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THIS IS A MEETING WHICH THE PUBLIC ARE ENTITLED TO ATTEND

Dydd Mercher, 12 Ionawr 2022 Dydd Mercher, 12 Ionawr 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

PWYLLGOR GWAITH

A meeting of the Pwyllgor Gwaith will be held in Ystafell y Weithrediaeth, Canolfan Ddinesig, Glynebwy on Dydd Mercher, 19eg Ionawr, 2022 at 10.00 am.

Yours faithfully

Michelle Morris
Managing Director

AGENDA

Pages

1. CYFIEITHU AR Y PRYD

Mae croeso i chi ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y cyfarfod, mae angen o leiaf 3 diwrnod gwaith o hysbysiad ymlaen llaw os dymunwch wneud hynny. Darperir gwasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd os gwneir cais.

2. YMDDIHEURIADAU

We welcome correspondence in the medium of Welsh or English. / Croesawn ohebiaith trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg neu'r Saesneg.

Derbyn ymddiheuriadau.

3. DATGANIADAU BUDDIANT A GODDEFEBAU

Derbyn datganiadau buddiant a goddefebau.

COFNODION

4. PWYLLGOR GWAITH 5 - 22

Ystyried cofnodion y cyfarfod o'r Pwyllgor Gweithredol a gynhaliwyd ar 15 Rhagfyr 2021.

EITEMAU ER PENDERFYNIAD - MATERION GWASANAETHAU CORFFORAETHOL

5. BLAENRAGLEN GWAITH – 2 MAWRTH 2022 23 - 28

Derbyn yr adroddiad.

6. GWEITHREDU CYDBWYLLGOR CORFFORAETHOL DE DDWYRAIN CYMRU 29 - 56

Ystyried adroddiad y Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr.

EITEM EITHRIEDIG

Derbyn ac ystyried yr adroddiad(au) dilynol sydd ym marn y swyddog priodol yn eitem(au) eithriedig, gan roi ystyriaeth i'r prawf budd cyhoeddus ac y dylai'r wasg a'r cyhoedd gael eu heithrio o'r cyfarfod (mae'r rheswm am y penderfyniad aam yr eithriad ar gael ar restr a gedwir gan y swyddog priodol).

EITEMAU ER PENDERFYNIAD - MATERION ADFYWIO A DATBLYGU ECONOMAIDD

7. TIR YN RASA 57 - 62

Ystyried adroddiad y Cyfarwyddwr Corfforaethol Adfywio a Gwasanaethau Cymunedol.

To: N. Daniels (Cadeirydd)
J. Collins
D. Davies
J. Mason
J. Wilkins

All other Members (for information)

Manager Director
Chief Officers

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLAENAU GWENT

REPORT TO: THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – 15th DECEMBER, 2021

REPORT OF: DEMOCRATIC & COMMITTEE SUPPORT OFFICER

**PRESENT: Leader of the Council/
Executive Member – Corporate Services
Councillor N. Daniels**

**Deputy Leader/Executive Member –
Regeneration & Economic Development
Councillor D. Davies**

**Executive Member – Education
Councillor J. Collins**

**Executive Member – Environment
Councillor J. Wilkins**

WITH: Managing Director
Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services
Corporate Director Education
Chief Officer Customer and Commercial
Service Manager Accountancy
Head of Children’s Services
Head of Legal and Corporate Compliance
Press Officer

DECISIONS UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
No. 1	<u>SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION</u> It was noted that no requests had been received for the simultaneous translation service.

<p>No. 2</p>	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>The following apologies for absence were received:-</p> <p>Councillor J. Mason, Executive Member – Social Services Corporate Director Social Services Chief Officer Resources</p>
<p>No. 3</p>	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS</u></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest and dispensations raised.</p>
	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p>
<p>No. 4</p>	<p><u>EXECUTIVE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th November, 2021.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the minutes be accepted as a true record of proceedings.</p>
	<p><u>DECISION ITEMS – CORPORATE SERVICES</u></p>
<p>No. 5</p>	<p><u>FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – 19th JANUARY, 2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the Forward Work Programme be accepted and the information contained therein be noted (Option 1).</p>

GRANTS TO ORGANISATIONS

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

The following additional grants were received since the publication of the report:-

ABERTILLERY**Abertillery Ward - Councillor N. Daniels**

1.	Six Bells Bowls Club	£100
2.	Abertillery Excelsiors FC	£50
3.	Abertillery Bluebirds FC	£50
4.	Ebenezer Baptist Church	£47.18

Cwmtillery Ward - Councillor J. Wilkins

1.	Abertillery Town Band	£50
2.	BGfm	£50
3.	Brynmaur Rotary	£100
4.	Chillax	£101.75
5.	Penybont Crafters	£100

Llanhilleth Ward - Councillor J. Collins

1.	Llanhilleth Tenants and Residents Association	£266.75
2.	Friend of St. Illtyds Primary School	£300

BRYNMAWR**Brynmaur Ward - Councillor J. Hill**

1.	Falcons Martial Arts	£100
2.	Friends of Parc Nant y Waun	£150
3.	BGfm	£150

EBBW VALE**Badminton Ward - Councillor G. Paulsen**

1.	Ebbw Vale University of the Third Age	£50
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Badminton Ward - Councillor C. Meredith

1. Ebbw Vale University of the Third Age £50

NANTYGLO & BLAINA

Nantyglo Ward - Councillor J. Mason & K. Rowson

1. Friends of Parc Nant y Waun £100

Blaina Ward - Councillor J. P. Morgan

1. Cwmcelyn Methodist Church £150
2. Cwmcelyn Angling Club £150
3. Blaina Scouts £150

TREDEGAR

Georgetown and Central West Wards - Councillor S. Thomas, H. Trollope, B. Willis, K. Hayden & J. Morgan

1. Cymru Creations £200
2. 2167 Air Force Cadets £200
3. Bedwellty Park Bowls Club £200
4. Chloe's Community Cupboard £200
5. Gymfinity £200
6. Kids r Us £200
7. Mother & Toddler Group Tredegar Central Baptist £200
8. St Georges Church £200
9. Silurian Amatuer Boxing Club £200
10. Tredegar Business Forum £200
11. Tredegar Central Baptist Church £200
12. Tredegar Methodist Church £200
13. Tredegar Netball £200
14. Tredegar Orpheus Choir £200
15. Tredegar Town AFC £200
16. Tredegar Women & Girls AFC £200
17. Tredvale Camera Club £200
18. Stocktonville Senior Citizens £200
19. Royal British Legion (Tredegar Branch) £175
20. Tredegar Angling Club £200
21. Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum £200
22. St John's Ambulance Tredegar £200
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23.	Tredegar Ironsides RFC	£200
24.	Southend Allotments	£160
25.	Southend Bee Keepers	£160
26.	Sirhowy Valley Woodlands	£160
27.	St Georges Court Tenants & Residents Association	£160
28.	Saron Church	£200
29.	Friends of Bedwellty Park	£200
30.	Vale Terrace Tredegar Methodist Church	£200
31.	Planet Fitness	£150
32.	Tredegar Miners Memorial Gates	£202.85
33.	FC Tredegar Under 13's	£175
34.	FC Tredegar Under 14's	£175
35.	FC Tredegar Under 10's Tigers	£175
36.	Tredegar Ironsides Juniors RFC	£175
37.	Tredegar Town AFC Juniors	£150

Sirhowy Ward - Councillor T. Smith & M. Cross

1.	Royal British Legion (Tredegar Branch)	£116
2.	Tredegar Orpheus Choir	£50
3.	2167 Air Force Cadets	£50
4.	Tredegar Angling Club	£50
5.	Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum	£50
6.	St John Cymru Wales	£50
7.	Tredegar Horse Show	£50
8.	Tredegar Ironsides RFC	£100
9.	Gwent Area Ass. of the Welsh Pony & Cob Society	£50
10.	Sirhowy Valley Woodlands	£50
11.	Nantybawch Community Centre	£250
12.	Sirhowy Community Centre	£250
13.	Ystrad Deri Community Centre	£250
14.	Horeb Chapel	£25
15.	Sardis Chapel	£25
16.	St George's Church	£50
17.	Silurian Boxing Club	£50
18.	Tredegar Netball Club	£50
19.	Tredegar Operatic Society	£50
20.	Tredegar Twinning Association	£100
21.	Glanhowy Primary (Autism) Journal Transfer	£100
22.	Sirhowy Flying Start (Planting) Journal Transfer	£50
23.	Trefil Junior RFC	£100

