could not exceed 10 permanent posts.
 - Leaders thanked all officers for their current and continuing work.
- (3) Gareth Ashman spoke on behalf of the UK Government to note that they were seeing real adverse effects of fixed-term contracts in other growth fields and that this was impacting significantly in North Wales, There had been negative impact on resourcing for other growth deals as they had moved from full-time to fixed term.
- (4) Leaders agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Sean Morgan and seconded by Cllr Stephen Thomas.
- (5) Cllr Brocklesby obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order:
- Vale of Glamorgan, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Torfaen, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil and Monmouthshire.
- Cllr Mudd was not present to vote for Newport CC.
 - Cllr Huw Thomas was not present to vote for Cardiff Council.
- (6) It was resolved that Regional Cabinet:
- (1) approved (Appendix 1) Quarter 4 performance report and authorises the Acting Director of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal to formally submit the report, including supporting information to both UK and

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Welsh Governments, and other stakeholders as required, on behalf of the Regional Cabinet;

- (2) noted the final spend of £46.85M for financial year 2022/23 as set out in this report and the overall position against the Wider Investment Fund budget as set-out at Appendix 2;
- (3) noted the updates against the AGS Action Plan and the Internal Audit Action Plan as set out in this report and in Appendix 4 and Appendix 5 respectively.

6. Engagement with Regional Higher & Further Education

Appendices 1-3 to this report are exempt from publication because they contain such information as described in paragraphs 14 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person) and 21 (public interest test) of sections 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

- (1) CM introduced the report, which sets out proposals to building on existing relationships with Higher and Further Education in the Region. MoUs are proposed that would enable strong partnership working and a focus on future collaboration, in particular when working with UKRI, UK and Welsh Governments.
- (2) Leaders discussed the item:
 - systematic engagement was the right way to go;
 - FEIs/HEIs were important, not least for their role in research and development for business startups, and also as employers in their own right;
 - CCR should be mindful of other education institutions across the whole of Wales and wider afield and should not lose sight of other pan-Wales opportunities because of obvious linkages and benefits; CM agreed that maintaining wider partnerships would be very important, i.e., semiconductor programmes included Swansea University;
 - civic engagement by FEIs/HEIs was also important.
- (3) Leaders agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr David and seconded by Cllr Gauden.

Cllr Brocklesby obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order:

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

- Cllr Mudd was not present to vote for Newport CC.
- Cllr Huw Thomas was not present to vote for Cardiff Council.

- (4) It was resolved that Regional Cabinet:

- (1) noted and approved the proposed approach to formal engagement with HEIs and FEIs in the region;
- (2) approved substantially each of the Memorandums of Understanding (attached to this report) subject to minor amendments.

7. UK Semiconductor Strategy Report

- (1) CM introduced the report and provided an overview, noting that the UK National Semiconductor Strategy had been published in May 2023 and CCR had prioritised the cluster. As well as outlining the main focus and risks, the report outlined the introduction of a UK Semiconductor Advisory Panel. CCR's analysis was provided in the cover report and CM noted that skills and talent around technology and the Welsh policy context would need further work.

Leaders noted that it would be helpful to reposition CCR within the context of the UK National strategy.

- (2) Leaders accepted the recommendations of the report with a show of hands, with no abstentions.
- (3) It was resolved that Regional Cabinet:
 - (1) noted the analysis and priority actions related to the National Semiconductor Strategy.

Recording of the meeting was stopped at 10:00

EXEMPT ITEMS

The reports and all appendices below 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

8. CSC Foundry Limited – Annual Business Plan and Annual Update Report 2023/24

- (1) RT introduced the item and went through the key items of the report.
- (2) Leaders agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Burnett and seconded by Cllr Geraint Thomas.
- (3) Cllr Brocklesby obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order:

Torfaen, Vale of Glamorgan, Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly and Monmouthshire.

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- Cllr Andrew Morgan was not present to vote for Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC.
- Cllr Mudd was not present to vote for Newport CC.
- Cllr Huw Thomas was not present to vote for Cardiff Council.

(4) It was resolved that Regional Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the exempt report.

9. Investment and Intervention Framework Report: Recommendation Logs, Project Updates and Wider Projects Update

(1) RT introduced the report.

(2) Leaders agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Burnett and seconded by Cllr Stephen Thomas.

(3) Leaders accepted the recommendations of the report with a show of hands, with no abstentions.

(5) It was resolved that Regional Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the exempt report

10. Full Business Case – Northern Valleys Initiative

(1) RT presented the report.

(2) Leaders agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Stephen Thomas and seconded by Cllr Sean Morgan.

(3) Cllr Brocklesby obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order:

Bridgend, Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly and Monmouthshire.

- Cllr Mudd was not present to vote for Newport CC.
- Cllr Huw Thomas was not present to vote for Cardiff Council.

(4) It was resolved that Regional Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the exempt report

11. Full Business Case – Fibre to the Premises (FTTP)

(1) RT introduced the item.

(2) Leaders agreed to accept the recommendations of the report as moved by Cllr Stephen Thomas and seconded by Cllr Andrew Morgan.

(3) Cllr Brocklesby obtained individual votes of acceptance from Leaders in the following order:

Bridgend, Torfaen, Vale of Glamorgan, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Rhondda

Cynon Taf and Monmouthshire.

- Cllr Mudd was not present to vote for Newport CC.
 - Cllr Huw Thomas was not present to vote for Cardiff Council.
- (4) It was resolved that Regional Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the exempt report

The meeting ended at 10:48

Date of Next Meeting: 9.30am on Monday 25 September 2023