



CABINET

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH DECEMBER 2020 AT 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor P. Marsden (Leader) - Chair

Councillors:

S. Cook (Social Care), N. George (Waste and Public Protection), C. Gordon (Corporate Services), S. Morgan (Economy and Enterprise), E. Stenner (Performance and Customer Services) and R. Whiting (Learning and Achievement).

Together with:

C. HARRY (Chief Executive), D. Street (Corporate Director – Social Services and Housing) and M.S. Williams (Interim Corporate Director – Communities).

Also in Attendance:

R. Kyte (Head of Regeneration and Planning), M. Lloyd (Head of Infrastructure), K. Peters (Corporate Policy Manager), R. Tranter (Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer) and C. Evans (Committee Services Officer).

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Leader reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed but would not be live streamed, however a recording would be available following the meeting via the Council's website – ([Click Here To View](#)) She advised that decisions would be made by Microsoft Forms.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor L. Phipps (Housing and Property), J. Ridgewell (Environment and Infrastructure) and R. Edmunds (Corporate Director – Education and Corporate Services) and S. Harris (Head of Corporate Finance and S151 Officer).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. DRAFT RESPONSES TO THE SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE REGULATIONS 2021 AND THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (WALES) REGULATIONS 2021.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services provided Cabinet with a background to Corporate Joint Committees and the proposed draft responses to the regulations that establish Corporate Joint Committees and the associated regulations that establish the procedure for the preparation of Strategic Plans. The closing date for return for each of the consultations is the 4th January 2021.

Cabinet noted that the Regulations currently being consulted on by Welsh Government implement the stated intention to create a regional Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) to deliver three functions:

- The function of preparing, monitoring, reviewing and revising of a Strategic Development Plan (SDP). These functions are set out in Paragraph 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill).
- The function of developing a Regional Transport Plan (RTP) – that is the function of developing policies for transport in, to and from the CJC area and developing policies for implementing the Wales Transport Strategy. These functions are set out in the Transport Act 2000.
- The economic well-being function as provided for in Part 5 the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill. That is the power to do anything which the CJC considers is likely to promote or improve the economic wellbeing of its area.

It was noted that the CJC will operate over the same geographical area as the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal area, with the inclusion of the Brecon Beacon National Park for the strategic development function. The intention being to allow Councils to evolve the current regional approaches to City Deal and Growth Deals into the CJC structures.

The regulations for the CJs are a set of 'establishment' regulations and will be followed by 'Regulations of General Application' and guidance. Taken together the regulations enable a CJC to:

- Employ people (directly, and via loans or secondments);
- Procure and commission services;
- Enter into contracts, service level agreements, memoranda of understanding;
- Hold funds and budgets, pay grants (including holding budgets/ funds on behalf of Welsh Government);
- Procure, receive, hold, dispose of and manage assets, land etc;
- Participate in companies;
- Cooperate with others, including the constituent principal councils;
- Receive assistance in performing its functions / discharge functions through other people, including but not limited to one or more of the constituent principal councils;
- Discharge functions through other bodies, people, staff;
- Bring legal proceedings;
- Have / hold insurance (to indemnify itself, its members and its staff);
- Reimburse expenses;

Cabinet noted that Welsh Government see CJs as an opportunity to align a number of collaborative approaches already in statute, reducing the need for (and therefore the costs associated with servicing) multiple separate boards. Set-up costs, yet to be defined, will be made available. CJs are required to appoint a number of statutory posts to enable them to fulfil the functions; a Chief Executive, a Monitoring Officer, a Chief Financial Officer, and a Chief Governance Officer. The consultation document and regulatory impact assessment suggest that other staffing might be considered covering finance, legal, HR, administrative and facilities functions and specific staffing for strategic development and regional planning e.g. a Head of Strategic Planning and Head of Transport plus their teams. Staffing arrangements are either directly employed or loaned/seconded by the constituent councils.

It was noted that CJs must hold their first Annual General Meeting before the end of September 2021 and must replicate local government arrangements for governance with an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and a Governance and Audit Committee. They will be subject to similar audit and accounting arrangements as local authorities.

An associated set of Regulations defining how the regional Strategic Development Plan must be prepared are being consulted upon at the same time. The draft response to these is also appended.

Cabinet thanked the Officer for the report and discussion ensued.

Cabinet Members discussed the report and at length, seeking clarification on aspects of the report, which Officers provided.

In discussing the consultation, a Cabinet Member requested the addition of the governance process for decision-making through Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet within the consultation response. Officers agreed that wording will be agreed and included in the consultation response.

Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation in the report be approved. By way of electronic voting this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers Report the contents of the report be noted and the appended draft responses be endorsed.

The meeting closed at 10.49am

Approved and signed as a correct record subject to any corrections made at the meeting held on 13th January 2021.

CHAIR