	<p>24. Ebenezer Welsh Congregational Church £50</p> <p>25. Immaculate Conception Church £50</p> <p>26. Tredegar Womens Institute £50</p> <p>27. Cymru Creations £50</p> <p>28. Valleys Life Afterstroke £50</p> <p>29. Brynbach Running Club £50</p> <p>30. Oak Football Club £50</p> <p>RESOLVED accordingly.</p> <p>FURTHER RESOLVED, subject to the foregoing that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>
No. 7	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE GRANTS WORKING GROUP</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the Minutes of the Grants Working Group held on 17th November, 2021.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted.</p>
No. 8	<p><u>THE CALCULATION OF THE COUNCIL TAX BASE FOR THE YEAR 2022/23</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Service Manager Accountancy advised that the report set out the Council Tax Base for the financial year 2022/23 and sought Executive approval. The Service Manager further spoke to the report and outlined the key points contained therein.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Executive Committee approved the Council Tax base calculation for 2022/23 as detailed in Appendix 1 tables 1 to 6, and that the council tax base for tax setting purposes be 20,876.86.</p>

DECISION ITEMS –
REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

No. 9 **EBBW VALE PLACEMAKING PLAN**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.

The Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services presented the report which sought approval of the Ebbw Vale Placemaking Plan. The Corporate Director reflected on the background of the Placemaking Plan and updated the work undertaken to date.

The Corporate Director further spoke to the report and noted the delivery of vision for Ebbw Vale Town and outlined the six core ambitions to deliver on the vision along with the areas of intervention and high level actions.

The Corporate Director referred to discussions undertaken in the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and advised that all concerns were addressed.

The Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development advised that this was the first phase of the work to be undertaken and there was a great deal work to be taken forward in line with the delivery plan. The project would be developed across towns and work would be undertaken together which linked the whole of Blaenau Gwent. The Executive Member felt that there were a number of opportunities which could be explored from partnership works as well as funding avenues which could be explored.

The Executive Member added that it was important that as the Council took the Plan forward consideration was given to the sustainability of the development as it was paramount that projects are maintained into the future. The Executive Member advised that the Council had failed to ensure the sustainability of projects achieved in the past which had placed a great burden on budgets and left projects unmaintained.

The Leader concurred with the comments in relation to sustainability of projects and thanked the Corporate Director and Executive Member for their commitment which would benefit all our towns and be welcomed by elected Members and residents. The Leader looked forward to full roll out across the Borough.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Ebbw Vale Placemaking Plan vision and core ambitions for the Future be agreed (Option 2).

No. 10 **REGIONAL APPROACH TO EMPLOYABILITY**

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.

The Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services advised that the purpose of the report was to seek BGCBC endorsement of the regional paper and the principles of a locally delivered, regionally co-ordinated approach to employability. The Corporate Director noted that the European programmes would soon come to end across the region and added that the 10 Councils across the City Region region would be working together to deliver the employability provision.

The Corporate Director further spoke to the report and outlined the shared vision in terms of the Framework for Future Employability in the CCR. The Corporate Director advised that the paper had been brought forward by the 10 Councils across the region and was being considered by the respective Councils to be delivered locally within a regional framework. Once the support had been received a business case would be developed in terms of the need of the employability and monies would be allocated where required. The Corporate Director had hoped that a seamless transition could be undertaken from the old programme to the new process. It was noted that across the region 50,000 people had benefited therefore this was a significant piece of work to be undertaken and once the principle of the approach had been agreed then this would come back for Council sign off.

The Executive Member Regeneration and Economic Development felt it was important not to lose the local element and to learn from each other from a wider aspect. The Executive Member stated that he had always promoted skills and apprenticeships for young people and seeing the projects coming to fruition was fantastic. However, work was also needed with families and the older generation who may need to change career and look at new ways of working, therefore it was also important to upskill these individuals.

The Executive Member added that it was paramount that the Council are able to be proactive to these challenges and it was felt that the regional approach was the best way forward. It provided an opportunity to strengthen the initiatives already in place in Blaenau Gwent and provided that extra support particular in relation to the shared prosperity fund.

In response to discussions at the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee it was advised that there was support for local delivery and understood the need for the regional working.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the regional paper and the principle of a locally delivered be endorsed, regionally co-ordinated approach to employability (Option 1).

MONITORING ITEMS – CORPORATE SERVICES

No. 11 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE MONITORING (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2021)

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and quarter 2 (July to September 2021) update against the Communication Strategy be agreed (Option 1).

No. 12 **COMMERCIAL STRATEGY QUARTERLY
PERFORMANCE MONITORING (JULY - SEPTEMBER 2021)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer.

The Leader noted the report which detailed the positive work undertaken and noted the work achieved with the Community Hubs. The Leader welcomed the creation of the Hubs by this administration. The figures had increased on a weekly basis and noted the case studies which highlighted the support these Hubs provided to residents. The Leader felt that if these Hubs had not been in place a huge number of people would have gone under the radar and would have needed to travel back and forth Ebbw Vale. The Leader was of the opinion that these Hubs would not have come about if the Council had not made the decision for alternative home working arrangements and decant from the Civic Centre.

The Leader continued that he had received positive feedback from residents and expressed thanks to the staff in the Community Hubs which he had visited with Councillor Collins.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the performance of the Commercial Strategy during Quarter 2 be noted as presented (Option 1).

No. 13 **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING - 2021/2022,
FORECAST OUTTURN TO 31ST MARCH 2022
(AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021)**

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

The Service Manager Accountancy advised that the report provided Members with the forecast financial outturn position across all portfolios for the financial year 2021/2022 (as forecast at 30th September 2021).

The Service Manager noted the favourable position which placed the Council in a good position. The Executive Members were referred to the portfolio summary, budget virements and given an overview of the portfolio analysis. The Service Manager further spoke to the report and noted the appendices which provided greater detail to the information presented in the report.

The Leader welcomed the positive position of the budget and advised that the Minister for Local Government and Finance would shortly inform authorities of their budget settlements for 2022/2023. The Leader had hoped that a reasonable settlement would be received in order to continue the trend started in 2017.

The Leader expressed thanks to the Service Manager Accountancy and her Team for the work undertaken on behalf of the Authority.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Executive Committee provided the appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes and virements as detailed in the report (Option 1).

No. 14 **CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING,**
FORECAST FOR 2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR
(AS AT 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021)

Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.

The Service Manager Accountancy noted the report which provided an overview of each Portfolio's actual and forecast capital expenditure against funding approvals for the 2021/2022 financial year, as at 30th September 2021.

The Service Manager advised that the overall financial position as forecast at 30th September 2021 indicated an adverse variance of £283,128 against a total in year capital budget of £17.12m. It was reported that the adverse variance was due to overspends on the Household Waste Recycling Centre and Lime Avenue Business Park. It was added that discussions are ongoing with the relevant funding bodies as it was not proposed that monies be drawn down from the Council's contingency fund to address the overspends at this time.

The Service Manager further referred Members to the appendices which provided greater detail.

The Leader welcomed the report and current position.

