



SPECIAL MEETING OF CABINET

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN ON TUESDAY 31ST JANUARY, 2017 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor K.V. Reynolds - Chair

Councillors:

Mrs C. Forehead (HR and Governance/Business Manager), N. George (Community and Leisure Services), D. Hardacre (Performance and Asset Management), D. Havard (Education and Lifelong learning), K. James (Regeneration, Planning and Sustainable Development), Mrs B. Jones (Corporate Services) D.V. Poole (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Housing), T.J. Williams (Highways, Transportation and Engineering), R. Woodyatt (Social Services)

Together with:

C. Burns (Interim Chief Executive), N. Scammell (Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer), C. Harry (Corporate Director - Communities)

Also in Attendance:

G. Williams (Interim Head of Legal Services), H. Morgan (Senior Committee Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from D. Street, Corporate Director Social Services.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION CITY DEAL (CRR CITY DEAL)

Consideration was given to the report which provided an update on the progress made since the last report to Council and sought approval for the formal establishment of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal (CCR City Deal) Joint Committee (which will oversee the region's economic growth agenda and delivery of the twenty year CCR City Deal). It also sought approval for the CCR City Deal Joint Working Agreement, the CCR City Deal Assurance Framework and Implementation Plan, which are required to establish the Regional Cabinet and the City Deal Investment Fund.

The Interim Chief Executive gave an overview of the report and referred to the requirement to consider the formal establishment of the CCR Joint Cabinet and associated documentation, which will enable the commencement of a programme of economic growth across the region through the 20 year CCR City Deal. He advised that the City Deal provides an opportunity to continue tackling the area's barriers to economic growth by improving transport connectivity, increasing skill levels still further, supporting people into work and giving businesses the support they need to innovate and grow.

The establishment of a Capital Region Cabinet will be the first step in the development of greater city-region governance across the Cardiff Capital Region. The Cabinet, which will comprise the ten participating local authorities, will provide the basis for initial decision making regarding the Investment Fund.

It was noted that the report is being presented to each of the 10 constituent authorities and to date, 5 have considered and approved its content and subsequent recommendations. The Joint Working Agreement which includes the Assurance Framework and Implementation Plan were appended to the report and details of the legal and governance implications arising from the Agreement were detailed within the report.

Since the 15th March 2016, the ten constituent councils have been working with the Welsh and UK Governments to establish the governance arrangements required releasing the £1.2bn of investment through a 20-year Investment Fund. This will ensure the right investments are made to achieve significant economic growth. The CCR City Deal has set a small number of key targets, which are the creation of 25,000 new jobs by 2036 and leverage of £4 billion of private sector investment as a result of the £1.2bn public sector investment. On a pro rata basis, and as 12% of the region, this in turn could lead to 2 - 3,000 jobs within the area.

It was noted that the CCR City Deal Investment Fund comprises two distinct elements, the Metro scheme (which is the direct responsibility of Welsh Government) and the Regional Cabinet Fund (the responsibility of the CCR Regional Cabinet).

During the course of the debate, reference was made to the need to ensure there is investment in education, skills and employability to ensure there is an alignment between future employer skills needs and education provision across the region which in turn will improve productivity and participation in the economy. It was noted that there are plans to strengthen the existing Learning, Skills and Innovation Partnership and the City Deal is supported by the higher education sector which includes Cardiff University, Cardiff Metropolitan University and the University of South Wales.

In that transport has a key role in delivering economic growth and improving outcomes for people by connecting communities, business, jobs, facilities and services, reference was also made to the need to ensure the transport infrastructure is adequate and to the fact that there are significant congestion and transport capacity issues that need to be addressed. It was noted that the Cardiff Capital Region will establish a new non-statutory Regional Transport Authority to co-ordinate transport planning and investment, in partnership with the Welsh Government. Clive Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager) has been seconded to assist in this role.

Members were advised that a key priority, which the City Deal Investment Fund will support, is the delivery of the South East Wales Metro (including the Valley Lines Electrification programme). The scheme has the potential to provide a significantly improved public transport system that will transform the way people travel around the region. Given the importance of the Metro to the UK Government, Welsh Government and Cardiff Capital Region, a proportion of the Investment Fund will be pre-allocated to the delivery of this scheme and as such, is being progressed.

Members welcomed the opportunity to be part of the City Deal which will assist in delivering the Council's priorities of economic development and regeneration.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations in the report be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in report, the Leader of the Council or his/her nominated deputy be granted delegated authority to sign the Joint Working Agreement on behalf of the Council.

RECOMMENDED that for the reasons contained in the report, Council be requested to:-

- (i) approve the Joint Working Agreement as the legal document that formally establishes the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) Joint Committee (the Regional Cabinet) as a Joint Committee, with delegated functions, with a Commencement Date of the 1st March, 2017. The elected member representative to the Regional Cabinet shall be the Leader of the Council, or his/her nominated Deputy;
- (ii) approve the financial contributions from each constituent Council towards the collective £120m total, (together with such associated costs e.g. carry costs), as detailed in the body of this report;
- (iii) approve the carry forward of any remaining revenue funds from 2016/2017, contributed by each constituent Council into 2017/2018 in order that the support structure for the Regional Cabinet continues;
- (iv) approve the collective revenue contributions of up to £1 million inclusive of recommendation (iii) above, on a proportionate basis as set out in the Joint Working Agreement) to the 2017/2018 budget, in order that the support structure for the Regional Cabinet continues;
- (v) approve the City of Cardiff Council acting as the Accountable Body with the responsibilities as set out in the Joint Working Agreement;
- (vi) approve the Assurance Framework as the open and transparent, robust decision making process for considering all proposals requiring support from the CCR City Deal Wider Investment Fund;
- (vii) approve that the Interim Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer and Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer be granted delegated authority to agree such amendments as are necessary to the Joint Working Agreement Assurance Framework and Implementation Plan (as are appropriate) from the date of acceptances of these recommendations to the Commencement Date of the 1st March, 2017;
- (viii) approve that the Interim Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer and Acting Director of Corporate Services and Section 151 Officer be granted delegated authority to decide whether the Council should continue to explore the opportunity to participate in the CCR City Deal in the event that one or more of the ten constituent Councils fail to agree any of the recommendations detailed above.

The meeting closed at 2.35pm.

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 1st March 2017.

CHAIR