	<p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the appropriate challenge to the financial outcomes in the report was made; • the appropriate financial control procedures as agreed by Council was supported; and • the budgetary control and monitoring procedures in place within the Capital Team, to safeguard Authority funding be noted.
<p>No. 15</p>	<p><u>USE OF GENERAL AND EARMARKED RESERVES 2021/2022</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>The Service Manager Accountancy spoke to the report and outlined the current position in relation to the forecast 2021/2022 as at Quarter 2.</p> <p>The Leader welcomed the current position of the Council’s reserves and advised that in previous years the Authority had received criticism from the Audit Office Wales due to the poor management of the level of reserves. However, the Leader noted that the Authority had now increased the level of reserves which was due to the good work achieved in this area.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Executive Committee noted the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impact of the £2.814m favourable variance for 2021/2022 would have on the budgeted contribution to the General Reserve; • the forecast increase of the General Reserve in 2021/2022 to £10.567m, being 8.0% of net revenue expenditure, above the 4% target level; • the need for ongoing prudent financial management given the potential for future public spending restrictions required to fund the impact of Covid-19; and • the budget overspends continue to be challenged and the appropriate service Action Plans be implemented, where required.

No. 16	<p><u>BRIDGING THE GAP (BTG) PROGRAMME 2021/2022 – PROGRESS UPDATE JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2021</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Chief Officer Resources.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and Members of the Executive Committee considered and approved the report and provided appropriate challenge to the Bridging the Gap programme (Option 1).</p>
No. 17	<p><u>PROGRESS REPORT CONTRACTS OVER £500K</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information included within the report be noted as presented (Option 1).</p>
	<p><u>MONITORING ITEMS – ENVIRONMENT</u></p>
No. 18	<p><u>BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM RESILIENCE FORWARD PLAN (2019-2022) 2020/21 ANNUAL REPORT</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Executive approved the annual report 2020/21 and activity plan recommended for 2021/22 to meet the Section 6 Duty (Option 1).</p>
No. 19	<p><u>CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT – SERVICE UPDATE</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Executive noted the latest annual progress update relating to Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) since its introduction in 2019 and the current business case model (Option 1).</p>

<p>No. 20</p>	<p><u>ANIMAL HEALTH, WELFARE & LICENSING SERVICE COLLABORATION – POWYS CC PARTNERSHIP – ACTIVITIES & UPDATE REPORT – OCTOBER 2021</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Executive Committee supported the work of the service going forward (Option 1).</p>
	<p><u>MONITORING ITEMS – REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MATTERS</u></p>
<p>No. 21</p>	<p><u>ENERGY PROSPECTUS ANNUAL REVIEW</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Regeneration and Community Services advised that the report provided an update on progress for the last 12 months on the Energy Prospectus and emerging opportunities for the future. The Corporate Director noted that the energy priorities set by the Council had now started to be delivered upon and gave a comprehensive overview of activities which had been completed and emerging opportunities which linked into the efficiencies outlined in the Bridging the Gap Programme.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development advised that Blaenau Gwent was leading the way in terms of energy savings across authorities in Wales. The businesses were more efficient as energy was a major cost to businesses. The Executive Member noted that this was a ‘live’ document which would change accordingly as the Council go forward and it was hoped that it would allow our communities to participate.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and continued to support, promote and develop the projects within the energy prospectus and to ensure that the document was updated to reflect any additional projects that have emerged. The Executive Committee also agreed to continue to identify future projects that would meet the vision and objectives of the Council with respect to energy and decarbonisation (Option 2).</p>

No. 22	<p><u>NET ZERO REPORTING, CLIMATE ASSEMBLY RESPONSE AND PROGRESSING TRANSITIONS</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Managing Director.</p> <p>The Managing Director spoke to the report and provided an overview of the response to Welsh Government’s Net Zero reporting requirements. The Managing Director also noted the initial response to the Blaenau Gwent Climate Assembly report and asked the Executive to support the response. An overview of the progress on the Decarbonisation Plan transitions was provided and the Managing Director referred the Executive to the action plan as detailed in the appendices.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development welcomed the report and the work being taken forward. The Executive Member referred to climate change and felt that any change was positive as the changes needed to be made. The change in the way people worked was now the normal practice and the reduction of the Council’s assets was crucial in terms of achieving the Council’s targets. The Climate Assembly was a key element and the response back was important to maintain that commitment from the public.</p> <p>The Leader welcomed the report and stated that the plan submitted to the Assembly was in great detail and was a huge compliment to all concerned. The Leader felt that there could be no doubt to Blaenau Gwent’s commitment.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Executive Committee supported the response to the Climate Assembly (Option 1).</p>
No. 23	<p><u>MONITORING ITEMS – EDUCATION</u></p> <p><u>MANAGEMENT OF PUPIL PLACES AND THE SCHOOL ESTATE 2020/21</u></p> <p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information contained therein be noted (Option 1).</p>

No. 24	<u>EDUCATION DIRECTORATE – ALN REFORM UPDATE</u>
	<p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Education.</p> <p>The Corporate Director Education provided a comprehensive overview of the report which outlined the progress made against ALN reform and associated policy renewal.</p> <p>The Executive Member for Education welcomed the report and noted the amount of work undertaken to ensure the Council was on track to deliver the actions.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and associated documentation and proposed course of action (Option 1).</p>
	<u>MONITORING ITEM - SOCIAL SERVICES</u>
No. 25	<u>REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP UPDATE</u>
	<p>Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director Social Services.</p> <p>The Head of Children’s Service provided an overview of the work and decisions taken over the last 6 months by the Regional Partnership Board.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the Executive Committee supported the decisions of the Regional Partnership Board (Option 1).</p>

MONITORING ITEM – CORPORATE SERVICES

No. 25 CCTV DELIVERY MODEL PROPOSALS

Having regard to the views expressed by the Proper Officer regarding the public interest test, that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and that the report should be exempt.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded whilst this item of business is transacted as it is likely there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Part 1, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended).

Consideration was given to the joint report of the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer and Chief Officer Resources (SIRO CCTV).

The Chief Officer Commercial and Customer provided an overview of the report and outlined the key points as noted in the report.

In response to a question, the Chief Officer informed the Executive Committee of discussions at the Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee.

The Leader and the Executive welcomed the report and the partnership working with the Police would be beneficial. The Member further wished to extend thanks to the Chief Officer Commercial and Customer along with her Team for the work achieved on this project.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the information which contained details relating to the business/financial affairs of persons other than the Authority be accepted. (Option 1).

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Agenda Item 5

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer:

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer:

Committee: **Executive Committee**

Date of meeting: **19th January 2022**

Report Subject: **Forward Work Programme – 2nd March 2022**

Portfolio Holder: **All Portfolio Holders**

Report Submitted by: **Cllr Nigel Daniels, Leader / Executive Member
Corporate Services**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
X	x	10.01.22				19.01.22		

1. **Purpose of the Report**
 - 1.1 To present the Executive Forward Work Programme for the Meeting on 2nd March 2022.
2. **Scope and Background**
 - 2.1 The Executive Work Programme is a key aspect of the Council's planning and governance arrangements and supports the requirements of the Constitution.
 - 2.2 The topics set out in the Work Programme link to the strategic work of the Council as identified by the Council's Corporate Plan, corporate documents and supporting business plans.
 - 2.3 All Scrutiny Committees and the Council Forward Work Programmes have been aligned to the Executive Forward Work Programme.
 - 2.4 As the document is fluid there is flexibility to allow for regular review between the Chair and the Committee.
3. **Options for Recommendation**
 - 3.1 **Option 1**
To agree the Forward Work Programme as presented for the Meeting on 2nd March 2022.
 - 3.2 **Option 2**
To suggest any amendments prior to agreeing the Forward Work Programme.

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Executive Committee Forward Work Programme

Executive Meeting Date: Wednesday 2nd March 2022

Report Submission Deadline Date to Liz Thomas: Tuesday 8th February 2022

*Reports received after this date will be included on the next agenda of Executive

Decision: 6 Items
Monitoring: 7 Items
Information: 3 Items

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Scrutiny Meeting Date	Council Meeting Date
DECISION ITEMS				
Portfolio: Leader / Corporate Services				
Grants to Organisations	Approval To agree the Grants to Organisations.	Rhian Daly	N/A	N/A
Covid-19 Recovery Plan	Members to consider the Recovery Plan.	Richard Crook	Corporate Overview – 23.02.22	N/A
Portfolio: Deputy Leader / Regeneration and Economic Development				
Tredegar Place Making Plan	Decision To approve the proposals for placemaking in Tredegar.	Amy Taylor	Regeneration – 09.02.21	N/A
Aneurin Bevan report	Decision To approve the report findings.	Owen Ashton / Moe Forouzan	Regeneration - 09.02.21	N/A
Levelling Up Funding	Decision To agree the report.	Ellie Fry	Regeneration – 09.02.21	N/A
Portfolio: Social Services				
Development of a Caerphilly / Blaenau Gwent collaboration to provide legal services for Children's Services	Decision To approve the proposal.	Damien McCann	Social Services – 20.01.22	N/A
MONITORING ITEMS				
Portfolio: Leader / Corporate Services				
Joint Finance and Performance report	Performance Monitoring Members to receive quarters 1 and 2 for consideration.	Gemma Wasley	Corporate Overview – 23.02.21	N/A

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Scrutiny Meeting Date	Council Meeting Date
Portfolio: Education				
21 st Century Schools Programme Bands B progress and education project overview	Performance Monitoring To provide Members with the opportunity to scrutinise progress in line with the 21 st Century Schools Band B programme, along with associated Education projects.	Claire Gardner	Education and Learning – 01.02.22	N/A
Education Directorate Recovery and Renewal	Performance Monitoring To ensure that Members are aware of arrangements to support schools and learners to recovery and renewal from the pandemic and to monitor progress (Autumn term 2021 progress on an agreed theme)	Luisa Munro-Morris / Claire Gardner	Education and Learning – 26.01.22	N/A
Director's Report – Education Services Spring and Summer Term 2021	Performance Monitoring To provide Members with the first annual strategic overview report from the Corporate Director on progress made and key areas for future development.	Lynn Phillips	Education and Learning – 26.01.22	N/A
Portfolio: Deputy Leader / Regeneration and Economic Development				
Aspire Shared Apprenticeship Programme	Performance Monitoring To update on the current performance of the Aspire programme and associated external business engagement.	Tara Lane	Regeneration – 09.02.21	N/A
Portfolio: Social Services				
Director of Social Services Quarter 1 and 2 update	Performance Monitoring Members to receive the quarterly update of the Director of Social Services Annual report.	Damien McCann	Social Services – 20.01.22	N/A
Safeguarding Performance Information Social Services and Education	Performance Monitoring To provide members with Safeguarding Performance and Self-Evaluation information and to influence areas of focus.	Damien McCann/ Lynn Phillips	Joint Safeguarding – 21.01.22	N/A
INFORMATION ITEMS				

Report Title	Purpose of Report	Lead Officer	Scrutiny Meeting Date	Council Meeting Date
Corporate Parenting Progress Report	Information Members to be informed of the progress made against the Corporate Parenting Action Plan	Tanya Evans	Social Services – 20.01.22	N/A
Youth Service Performance	Information Members to receive the performance and impact of the Youth Service and comparing with the latest Welsh Government benchmarking data.	Joanne Sims	Education and Learning – 01.02.22	N/A
Adult Safeguarding Performance Information	Information To receive Safeguarding Performance information relating to Adult Services and to influence areas of focus.	Alyson Hoskins / Andrew Day	Joint Safeguarding – 21.01.21	N/A

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Agenda Item 6

Executive Committee and Council only

Date signed off by the Monitoring Officer: 11.01.22

Date signed off by the Section 151 Officer: 12.01.22

Committee: **Executive Committee**
Date of meeting: **19th January 2021**
Report Subject: **Implementing the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee**
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr N. Daniels, Leader / Executive Member Corporate Services**
Report Submitted by: **Michelle Morris, Managing Director**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
	06.01.22	10.01.22				19.01.22		

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To set out an interim governance and delivery model sufficient to implement the statutory requirements for establishment of the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC). To set out the 'twin-track' approach to operating the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) City Deal alongside the initial 'bare minimum' phase of CJC mobilisation ahead of the SE Wales CJC setting its first statutory budget on 31 January 2022.
- 1.2 To appraise the Executive Committee of the next phases of progress in line with resolving the current barriers to full implementation of an integrated 'lift and shift' approach which seeks to eventually, bring together the CCR City Deal and the CJC into one coherent model of regional economic governance.

2. Scope and Background

2.1 History of the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal

- 2.1.1 The Welsh Government's SEW Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 establish a Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) for the ten Councils that constitute the Cardiff Capital Region. The legislation came into effect on 1 April 2021 and the first statutory duty of the CJC for SE Wales is to set its budget on or before 31 January 2022. A set of immediate 'commencement duties' requiring the CJC to begin work on preparation of a Strategic Development Plan, a Regional Transport Plan and enactment of economic wellbeing powers were due to be adopted by the SE Wales CJC on 28 February 2022.
- 2.1.2 A significant body of work has been undertaken by CCR and its constituent councils in preparation for enactment of a corporate entity CJC, given this objective has been a matter of long-term collective endeavour. The direction set through successive business plans, has set the course for evolution from a single funding programme – City Deal – to the multiple funding functions and accountabilities of a wider City Region via a CJC. Work to

date has scoped the vision, functions and mission to decipher the 'best fit' opportunities; assess the current Joint Cabinet Committee model to appraise benefits, limitations and opportunities; assess options for a new delivery structure via a CJC; and determine optimal processes for implementation.

- 2.1.3 On inception of CCRCD in March 2016, the mission was to make CCR more investable, competitive and resilient – promoting inclusive growth and the aim of 'no place gets left behind'. It recognised the 'think local, act regional' mandate and the principle, that through working together everyone achieves more. This is particularly pertinent in the case of market facing functions such as the economy, housing, land-use and transport where markets don't respect administrative boundaries and where supply chains, connectivity, clusters and innovation diffusion 'spill over' and straddle geographies.
- 2.1.4 In this way, the establishment and underpinning ambition of the CCR City Deal has already accomplished shared purpose across all 10 Councils and much of the heavy lifting to translate this into projects and programmes has been done. Trust, strong relationships, and a commitment to place-based priorities has reinforced the profile, partnerships and reputation. The operation of the Investment and Intervention Framework Fund provides an incentive for continued co-operation and collaboration.
- 2.1.5 Following successful passage through Gateway Review #1, Regional Cabinet has scaled up ambitions through a new 5-year strategic business plan and an Investment Prospectus that sets out asks and offers in the order of £4.2BN investment to deliver 33,500 high skill jobs, £3.75BN leverage and £2.5BN GVA. This is significant because in a new world of Levelling-up, Connecting the Union, the UK as a Science Superpower and a new Programme for Welsh Government – investment will be secured competitively. It follows that CCR must be able to compete to win resources; develop new financial flexibilities and develop propositions to work with Welsh and UK Governments to address challenges of Covid, Climate and low growth-productivity.

2.2 **Core Principles of Regional Economic Governance in the CCR**

- 2.2.1 Whilst CCRCD has achieved much to date, there are also constraints. CCR City Deal is supported by an Accountable Body delivery structure and as effective as this has been, relies upon complex back-to-back arrangements with constituent Councils and does not afford the benefits of being able to act direct; to have its own balance sheet; to acquire and hold assets and importantly, to borrow. CCR has thus outgrown its initial structure and operating model and needs to evolve to properly capitalise on investment and opportunities for the region.
- 2.2.2 Notwithstanding support for evolution, the CCR City Deal Joint Working Agreement (JWA) – its core values, principles and ways of working – must be maintained. Experience shows that regional collaboration works best

when Councils **retain absolute control** over CCR decision-making, and it follows that any future CJC should follow the principles behind the current JWA. Efficiency of structures streamlined governance and having a future-proofed approach which is capable of providing CCR **with optimum flexibility** to partake in additional investment programmes beyond the City Deal are therefore key objectives for the CJC. The hard work has already been undertaken since the CJC is not the vision or strategy – it is simply the vehicle or mechanism for optimal delivery of CCR’s vision and strategy. Core principles are thus intended to:

- Retain the principles and ways of working set out in the JWA, emphasising concurrence with local arrangements, building additionality over time and on a case-by-case basis and as required by the CJC
- Establish a strong system of multi-tier governance and distributed leadership, with the CJC setting its own compelling vision and aims and objectives
- Recognise that devolution has many faces and the need to work with both Welsh and UK Governments & ensure CCR has access to all available investments & opportunities
- Reinforce a positive-sum game. The uniqueness of the model of LA democratic legitimacy and localism sits at the heart of CJC which will be controlled and led by LAs.
- Pose no threat to LA services with the assumption that functions, services and resourcing are pulled from the centre not local authorities. No local power, functions, services or resources will be lost or displaced – unless a case is made and supported by LAs (such as Regional Bus) - and LAs will also deal directly with UK Government and Welsh Government and continue to deliver large-scale projects including those of regional, national and international significance and supported by both governments. This will emphasise absolute concurrence and compatibility with local arrangements.
- CJC is capable of adopting Welsh Government’s policy position and ambitions for a system of regional economic governance – and is equally able to respond in the face of the growing presence of UK Government in Wales. CCR is able to act as a neutral space in the middle, working positively with both bodies to ensure the region is positioned optimally to see challenges and opportunities through the prism of ‘place’ and adopt a sense of enlightened self-interest. With regional investment and ‘localism’ central to developing policy, CCR must deliver for the region, Wales & UK

2.3 Making Progress

2.3.1 With the above principles in mind, at its meeting of the 20 September 2021, Regional Cabinet approved a report that established the ‘Lift and Shift’ principle. This meant moving across the CCR City Deal Funding Agreement into the CJC, as the preferred model for CCR’s transition to one integrated model of regional public investment. The report further set out a

comprehensive Transition Plan to oversee the process of evolution and a critical path for achieving key milestone dates.

- 2.3.2 The report described a number of live risks and issues, relating to a series of unresolved matters concerning the implications of CJsCs' financial status for taxation purposes and borrowing and their impacts. It was stated that work would continue to be undertaken with CCR's advisory team and WG to resolve the issues sufficiently in allowing for Lift and Shift model to be implemented in early 2022. A letter was also provided from the WG Minister for Finance and Local Government to reiterate this intent and the report sought to commit to a 'no worse off' principle, on this basis as at the point of transition.
- 2.3.3 In the intervening period, it has become clear that the risks and issues highlighted will not be resolved sufficiently to support 'lift and shift' of the CCR City Deal into the CJC – and by the date of CJC budget setting on 31 January 2022. This is mainly because the issues that require resolution, namely s.33 (VAT) status, need the approval of bodies such as HMRC and HM Treasury (HMT) and these clearly sit outside the sphere of direct influence and control of WG. In addition, further issues have arisen in respect of Corporation Tax. This is a complex matter not addressed so far in the Regulations; and could have significant implications to the CCR operating model unless similarly addressed through an application to HMT for relevant dispensations. Work is underway on addressing this, with CCR supporting WG's business case application to HMRC for the relevant dispensations.
- 2.3.4 In other words, there remain a number of substantially unresolved matters, that unless addressed and resolved prior to full 'lift and shift' implementation and are understood and mitigated against ahead of 'bare minimum' implementation – could have a significant impact. On the latter point, even basic activities under a 'bare minimum' CJC may still incur a level of irrecoverable VAT and as such an initial scaled back approach which reduces such a potential risk is proposed.
- 2.3.5 The impacts of all these issues are not standalone and consideration will need to be given to the matter of seeking UKG support regarding the timing and transfer of the existing CCRCD Funding Agreement to the CJC. In addition, it must be understood that these are complex and inter-connected issues and there are no 100% guarantees of success. Wider financial status issues are bound up within making the case for s33 status and in essence, the need to demonstrate the intent and effect of the CJC legislation, which is for them to be 'creatures of LAs' and 'part of the LG family'.
- 2.3.6 CCR has made representations to WG on these issues, including seeking a re-setting of the statutory budget timeframe. WG has advised that this is not possible due to timescales and the need to carry out statutory consultation on any proposed changes. However, the issues raised are recognised and understood and implementation on the basis of a pragmatic and proportionate provisional approach is supported. Additionally, legal

advice has been taken on the risks and challenges posed to CCR of ‘doing nothing’ and it is clear that CCR’s constituent Councils must be minimally compliant at this stage.

- 2.3.7 The ‘bare bones’ implementation of the CJC legislation will therefore need to be ‘twin-tracked’ with continuation of the current Joint Committee/Accountable Body-led model for delivering the CCR City Deal for the time being. This dual approach is unavoidable and will provide business continuity for City Deal delivery.
- 2.3.8 WG has also set out that the date of commencement of immediate duties around preparation of the Regional Transport Plan, Strategic Development Plan and economic wellbeing powers, can be changed from the original date set for SE Wales of 28 February 2022 to 30 June 2022 – thus, falling in line with other CJC regions. This report recommends that this later date is accepted in order to better align with the proposed bare minimum approach.
- 2.3.9 Further background information pertinent to this is set out in the Report to Regional Cabinet of 13 December 2021.

2.4 **Next stages**

- 2.4.1 Whilst the above issues are complex and require the re-doubling of efforts across WG with support from CCR and its technical and legal advisory team and its constituent LAs, it is recognised that where progress can be made, then it should be made.
- 2.4.2 The ‘bare minimum’ model proposed in this report, thus offers a pragmatic way of enabling the ten member Councils of CCR, to begin implementing the CJC requirements and adopting statutory duties – whilst at the same time – supporting WG to progress the resolution of issues, which are preventing a transition to Lift and Shift at this time.
- 2.4.3 This means putting in place a series of steps that will define the critical path between now and 31 January 2022 (the date by which the CJC must approve its budget), in order to ensure compliance with the legislation, but in ways which protects CCR’s ten constituent Councils’ short and long-term position and wherever possible, safeguards against any detriment.
- 2.4.4 On the basis of external advice and technical support, the proposed ‘bare minimum’ model will enable CCR to demonstrate it has commenced transition, ensuring compliance with the legislation and regulations. It is essentially creating the outline of the CJC as an absolute statutory minimum and as an interim holding position only. It will include:
- Setting minimal nominal budgets and the amounts payable by each constituent local authority for the operation of the CJC no later than 31 January 2022;

- Agreeing with the Auditor General for Wales the CJC audit scope and fee, which is proportionate and reflects the CJC's bare minimum operations;
- Adopting model Standing Orders and any basic supplements – i.e. scheme of delegations (draft attached at Appendix 1);
- Arrangements to place any staff at disposal of CJC – again this will be on the basis of proportionality;
- Establish statutory sub-committees e.g. Audit and Governance Committee etc.;
- Appoint Chair/ Vice Chair/s – which can mirror existing CCR arrangements; and,
- Establish practical arrangements in respect of the CJC's basic infrastructure as a separate legal entity – accounting & reporting requirements, bank account, VAT registration, minimum insurances, proportionate records scheme etc.

2.4.5 The bare minimum model will operate on the expectation that the absolute minimal operational activity required will be undertaken. Therefore, any extraneous activity such as production of a business plan; meetings of the CJC beyond initial budget setting/ 'establishment'; meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee; and staffing arrangements beyond those linked to the above – is unlikely to take place.

2.4.6 In order to provide a level of certainty to all CJC stakeholders and constituent councils, the bare minimum model, will be predicated on being in place until the 31 March 2023. However, should the issues be resolved sooner, there is provision for the budget requirement to be re-visited in-year and as 'lift and shift' becomes do-able and is supported through the relevant financial status issues being resolved. This means that for the initial operating period - a nominal budget is set – with the clear expectation of minimal expenditure against it. This is an important principle. If even low-level expenditure can be justified, the advice is there is a strong case to avoid incurring such expenditure if it can be demonstrated that it would "prejudice the CJC's position or suffer any detriment".

2.4.7 Therefore, whilst a provisional budget can be set, and actions taken to set-up and 'ready' the CJC – it does not follow that enactment beyond this is necessary – at least until such time the CJC is ready to be operable and lift and shift can occur. The timeframe outlined above will be kept under constant review throughout the year as the outstanding matters are progressed and future reports will be brought back to Executive / Council as required.

2.4.8 The CJC will be required to comply with all necessary regulations and legal requirements. The principle of 'proportionality' will be adopted in assessing bare minimum compliance, along with the requirement to minimise any adverse budgetary impacts. It should be noted that the two duties to begin preparation of both a Regional Transport Plan and Strategic Development Plan will commence in 2022/23. As per paragraph 2.3.8 above, it is now proposed this date is re-set as 30 June 2022 and this has been

communicated with Welsh Government. Whilst there are no immediate actions required in relation to the commencement duties, some progress will need to be demonstrated from July 2022 and plans for such will be presented to the CJC during the year.

- 2.4.9 This pragmatic, proportionate and reasonable approach will require key stakeholders to adopt a shared endeavour approach. As a result, consultation and engagement is ongoing with Audit Wales and Welsh Government.
- 2.4.10 It is envisaged that once a timescale is known to enable to re-commencement of 'lift and shift' – the original Transition Plan and arrangement set out in the report of 20 September 2021, can be re-activated.
- 2.4.11 It should also be noted that in setting this process in plan, the clear milestone to work towards is budget setting for the CJC on or before 31 January 2022. Approval of the budget requires unanimous support of CJC constituent councils. Brecon Beacons National Park Authority will feature as part of this in relation to the estimated budget for preparing an SDP and as such, ongoing communication and engagement is taking place.
- 2.4.12 Whilst work led by WG on behalf of all regions/ constituent CJs in Wales, is underway with HMRC and HM Treasury on the outstanding issues named in this report, there are further updates to note. The SE Wales CJC is not a 'levying body' with an expectation that 'Connected Body' status can be secured to enable access to the LG Pension Scheme. In relation to access to Public Works Loan Board borrowing, at the relevant future point, WG has had initial positive discussions with HMT that suggest borrowing capability through this medium, can be considered and potentially, developed.
- 2.4.13 Work continues to be put in place regarding arrangements for interim accounting systems, processes and relevant systems infrastructure for the CJC. This is being carried out in partnership with RCT Council, which will be providing basic 'transactional services' for the initial period of 'bare minimum' CJC operation. CCR City Deal will continue to be supported by the 'Lead Council/ Accountable Body' mechanism. This reflects the arrangements underpinning the twin-tracking approach which will be needed, at least initially and until the remaining issues are resolved.

3. **Recommendation**

3.1 It is recommended that the Executive Committee:

- a) Notes the interim governance and delivery model for implementation of the SE Wales Corporate Joint Committee and the 'twin track' arrangements proposed across operation of CCR City Deal, alongside initial enactment of a 'bare minimum' CJC – and until such time the proposed 'lift and shift' approach can occur

- b) Notes the requirement for the CJC to set and approve a budget on or before 31 January 2022 and the steps set out in the report to enable this
- c) Notes the risks and issues set out in the report which require ongoing monitoring, mitigation and management
- d) Notes the request made by CCR of WG to amend the CJC regulations to change the date on which immediate duties commence under the Regulations from 28 February 2022 to 30 June 2022
- e) Notes the draft Standing Orders at Appendix 1 which set out the initial requirements and operating model for the CJC as well as initial business for the inaugural meeting on 31 January 2022
- f) Notes the work ongoing by CCR and its constituent Councils to work with WG, Audit Wales and advisors as appropriate, to help inform resolution of the remaining issues wherever possible
- g) Supports the Leader of the Council in his duty to consider and set the first budget of the SE Wales CJC on 31 January 2022 in order to ensure the Council is complying with the legislation as required

4. **Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

5. **Implications Against Each Option**

5.1 ***Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)***

5.1.1 The existing Joint Working Arrangement in respect of the City Deal sets out each Local Authority's current revenue contributions, the move to and the initial enactment of a 'bare minimum' CJC will be delivered within these allocated existing resources.

5.1.2 Where additional activities are proposed these will be developed through the annual business plan mechanism and full engagement / consultation will be undertaken via the budget process to identify any impact on the Council's budgetary requirements.

5.2 ***Risk including Mitigating Actions***

5.2.1 There are several risks related to the proposed approach. However, if the bare minimum model principles set out above are adopted and risks continually mitigated against by the detailed technical work that is ongoing and continued liaison WG and Audit Wales, it is suggested that these can be kept in check, monitored and managed. This means that Value for Money issues can be responded to in as much, that the CJC keeps expenditure to the bare minimum during this interim period and on the basis of no significant detriment to its short or long-term operating model.

5.2.2 Other risks concern the resources now needed to implement 'bare minimum' with the aim being to meet these nominal costs from existing resources, albeit there will be some effect given efforts that will need to now be fully channelled to getting work done in an ever-decreasing timeframe.

Timeframes present a further risk in that at this time, there is no clear point at which lift and shift occurring can be accurately estimated – however, this could be clarified via WG shortly. Arguably, the bigger issue is guaranteeing successful outcomes – although it is anticipated a strong case will be made to both HMRC and HMT and it remains the strong intent, and wider effect, of the WG legislation for CJs to be part of the LG landscape and treated as if a Local Authority.

5.2.3 It should also be noted that the identification of risks to date, has arisen through work ‘on the job’. Further risks that only become apparent through the process of application and implementation cannot be ruled out.

5.2.4 Potential risks around potential for double taxation at the point of lift and shift are unpreventable, with work needed ongoing to develop the conversations, flexibilities where they exist and pragmatism to deal with such eventualities. The possibility of fragmented legacy accounts also requires analysis and conclusions to be presented at the relevant time.

5.3 **Legal**

Members and their authorities must comply with statutory duties therefore the constituent local authorities are obliged to comply with the Regulations surrounding CJC’s.

To recap, in 2021 the Senedd Cymru passed the following legislation:

1. Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, Part 5 (Collaborative Working by Principal Councils) provides for a process by which Corporate Joint Committees can be established, or amended;
2. The South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021, Part 1 (Establishment and Area) established a body corporate to be known as the South East Wales Corporation Joint Committee (“CJC”) for the purposes of CCR (together the “Establishment Regulations”).
3. The Establishment Regulations were made in order to provide the CCR with a corporate entity by which it can deliver the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal and attain wider economic growth in South East Wales.
4. The Establishment Regulations came into force on 1 April 2021 and established the CJC. The Regulations set out the CJC’s functions which are to: prepare, review and revise a Strategic Development Plan; develop a Regional Transport Plan; and to undertake the economic well-being function.
5. The Regulations make clear that these functions of the CJC come into force on 28 February 2022. The CCR must therefore be ready, via the CJC, to discharge these functions by 28 February 2022.

No decision is required on the report, progress towards compliance with the legislation is presented for noting and information.

5.4 **Human Resources**

There are no direct staffing implications, for the Council, arising from this report. When the CJC is established as a fully operational entity (now

expected to be June 2022) there may be staffing implications arising from the new duties that will be undertaken by the CJC, particularly in relation to the development of a regional plan for transport and a Strategic Development Plan (SDP).

6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 ***Performance Information and Data***

See Appendices.

6.2 ***Expected outcome for the public***

The strategic purpose and objectives of both the City Deal and CJC are to grow the economy of the region and improve economic outcomes for individuals through improvement in skills and employment opportunities. This aligns to the Regeneration Themes agreed by the Council and supports delivery of its ambition for growth in the local economy, as part of a vibrant region.

6.3 ***Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)***

The report has involved engagement of Leaders and Senior Officers across the 10 local authorities, Welsh and UK Governments and the business community, via the Regional Economic Partnership established by the City Deal.

6.4 ***Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)***

The Strategy set out represents a long term plan for regional economic development and sets out how the City Deal and CJC, working in partnership, will deliver outcomes over the long term which will strengthen and make the region and communities more economically sustainable.

6.5 ***Preventative focus***

The role of a strong economy in improving life outcomes for individuals and preventing poverty and outmigration is evident and this regional approach supports the preventative agenda.

6.6 ***Collaboration / partnership working***

The City Deal and CJC are based on strong and successful collaboration and partnership working involving 10 local authorities, Welsh and UK Governments and the business community.

6.7 ***Integration (across service areas)***

The City Deal and CJC will continue to work to deliver integrated programmes and projects which bring together communities and businesses across the region and tackle some of the common challenges faced by the region's economy.

6.8 ***Decarbonisation and Reducing Carbon Emissions***

Decarbonisation is a key theme within the City Deal Strategy and provides the opportunity for investment in renewable energy, Green business growth and housing, to give some examples. It will make a significant

contribution to the decarbonisation of the region and has the potential to lever in investment to support the delivery of the Zero Wales targets.

6.9 Socio Economic Duty Impact Assessment

The report does not require a Socio Economic Impact Assessment to be undertaken as the arrangements for the CJC will sit regionally, with Blaenau Gwent feeding in as a partner.

6.10 Equality Impact Assessment

6.10.1 The regulations and the creation of the CJC should not have a negative impact on any of the protected characteristics. Arrangements for the CJC will sit regionally, with Blaenau Gwent feeding in as a partner.

6.10.2 Arrangements will need to be established for the Welsh Language to be offered at CJC meetings as well as consideration for CJC papers being made available in Welsh.

6.10.3 Meetings of the CJC will need to be hybrid to enable people to attend physically or remotely, following the requirements as set out in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

7. Monitoring Arrangements

7.1 The work of the City Deal continues to be monitored through the Regeneration Scrutiny Committee/Executive/Council. There is also a Regional Scrutiny Committee which oversees the work of the City Deal. As the plans for the new CJC are implemented it is envisaged that regional scrutiny arrangements will need to be reviewed and refreshed to ensure oversight of the work of the new CJC.

Background Documents /Electronic Links

- Appendix 1 Draft CJC Standing Orders

- Report to Regional Cabinet – Establishment of CJC Preferred Governance and Delivery Option & Transition Model – 20 September 2021
- Report to Regional Cabinet – Reframing Approach to SE Wales CJC – 13 December 2021
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Assessment

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APPENDIX 1

STANDING ORDERS

SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE STANDING ORDERS

PART 1 - GENERAL

1. SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (CJC) MEMBERSHIP

1.1 The members of the CJC are the executive leaders of the 10 Constituent Councils:

1.1.1 Cardiff County Council

1.1.2 Monmouthshire County

1.1.3 Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

1.1.4 Bridgend County Borough Council

1.1.5 Caerphilly County Borough Council

1.1.6 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

1.1.7 Newport County Borough Council

1.1.8 Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

1.1.9 Torfaen County Borough Council

1.1.10 The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council

(“the **Council Members**”) and

1.1.11 the Brecon Beacons Member; and

1.1.12 any Co-opted Member

(together, the “**CJC**”).

1.2 The Brecon Beacons Member will be appointed by the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (the “**Authority**”) and must be one of the following office-holders:

1.2.1 The chairman of the Authority;

1.2.2 The deputy chairman of the Authority; or

1.2.3 The chairperson of a committee with responsibility for planning matters as may be established by the Authority.

1.3 Provisions in the regulations establishing and regulating the CJC (the “**Establishing Regulations**”) in relation to the suspension of Council Members and/or the Brecon Beacons Member will apply.

1.4 Each Council Member will act as a member of the CJC in relation to all of the CJC’s functions.

1.5 The Brecon Beacon Member will act as a member of the CJC only in relation to the Strategic Development Plan Function.

1.6 The CJC can co-opt one or more individuals as members of the CJC (“**Co-opted Members**” and each a “**Co-opted Member**”). Provisions in the Establishing Regulations will apply in relation to such Co-opted Members.

1.7 Council Members, the Brecon Beacon Member and any Co-opted Member of the CJC (together the “**Members**” and each a “**Member**”) shall have a duty to comply with the Members Code of Conduct.

2. GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE

2.1 The CJC must establish a sub-committee (known as the Governance and Audit Sub-committee) to

- 2.1.1 review and scrutinise the CJC’s financial affairs;
- 2.1.2 make reports and recommendations in relation to the CJC’s financial affairs;
- 2.1.3 review and assess the risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements of the CJC;
- 2.1.4 make reports and recommendations to the CJC on the adequacy and effectiveness of those arrangements;
- 2.1.5 oversee the CJC’s internal and external audit arrangements;
- 2.1.6 review any financial statements prepared by the CJC;
- 2.1.7 exercise such other functions as the CJC may specify.

2.2 The terms of reference of the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee are adopted by the CJC as set out in Schedule 1Appendix 1 and may be amended by the CJC from time to time.

3. STANDARDS COMMITTEE

3.1 The CJC will appoint a Standards Committee in accordance with the terms of reference adopted by the CJC as set out in Schedule 1Appendix 2 which may be amended by the CJC from time to time.

4. OTHER SUB-COMMITTEES

4.1 The CJC may establish sub-committees. Provisions in the Establishing Regulations apply to such sub-committees.

4.2 Any delegation to a sub-committee will be subject to Standing Order 6 below.

5. DELEGATION

5.1 Subject to Standing Order 6 below, the CJC may arrange for the discharge of its function by-

- 5.1.1 A sub-committee;
- 5.1.2 A member of staff;
- 5.1.3 Any other corporate joint committee;
- 5.1.4 Any county or county borough council in Wales.

5.2 Subject always to Standing Order 6 below, the CJC delegates operational decisions on the discharge of its functions and anything that is required to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the discharge of its functions as set out in the Scheme of Delegation appended at Schedule 1Appendix 3.

6. RESTRICTIONS ON DELEGATION

6.1 The CJC may not delegate any of the following to any other person or sub-committee:

- 6.1.1 Its function in relation to developing policies under the relevant provisions of the Transport Act 2000 (“Transport Policy Function”);
- 6.1.2 Its function in relation to preparing a Strategic Development Plan (the “Strategic Development Plan Function”);
- 6.1.3 The decision to agree the CJC budgets and contributions of the Constituent Councils and the Authority; and
- 6.1.4 Other specific decisions and responsibilities set out in the Establishing Regulations.

7. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

7.1 Where there is an operational need for a policy or procedure other than as set out in these Standing Orders or the Establishing Regulations, the CJC will refer to the policies and procedures of one of its Constituent Councils as determined by the Executive Team and with such amendments necessary for and applicable to the circumstances of the CJC.

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PART 2 - MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS**8. CHAIRING MEETINGS**

- 8.1 At the first CJC meeting the appointment of a chairperson and vice-chairperson is to be the first business transacted.
- 8.2 The first CJC meeting must be chaired by the Council Member for Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council until the chairperson is appointed (and the chairperson is to chair the remainder of the meeting).
- 8.3 The appointment of the chair and vice-chairperson must be confirmed, or a new chairperson and vice chairperson must be appointed at each annual general CJC meeting.
- 8.4 The chairperson and vice-chairperson must each be a Council Member and must be appointed, or confirmed by the Council Members, and any other Member entitled to vote on the matter.
- 8.5 A person appointed as chairperson or vice chairperson may at any time resign that office by notice in writing given to the other Member.
- 8.6 Arrangements in the Establishing Regulations for dealing with a vacancy in the post of chairperson or vicechairperson will apply.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS AND OTHER MEETINGS

- 9.1 The CJC must hold an annual general meeting in each financial year on a date determined by the CJC.
- 9.2 The CJC may hold other meetings on dates specified in the standing orders. An extraordinary CJC meeting may be called at any time by any person entitled to vote on a matter to be decided at that meeting.

10. QUORUM

- 10.1 All persons entitled to vote must be present for:
- 10.1.1 a meeting to decide the amounts payable by the relevant CJC Members for the Strategic Development Plan Budget and for the General Budget; and
 - 10.1.2 for decisions to change voting procedures.
- 10.2 For any other matters, no fewer than 70% of the persons entitled to vote must be present.

11. VOTING

- 11.1 The number of Co-opted Members entitled to vote may not exceed the number of other Members entitled to vote.
- 11.2 Each person entitled to vote has one vote.
- 11.3 Other than the matters listed in 11.4 and 11.5 below, any vote to be decided by simple majority and if a vote is tied the matter is not carried.
- 11.4 The funding of budget decisions shall be determined by the unanimous agreement of the Members entitled to vote. If the Members cannot reach agreement, the proportions are to be determined by the Welsh Government.
- 11.5 Any change to voting arrangements requires unanimous agreement of all Members entitled to vote on the matter.

11.6 Where the matter relates to strategic planning and a vote is tied, the chairperson has the casting vote.

11.7 The CJC may adopt an alternative voting procedure for any decision other than the decision on the budget and the decision to change the voting procedure itself.

12. LOCATION OF MEETINGS

12.1 A CJC meeting may be held

12.1.1 at a location determined by the CJC;

12.1.2 by remote means; or

12.1.3 partly by remote means and partly at a location determined by the CJC.

12.2 CJC meetings must be open to the public unless the public are excluded for applicable confidentiality reasons or if the nature of the business is exempt information.

13. NOTICE OF MEETINGS AND SUMMONS TO ATTEND

13.1 A CJC must give public notice of a CJC meeting

13.1.1 at least three clear days before the meeting, or

13.1.2 if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, at the time the meeting is convened.

13.2 The notice must be published electronically.

13.3 Where the meeting is called by one of the Members of the CJC, the notice must specify the business proposed and be signed by the Member(s) calling the meeting or signify the approval of those Members by electronic means.

14. ACCESS TO AGENDA AND CONNECTED REPORTS

14.1 Copies of the agenda for a CJC meeting and copies of any report for the meeting must be published by the CJC

14.1.1 electronically, and

14.1.2 at least three clear days before the meeting, or, if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, then at the time it is convened. However, such documents must be available to the Members of the CJC before they are published.

14.2 An item of business may not be considered at a CJC meeting unless either

14.2.1 copy of the agenda including the item (or a copy of the item) is published electronically at least three clear days before the meeting, or, if the meeting is convened at shorter notice, at the time it is convened, or

14.2.2 by reason of special circumstances, which must be specified in the minutes, the chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

15. MINUTES

15.1 The names of the Members present at a CJC meeting must be recorded.

15.2 Minutes of the proceedings of a CJC meeting must be drawn up and recorded. The minutes must be approved by the person chairing the CJC meeting or the person chairing the next suitable such meeting by signing the minutes, or by electronically signifying approval.

16. INSPECTION AND PUBLICATION OF MINUTES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS AFTER MEETINGS

16.1 After a CJC meeting the CJC must

16.1.1 Publish the minutes, or a copy of the minutes, where applicable a summary of proceedings in consequence the of the exclusion of material which discloses exempt information, a copy of the agenda for the meeting and a copy of any report for the meeting as relates to any item during which the meeting was open to the public.

16.1.2 ensure that those documents remain accessible electronically to members of the public until the expiration of the period of six years beginning with the date of the meeting.

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PART 3 - FINANCE AND BUDGET**17. BUDGET**

- 17.1 For each financial year, the CJC must calculate its budget for its functions:
- a) Strategic Development Plan Function (the “**Strategic Development Plan Budget**”)
 - b) Other functions (the “**General Budget**”)
- 17.2 The budget shall be agreed no later than 31st January 2022 for the first financial year and no later than 31st January for each subsequent year.
- 17.3 Revisions can be made to the budget during the financial year to which that budget relates.
- 17.4 The Strategic Development Plan Budget requirement must be paid by the Constituent Councils and the Authority – the proportion to be paid by each is to be decided by unanimous agreement of the Council Members and the Brecon Beacons Member.
- 17.5 The General Budget requirement must be paid by the Constituent Councils – the proportion to be paid by each is to be decided by unanimous agreement of the Council Members.

18. GENERAL FUND

- 18.1 The CJC must establish and maintain a fund to be known as the CJC's General Fund.
- 18.2 Any sums received or paid by the CJC, other than for specific external funds set out in the Establishing Regulations, must be done so through the CJC's General Fund.
- 18.3 The CJC must keep an account of receipts into and payments out of its General Fund.

19. FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

- 19.1 Provisions in the Establishing Regulations will apply to the financial administration of the CJC.

PART 4 STAFFING**20. STAFFING**

20.1 The CJC will make arrangements in relation to staffing as are necessary for the proper discharge of its functions. Provisions in the Establishing Regulations apply to the CJC's arrangements for staffing.

21. DUTY TO APPOINT CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

21.1 The CJC will appoint a chief executive officer.

21.2 The chief executive must

21.2.1 Keep review of how the CJC exercises its different functions, the CJC's arrangements and staffing matters, and

21.2.2 where appropriate to do so, make a report to the CJC setting out the chief executive's proposals in respect of any of those matters.

21.3 Provisions in the Establishing Regulations in relation to the direct employment of a chief executive officer will apply.

22. DUTY TO APPOINT CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER AND REPORTING FUNCTIONS

22.1 The CJC will appoint a chief finance officer.

22.2 The CJC's chief officer will have the same duties and obligations for the CJC as a local authority's chief finance officer for their authority.

23. DESIGNATION AND REPORTS OF MONITORING OFFICER

23.1 The CJC must designate a monitoring officer, who will not be the same individual as the CJC's chief executive officer or chief finance officer.

23.2 The CJC's monitoring officer will have the same duties and obligations for the CJC as a local authority's monitoring officer for their authority.

PART 5 - DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

24. RECORDS

- 24.1 The CJC will make arrangements for the proper care, preservation and management of the CJC's records, and make and maintain a scheme setting out those arrangements which are approved by the CJC and set out at Appendix 4 (the "Records Scheme").
- 24.2 Provisions in the Establishing Regulations relate to the preparation, retention, publications and facilitation of access to documents and records by the CJC.

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PART 6 – STANDARDS

25. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 25.1 The CJC will adopt a code of conduct for Members (the “**Members Code of Conduct**”) as appended at Appendix 5.
- 25.2 Provisions in the Establishing Regulations in relation to a code of conduct for paid officers employed by CJC will apply.

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APPENDIX 1 – GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

**[PM NOTE: TO BE ADDED, BASED ON SIMILAR TERMS OF REFERENCE FROM ONE OF THE
CONSTITUENT COUNCILS]**

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APPENDIX 2- STANDARDS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

**[PM NOTE: TO BE ADDED, BASED ON SIMILAR TERMS OF REFERENCE FROM ONE OF THE
CONSTITUENT COUNCILS]**

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APPENDIX 3 - SCHEME OF DELEGATION

All decisions are to be taken by the CJC except as set out below:

<p>Decisions to incur expenditure up to a maximum aggregate of £50,000 where this is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Within the approved budget of the CJC for that financial year; and b) In accordance with the CJC's Standing Orders. 	<p>Director, Cardiff Capital Region</p>
<p>Decisions on the management, allocation, direction and supervision of staff resources made available to the CJC where this is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In accordance with the staffing arrangements put in place with the employers of any staff made available to the CJC; and b) In accordance with the CJC's Standing Orders 	<p>Director, Cardiff Capital Region</p>
<p>The engagement (and terms of engagement of) any individual person as a consultant where the value of the appointment does not exceed £50,000 per accounting period</p>	<p>Director, Cardiff Capital Region</p>

APPENDIX 4 – RECORDS SCHEME

[PM NOTE: TO BE ADDED, BASED ON SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS IN ONE OF THE CONSTITUENT COUNCILS]

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APPENDIX 5 – MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT

[PM NOTE: TO BE ADDED, BASED ON SIMILAR CODE FROM ONE OF THE CONSTITUENT COUNCILS]

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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